

ROWSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Sian Bacon

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PARISH MEETING NOTES

For the meeting on 30th April 2019 in the Village Hall, Rowsley at 7.30pm

1. Attendees:

Cllr Kath Potter, Cllr Steve Bones, Cllr Victoria Friend, Cllr Robert Hockley, Cllr Richard Bean, Nathan Corns, Mrs L Hurford. Apologies were received from Cllr Lauren Wilson, Cllr Jo Wild, PC Anthony Boswell.

Cllr Potter welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Updates:

- **Caudwell's Mill – Nathan Corns, Heritage Manager gave the following report:**

Mr Corns is the heritage manager at Caudwell's mill, deals with the looms and Mill. There has been a whole lot of redevelopment, upgrading the site and money going into the Mill. The mill is a power station that now largely powers the village with hydroelectric power. This has generated a lot of money. Many of the building reparations have been done so events and environmental things are on the agenda now as well for the surplus money. The Mill is largely self-sufficient now. Potentially in emergencies, the Mill has its own electric system and some assistance may be given to the village. There will be a marquee in purchased for events outdoors. These are not noisy events and will be focusing on endangered craft such as Turkish marbling and wood carving. The new gardener is doing work around the site and improving it and the retaining wall is to be rebuilt. If anyone has ideas for what the Mill could do with and for the community Mr Corns is taking suggestions and comments. The flour shop has now been rearranged and is stocking specialist foods as well. Ultimately the hope is to have a baker for fresh baked items and Northern Tea is currently blending the Mill their own tea.

- **Rowsley Methodist Church – Mrs Hurford gave the following report:**

Mrs Hurford wished to make everyone aware that the chapel is still there and operating. It is felt by the Chapel that they are in a bit of an isolated space and feel a bit separated from the village. Vandalism has been occurring at the chapel with four windows being smashed recently. The windows are expensive to replace so this is becoming a real problem for the Chapel. The committee is thinking of ways to interest people in the Chapel as a spiritual place and would like to hear people's views on how they would be most able to use the building.

- **Parish Council – Cllr Potter had sent out the following report:**

For several years we have been extremely fortunate in having Sarah Porter as our clerk. One cannot speak too highly of her conscientious nature and dedication to all aspects of Parish Council matters. Thank you, Sarah. We wish you well in the next phase of your life and hope the teaching goes well. We obviously miss you, but we are pleased to report that Sian Bacon, our new clerk is a worthy replacement and perfect for the job and has stepped into Sarah's shoes most commendably. We hope Sian enjoys her time with us at Rowsley.

We were sorry to learn of John Hart's continuing health problems. John has been a Parish Councillor at Rowsley for 15 years and developed a number of initiatives for the benefit of the residents and other users of the rec and also created a garden and allotments which continue to be well supported. We are conscious of the state of the allotment retaining wall and we are in the process of advertising for this work to be carried out.

I am personally grateful to all the Rowsley PC councillors who all play an active part in the running of the Council. Lauren Wilson has twice organised, along with some help from Vicky Friend, brilliant Christmas music evenings performed by the Youlgrave Brass Band and which have been well attended. We are hoping for this performance to become an annual event. Lauren is a great asset and brings fresh blood to our proceedings. Vicky is a computer wizard and designed our first website and ensures all is right and proper in that area of running the PC.

Richard Bean is a most helpful Vice Chair and as a businessman keeps us on the straight and narrow road. Robert Hockley is a hands on Councillor who advises us on issues we need to be aware of and

in fact in some ways has taken over from John Hart for as a lecturer in construction he has expert knowledge that we value. We are also delighted to report that Steve Bones has re-joined the PC and again we value his expertise and common sense approach and statements. So we all work together for the good of the village and its parishioners.

As our Councillors are busy people and attending 10 meetings per year is often difficult and bearing in mind much of the work is repetitive, and several of our Councillors are in full time employment we decided to cut down the number of meetings to January, March, May, July, September and November from January 2019. As we all engage with computers, information is readily available. Some of our neighbouring Parish Councils also have bi-monthly meetings, the minimum being 2 meetings per year. Similarly residents can quite easily keep up with us via email and the website.

I think Vicky Friend should be congratulated for all the work she has put in, in order to update the tired Village Hall. Lottery money is not easy to come by and we all can enjoy the benefits of her labours. It's a pleasure to have meetings in this revamped hall.

You will have noticed new safety measures have taken place at the entrances to the Recreation ground and which were quite costly, but we hope this will deter any further unwanted visitors. We are also grateful to Lord Edward Manners for taking the initiative of issuing the enforcement and for financing it.

We also enjoy visitors to our PC meetings who actively engage with us when the public are allowed to speak at the beginning of the meeting. We are also grateful to our County Council Councillor, Jason Atkin and Jo Wild our District Councillor. I believe Jo is stepping down in the forthcoming elections for Parish Councils and District Councils. Any resident can apply and if more than 6 residents apply there will be an election at Rowsley. We also reap the benefits of Dominic Pathe who continues to carry out many odd jobs for the PC. He saves us a lot of money and did a fantastic job in repairing some of the children's play activities caused by vandalism this past year. We are also most grateful to our contractor Philip Mosley for keeping the grass areas we are responsible for and to Mike Burnett for looking after our hedges etc. A big Thank you to you all.

We continue to try and keep spending to a sensible level as we are aware that Council precepts come at a cost and there is to be a 3.9% increase this year.

A further issue which takes up quite a lot of time is the fact that Rowsley along with 6 other Parishes in the Derbyshire Dales has the National Park boundary running through the village thus we have 2 sets of documents to read through and comment on. This is really time consuming.

I do think that more could be done when Chatsworth holds venues. The inconvenience to residents of Chatsworth Road and Peak Village (not least a big drop in footfall) and is most annoying and understandably causes tensions.

As stated above we value your attendance at the PC meetings which are usually on a Monday evening beginning at 7.30pm. The September one, so as not to inconvenience the Church Harvest Supper, will not be on the normal Monday evening

- **Village Hall Update – Cllr Friend gave the following report:**

Rowsley Village Hall is the only non-religious community building in the village and is therefore an essential resource for local people. The hall is a registered charity run by a Management Committee made up of local people and representatives from the various regular user groups. The hall is available for hire by local people at a very reasonable price for private events, fundraising activities and community get togethers. It is regularly hired by local community groups such as the Rowsley Women's Institute and Rowsley Craft Club and by local sports clubs including various Table Tennis Teams, Indoor Bowls Club and a ladies Badminton Club. The Parish Council meets in the hall and it is also used by Rowsley Primary School as their school hall; the children eat their lunch there every day, play games in the hall in bad weather and all assemblies, plays and end of term concerts are held in the hall.

In addition to all the above activities the hall is also the venue for various classes and activities being run through our Rowsley Community Matters project funded by the BIG Lottery Fund, which is in its third and final year. The classes held include Pilates, Limited Mobility Chair-based Exercise, both adult and child Yoga and General Fitness. There is also a Community Tea Room held once a month, which is very popular. The Management Committee hope that at the end of the project these classes and activities will be self-funding and continue into the future.

The Community Matters project began in 2017 with a major refurbishment plan and improvements have continued into 2019 with the main hall floor being completely restored earlier this month.

The Management Committee have also recently been awarded a £7,000 grant from the Devonshire Charitable Trust to refurbish the stage and purchase the necessary equipment to start running a village cinema in the hall once a month. This recent application was prompted by a need to source additional revenue for the hall following a 60% drop in regular income due to the closure of the Pre-School, central government education cuts and a loss of Table Tennis sponsorship. Once the Community Matters project comes to an end in November this year the village hall will struggle to meet its regular outgoings with projected income without sourcing new revenue streams.

Rowsley Village Hall is facing tough times ahead. It needs the support of all local residents if it is to survive as a community resource into the future.

- **Rowsley & District WI – Mrs Prince sent the following report to the Clerk:**

Rowsley and District WI has been a mainstay of Rowsley village for the past ninety two years and covers the village itself together with adjacent localities such as Northwood Lane and Tinkersley.

Our monthly meetings start with either Jerusalem or a prayer called the Mary Stewart collect, followed by the business part which includes correspondence and reading the Federation magazine called the Link. We then have a speaker (a wide variety including talks on Derbyshire itself, Red Arrows, and Hospices. A recent talk was a woman who went in the 1970's to Venezuela on a field trip to an indigenous tribe who lived in the jungle. She showed us slides and brought us artefacts for us to see.) Following the speaker we have refreshments which our members provide.

We get involved in village activities including the monthly coffee morning which is held in the village hall once a month.

Two members are scheduled to go on the Spring walk arranged by the Derbyshire Federation of Women's Institutes, they are going to do it as a sponsored walk and the money raised will go to the Children's hospital Sheffield.

During the year we go on day trips (Shugborough Hall and Castle Howard) being some of the destinations we have been on. Near Christmas we go out for a meal at a local restaurant.

Besides this we get involved with other Institutes in our Group (the Annual Group meeting, Social evening, Walk and Carol Service.)

We hold our meetings on the second Thursday of the month starting at 7.15pm in the WI room of the village hall.

Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Information can be obtained from Mrs Magdalen Prince (President) on telephone no. 01629735331

- **Parish Magazine Update – Cllr Friend gave the following report:**

The Rowsley Village Magazine is produced ten times a year. The editor works on a voluntary basis and since 2017 production and distribution has been funded by local advertising and the Parish Council. The magazine is delivered to all houses in Rowsley and also some residents of Northwood Lane, via members of St Katherine's church.

The magazine includes several heading:

Church Matters – service times for St. Katherine's Church and a letter from the vicar

Village Hall Matters – details of classes and activities going on in the hall, with any other news pertaining to the hall that would be of interest to local residents.

Parish Council Matters – news from meetings and other matters of interest

Other Matters – local events and activities and also interesting articles submitted by local residents.

If any residents want to include any articles of interest or publicise information about events they are organising please contact the editor.

The editor will be resigning at the end of 2019 and hopes that a new volunteer will step forward to put the magazine together each month.

- **Rowsley 86 Football Club – Mr Wragg Sent the following report to the Clerk**

Rowsley 86 have again been able to maintain and turn out two adult teams in Saturday league football this season, which is a credit to the two respective managers, Chris Baker and Paul Ryder. The Rowsley first team changed leagues at the beginning of the season with the ambition of rising up the football pyramid system to step 7.

The team has finished at least in at least second place and could still be crowned champions if the last two results go their way in the Central Midlands Football League Division 1 South.

Rowsley are now hoping that the £3000 they have spent on the changing facilities at the recreation ground will enable the venue to be graded fit to attain promotion and attain our step 7 goal.

The improvements at the ground have also enabled the Car Boot organisers to share our toilet facilities, ending the need for the unsightly portaloos.

The Rowsley second team have also finished a creditable mid table position in the Midland Regional Alliance Football League Premier Division.

Our only Disappointment this season was losing to a very Good Whaley Bridge team in the Final of the County Cup played at Matlock Town.

Finally may we take this opportunity to thank the Parish Council for their continued support and excellent working relationship.

3. Suggestions for next year

There were no suggestions made.

4. Any Other Business

- **Traveller update**

Complaints have been made by people employed working on the estate due to feeling threatened and their cars being unsafe. Children have also been threatened and vandalism have been occurred. Fires are running all day. More caravans have been put on the site making the car park very small with limited parking so impacting on the businesses. Requests are to be made to the District Council replace the bar over the top of the carpark to secure the site.

- **S137 donations**

S137 donations for the year were discussed it was suggested that the parish council could fund an educational trip for the school trip. The Clerk will contact the school to discuss this.

- **Severn Trent water**

They have replaced the water pipes up Church lane and the second cottage in they couldn't find the line so have left in cut in the tarmac of a private road. The Clerk will report this to Severn Trent.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- Monday 27th April 2019 - Held at 7.30pm in the Village Hall