

ROWSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Sian Bacon

Phone: 07545704384

Email: rowsleyparishcouncil@gmail.com

Web: www.rowsleyparishcouncil.co.uk

PARISH MEETING NOTES

For the meeting on Monday 15th April 2024 in the WI Room, Rowsley Village Hall at 7.30pm

1. Attendees:

Cllr Kevin Rowney, Cllr Victoria Friend (Chair), Cllr Robert Hockley, Cllr Jo Wildgoose, Mrs A Fell (Parish magazine), Mr W Fell (Rowsley Village Hall treasurer) Mr K Wagstaff (Rowsley 86 FC), Mr L Concannon (Darley Dale Juniors FC), PCSO A Boswell (Bakewell SNT), Ms H Lister (Level Centre), Cllr S Hobson (DCC) & Sian Bacon (Clerk).

Apologies were received from Mrs M Quick (Village Hall & Rowsley Primary), Lord and Lady Edward Manners (Haddon Hall and Estates), Cllr K Potter & Cllr Kath Potter

Cllr Friend welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Approval of notes for the Parish Meeting 2023

The notes were Approved.

3. Updates:

- **Parish Council – Cllr Friend gave the following report:**

Thank you to everyone who has taken the trouble to come to our Annual Parish Meeting tonight. This meeting gives us, the Parish Council, an opportunity to report to the local community on what has been happening in the past year. I would like to start by first saying, thank you to our local District and County Councillor Susan Hobson who continues to represent us diligently at both council levels. She has done a lot of work on our behalf in the past year on a variety of issues, in particular with regard to highways, the ongoing question of an appropriate site within the district for travellers and now the new potential issue of the introduction of charging at all district council carparks, which would include the one on Old Station Close. Sue was also responsible for calling a meeting with the Derbyshire County Council Highways Department about the repairs needed to Chesterfield Road, Beeley, bringing together representatives of all affected parish councils and officers from Chatsworth to help impress upon the DCC the vital importance of this road to the local area and the damage extra traffic is causing to our own Chesterfield Road in Rowsley as a result of the closure of the road at Beeley. We understand that the Beeley Road will be repaired, but not for at least another year.

The Parish Council continues to work closely with the Village Hall Committee and would like to thank them for all the improvements that have been made to the hall this year, including the redecoration. Rowsley Village Hall is a vital asset to our community, and I am delighted that it is so well run and cared for.

This year we are looking forward to making some improvements to the recreation ground to protect it from the recent wear and tear due to the car boot sales, which bring in some vital extra revenue to the council. In the coming months we will see a permanent track laid between the play area and the car park at the bottom end of the ground, for which planning permission was recently granted. We have also had some major repairs done to the car park surface in recent weeks. The recreation ground is one of the village's best resources and we are focused on ensuring that it is well tended and maintained. Once again, we would like to thank the Rowsley 86 football club for their diligent mowing and maintenance of the football pitch which helps to keep the ground looking so good.

Turning to the allotments and community garden I am delighted that all of our allotment plots are let and being actively used and maintained and would like to thank those allotment holders who help to maintain the community garden and pond, which contribute so vitally to biodiversity in the village.

It has been another tough year for Rowsley with regard to flooding and we hope that the regular checking of gulleys and drains by our handyman and the introduction of flood wardens in the village will help to mitigate future damage.

I would like to thank our clerk Sian Bacon for her diligent work and support during the year. She is a great asset for the council. I would also like to thank Anthony Boswell our local PCSO for attending recent meetings and keeping us up to date on crime prevention and other local issues. Finally, thanks to all my fellow councillors who represent our village diligently and with enthusiasm. We currently have a vacancy on the council, and I would like to encourage anyone wants to get more involved with the village to come to one of our meetings and see what we do.

- **Police Update – PCSO Boswell gave the following report:**

There were two crimes reported one public order and one theft. The current priorities are road safety - speeding and dangerous parking around white lines and burglary. The priorities are taken from the Derbyshire Talking survey that is available on social media or on the Derbyshire Constabulary website. Please could all residents complete as every box ticked creates a pie chart of priorities of which the top items are taken, every 3 months, and they become a priority. The current priorities are currently under review this month and next week there will be a message to say whether the priorities have changed or not. There were speed checks completed in Rowsley at Old Station Close, but no one was caught. To sign up to Derbyshire Alert if people go on to the Derbyshire Constabulary website and follow the link and fill in your details. It is very beneficial, and it links the local PCSO's to residents and the residents to direct wider information from the police media teams across the county. Cllr Friend queried whether speed monitoring can be done on the way in from Bakewell. It was noted that it needs to occur where cars can be pulled over safely. They have done Chatsworth Road before and the speeding is limited with the parked cars to slow down the traffic though there is some speeding when moving between the car gaps but not above 36mph. Cllr Wildgoose asked why there needs to be sirens late at night on Chatsworth Road. PCSO Boswell noted that it was to warn people coming due to the bend on Chatsworth Road the sirens and lights stop collisions on this stretch. It was noted that Chatsworth Road is clear during Chatsworth events and it was then that speeding occurs. It was encouraged to report this. (send emails re speed monitoring). There are Street meets held at Peak Shopping Village and residents are encouraged to please come down to meet local officers. There is a meet organised on Tuesday 14th May at 10.30am at the Village Hall Community Hub with new PCSO Mattheson. PCSO Boswell noted that he was happy to come to events with enough notice, but he has 52 villages so very busy. Mr Wagstaff (Rowsley 86 FC) queried if the police are still attending the Recreation Ground as some damage has occurred over the Easter holidays. PCSO Boswell will attend when reports are put in. Reports of crime should be 101 or online form or via social media DM's it doesn't matter how small the incident is.

- **Village Hall Update – Mr W Fell gave the following report:**

General Update

- We carried out an audit for the 2022-23 financial year completed by DCAS (<https://derby-community-accountancy.org.uk/home/>) - the audit was very thorough and the accounts for 2022-23 were approved by DCAS.
- We have now completed six months of our new financial year and we are currently showing a good improvement on last year at this time – the Profit & Loss sheet shows a **surplus** of £1,763 against a **loss** of £2,625 for the same period last year (1st October to 31st March).
- The wall-mounted Water Heater has been replaced (substantially funded very kindly by the Parish Council and Cllr Sue Hobson).
- Various repairs/maintenance continue – We are running higher than last year but do include exterior painting, bay roof repairs, shed 2 repairs and various plumbing repairs; insulation/condensation problems persist.
- We are aiming to raise more monies this year from Fundraising activities and Donations – so far, we have over £1,950 in fundraising from the Panto, Paper Kite event, Table Top event and Bingo night! We have nearly £800 in Donations this year from Rowsley Post Office, the Morgan 3-Wheeler Club and Community Hub donations collected.
- To date, we have £2,142 in Grants received this year - £192 from Cllr Sue Hobson, £350 from

RPC, £1,000 from DCC WWSG and £600 from DDCVS BDDF.

- On the Utilities front, we now have a new smart meter for electricity and a fixed 3-year contract to match the timescale of our gas supply fixed contract to keep our costs as low as possible – this has enabled us to keep the costs level with the same period as last year (1st October to 31st March) even with considerable extra use.
- Regular user bookings fill Monday to Thursday evenings, Saturday morning and Sunday evening – also Wednesday is becoming fitness day with regular keep fit and Pilates already running and Yoga due to start in this week!
- Our 'Community Hub' continues to be a great success on a Tuesday morning; the parent/toddler part goes from strength-to-strength as does the craft section. Lovely session at Easter with lots of older siblings with the Mum's and toddlers have a splendid time!
- Paper Kite Duo are re-booked for New Year's Eve 2024 in the Village Hall!
- Another Bingo Night recently held on Saturday 23rd March raised a further £395 – this activity run by Nancy and her family/friends raises wonderful monies for our hall and is great fun.
- We are in contact with Lord and Lady Edward regarding longer term plans for the Village Hall regarding a possible 'eco retrofit' i.e. solar panels, heat pumps, hydro power etc event.
- We are on-track with a 3-year plan (started Summer 2022) to balance our books of (normal) outgoings vs income.

Reel Rowsley has stalled a bit after Covid due to a small number of helpers not having the time. More Helpers are encouraged to getting it going again.

- **Parish Magazine – Mrs A Fell gave the following report:**

The magazine is still going with 10 issues a year and they are being read. There is currently a free half page for an advert and the Level centre are extending theirs. Coghlan's have gone from Peak Village and their advert has been taken out. Chatsworth Kitchen have been approached for an advert and this is currently pending. There are now seven different delivery teams now who do their section of the village and the delivery fee goes to the Village Hall.

- **Level Centre – Ms H Lister gave the following report:**

General info about LEVEL Centre:

LEVEL Centre is an arts organisation and charity. We work with disabled and learning disabled people, encouraging creativity in various ways, including performance, movement and visual arts. We also work with disabled artists/artists who are concerned with access and inclusion as part of our residency programme. Most of the work on display at LEVEL has been produced by a disabled or learning disabled creative. We run several weekly sessions including LEVEL Makes (Creative sessions for Learning Disabled adults) and Youth Collective/YC Too, our groups for young people who are neurodivergent, autistic or who have ADHD.

Alongside this, we have our Gallery Corridor exhibitions and digital interactive installations which change approximately four times a year. We welcome the general public to our exhibitions and to our building in general - we love visitors and this is something we are working on growing!

We also run various open days across the year and take part in national events such as Fun Palaces and The Big Draw. All these events are family friendly and for all the community. LEVEL Centre is designed to be accessible and everyone is welcome here!

What's On:

We have two new exhibitions which have just opened. Create My World: Nature is our latest digital interactive installation. Create My World: Nature is a family-friendly interactive exhibition experience for all ages, focused on nature, world-building and exploration. It's an exciting world of wonder where you can explore your creativity and bring your own digital creations to life! Over the duration of the exhibition, a new virtual world will be created, populated with living creatures and plant life made from designs generated by visitors. After designing their plant or creature using specially designed activity sheets, visitors then use a 3D scanner to upload and bring their creations to life in the digital world. They can then explore the world using games controllers. It's great fun for everyone. Free to visit and we can accommodate fairly large groups. Spaces can be booked via our website.

Alongside this we have [Isolation] Art Mail by Tracey Meek. This is a project which started during

lockdown. Art mail parcels were sent out and people created work from what they received, and passed it on... and on... until the pieces of art finally made their way back to Tracey. Tracey has curated the work and added her own interventions for the final exhibition. They are very beautiful, detailed pieces. On display in our Gallery Corridor and free to visit!

Both of these exhibition run until 28th June.

Recent News:

PlayLAND is our digital installation that has just finished it's run here. It was very successful - our most popular exhibit ever with nearly 1000 visitors through the door. Many of these were first time visitors to LEVEL which is great - hopefully we are gradually spreading the word that LEVEL is a public facing building and everyone is welcome.

On April 10th we ran a Spring Open Day which was incredibly successful! The centre was so busy all day with nearly 200 visitors, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the activities on offer which included cardboard creations, video game character creation, dream posters, kite making and pom-pom making, PlayLAND was also open all day as a drop in session. Again we were delighted to see lots of new faces coming to the centre.

Coming Up:

Two important additions this year will be our Sensory Art Garden and Little LEVEL Makes.

The Sensory Art Garden will be created on the waste land directly next to the centre. We aim for this to be a community project that everyone can get involved with and enjoy. More details to follow on this.

Little LEVEL Makes extends on our successful group for learning disabled adults by offering sessions for young people. Another project we can't wait to get going on. Watch this space.

Hire of the centre:

As a charity, it's important that we try and generate income wherever we can. Hire of the centre is something that we already offer but it is barely utilised. It's challenging as we can currently only offer Monday to Friday daytime bookings. I note that the village hall does very well from hires. It would be great to work together and pass hires on between us where we feel each others venue may be more appropriate, or for slots we can't fulfill.

Community Links:

We really want to forge stronger links with the local community and spread the word that we welcome the public at LEVEL. We are particularly keen to welcome more families, school groups and SEND groups. We are starting a pre school drop-in session soon where visitors will be able to come and play in our digital installation together. It would be great to pop over and chat with the groups that you have into the village hall about this and give them some information about LEVEL. I know you have your parent group on Tuesdays so we would of course pick another day! Anything the Parish Council can do to help us spread the word about LEVEL would be very much appreciated.

Public Open Exhibition 2024: Visual Art call out!

Calling all UK based visual artists! We're on the look out for the best 2D contemporary visual art produced both by and for learning disabled, neurodivergent, and disabled artists.

- Prizes for 1st and 2nd place

- People's Choice Award

- Categories for under 18's

- Shortlisted work will be part of the Public Open Exhibition at LEVEL Centre!

This is a national call out - you don't need to be Derbyshire based to enter. For all the details, click the link in our bio! Deadline for submissions is 2 June 2024 at 9am.

- **Rowsley 86 Football Club – Mr Wagstaff gave the following report:**

Report on Rowsley 86 FC Season 2023/24

Firstly, thank you to the Parish Council for use of the Recreation area and we do our best to keep up it to standard.

After a turbulent couple of seasons we seem to have settled down, found a new management team and new young enthusiastic players. Unfortunately, they lack experience at this level of football, and

we have had a very difficult season on the pitch! The main thing is we have stabilised the club and a full season for the young lads will see them in good stead for coming years. We are at the bottom of the league currently, so it has been a difficult season.

On a brighter note, we hope to reestablish our 2nd team which will become Rowsley 86 development. To foresee the progression of younger players through the club. We also hope to persuade the youth team that plays adjacent to us on the Rec. to come under our umbrella, to further underpin our future. The second team was lost after covid.

I would like to thank all our fellow shares of the Recreation ground. Mr Burnett for his generosity with the use of his Land Rover and roller and our Groundsman Romak Gackowski and Chris Baker for keeping the pitches in excellent condition.

Finally, we are seeking players and sponsors for all our teams next season so we would appreciate anyone who is interested to get in touch with myself or Toby McClean.

It was agreed that all groups will help each other to get word out.

- **Darley Dale Juniors - Mr Concannon gave the following report:**

The team are thinking of teaming up with Rowsley 86 FC as they want to do development to feed into the adults. U12's have won every game this season and have a cup final to go. There are a few things to be sorted out with the league, but will hopefully the team will be Rowsley Juniors. It was noted that at Darley Dale FC when the kids turn 16 there is no team to move into.

3. Suggestions for next year

Mrs Fell requested the communal paths between beds be cut and to tidy around the wall and remove the sycamore trees in the wall. The Clerk reported there is to be an Allotment Inspection on the 29th April where these things will be looked at. There are also Newts and frogs in the pond.

The attendees would like more working together to achieve all the organisations goals in the future.

4. Any Other Business

None

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- Monday 28th April 2025 - Held at 7.30pm in the Village Hall