

ROWSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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PARISH MEETING NOTES

For the meeting on Monday 28th April 2025 in the WI Room, Rowsley Village Hall at 7.30pm

1. Attendees:

Cllr Kevin Rowney (Chair), Cllr Jo Wildgoose, Cllr D Quinttention-Shaw, Cllr R Hockley, Cllr K Potter (Peak Park and RPC), Mrs A Fell (Parish magazine), Mr W Fell (Rowsley Village Hall treasurer), Mr K Wagstaff (Rowsley 86 FC), Mr T McClean (Rowsley 86 FC), Cllr S Hobson (DDDC & DCC), Sian Bacon (Clerk) and 1 Parishioner.

Apologies were received from PCSO Boswell and Cllr V Friend

Cllr Rowney welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Approval of notes for the Parish Meeting 2024

The notes were Approved.

3. Updates:

- **Parish Council – Cllr Friend sent the following report that was read by Cllr Rowney:**

Thank you to everyone who has taken the trouble to come to the Annual Parish Meeting. I apologise for my absence and thank the Vice-Chair Kevin Rowney for presenting this report in my place. This annual 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 an enormous amount of work on our behalf in the past year on a variety of issues, including Highways, the continuation of the White Peak Loop cycle trail and the District Council's review of car parks to name just a few. But in particular Sue has worked tirelessly to protect our vital and much used car park from the District Council's extremely unwise plan to use much of it as a traveller site.

On this subject, the District Council has kept a continual focus on using Rowsley Old Station Close car park as a traveller site through most of the last year. After much local opposition to their arbitrary decision to just place the travellers here without any local engagement they backed down and held a public consultation last summer. The Parish Council pushed them to hold a public meeting in the village, which was well attended by local residents who made their feelings on the subject well known. In spite of this, a 306 signature petition and 379 responses to the public consultation arguing against the suitability of Old Station Close car park as a suitable place to house a multi-generation family the site was put through to planning last December. We are now at the end of the public consultation stage for that planning application with, at the time of writing, close to 100 letters from Rowsley residents and other concerned local people logged in objection to this application. The Council also sent in an extremely detailed letter of objection that included photographic evidence of how well used the car park is and will continue to do everything in its power to stop this application being approved when it comes to planning committee.

We continue to work closely with the Village Hall Committee and would like to thank them for all that they do to support the village, including the weekly community hub which is an important and much loved way for local people to connect socially. We are glad to see the return of Reel Rowsley this year and hope there will be many more film screenings to look forward to in the hall.

I am glad to report that the improvements to the recreation ground that we mentioned last year have now taken place and a track has been laid between the play area and the car park at the bottom end of the ground to protect the surface from the wear and tear associated with the traffic during car boot sales. The recreation ground is one of the village's best resources and our focus is on keeping it well tended and maintained. A particular priority now and in the future is security following a period of illegal encampment on the ground last year. We would once again 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.

Our allotments continue to be popular with local residents and most are let. We are endeavouring to keep the paths and vacant plots as tidy as possible and the community garden well-tended. Thank you to all those allotment holders who help to maintain the community garden and pond, which contribute so vitally to biodiversity in the village. We will also once again be supporting "No-Mow May" in areas of the community garden and graveyard to encourage biodiversity.

The abrupt loss of the play equipment to the rear of Chatsworth Road without warning was a great shock to many of us last autumn. While we understand that the equipment was extremely old and needed to be taken out it is a real shame that the district council are unable to replace it. We are working on a solution and hope to be able to source a grant to purchase something that the district council will be able to maintain within current budgets, but there are groundworks that need to be achieved to make the area more accessible first. I would like to thank our clerk Sian Bacon once again for all her help and support to the Parish Council in what has been an extremely demanding year for us. She has kept up with the pressure admirably. I would also like to thank Anthony Boswell our local PCSO for attending meetings and keeping us up to date on crime prevention and other local issues. Thanks also to our new handyman who we hope will be a great asset to the Parish Council. Finally, thanks to all my fellow councillors who continue to represent our village diligently and with enthusiasm. It has been a difficult year but we have worked together well on some highly emotive issues and I hope will continue to do so in the year to come.

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

Between 28.03.25 and 27.04.25, there have been 2 crimes in the village of Rowsley. One being a residential burglary and other which doesn't affect the community.

In relation to our priorities, as you will be aware the team was looking at following ones between January and April.

- Burglaries of dwelling's and outbuildings.
- Parking offences.
- Road Safety issues.

Following consultation with communities during the community events, completion of Derbyshire Talking surveys and at meeting etc, we will be continuing with these priorities and will be reviewed in June

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

Email report

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

Mrs Fell reported the previous magazine printer had had some issues so had moved to Mad4ink who are slightly more expensive but are local. It had been agreed to have a white cover rather than the coloured covers. The magazine is now printed in colour so photographs can be printed. It was noted there is some advertising space. There are 6 teams of volunteers who deliver the magazine and the delivery pay goes to the village hall which helps towards that.

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

Thanks were given to the Parish Council for use of the Recreation ground. Been a successful year two male teams who have both finished top 3 in their leagues. Off the pitch had meeting with FA to get some work done on the pavilion to revamp it. Been a very successful year. Juniors are the main new team at the moment and looking to grow this over the coming years. Chris and Romeck have been doing the mowing and Mr Burnett has been a great help. It was noted the grounds have been well kept.

- **Peak Park – Cllr Potter gave the following report:**

She noted that the Peak Park situation is dire. Many of the buildings have been let out and many of the officers have lost their jobs which is very sad. The funding has gone from £11 million a year to half that.

- **Chatsworth Road - Cllr Hockley reported that:**

The bins on Chatsworth Road are still an ongoing problem but some progress has been made with the new DDDC officer. The traffic on Chatsworth Road is still an issue and motorcycles have been seen mounting the pavements which is extremely dangerous. This is reported but by the time the police can respond the bikes are long gone.

Cllr Wildgoose noted the Parish Council gave thanks to Cllr Friend for how hard she works. Cllr Rowney and Hockley seconded this.

Cllr Hockley noted that he had requested that his letter on his original objection to the Travellers site be sent to planning but was not responded to and this had meant people had been forced to sent in multiple objections.

The potholes at Rowsley Bar were raised.

3. Suggestions for next year

Mrs Fell reported that the very end plot on the allotments is very shaded and not tenanted for a long time. The allotment holders have had the idea to create a community orchard on this plot. It was noted that a skip was needed. It was suggested one of the benches could be moved. A nice green space could be created with 5 soft fruit trees. Cllr Potter recommended contacting the Peak Park.

The water provision on the allotments was raised. Cllr Wildgoose reported that she had looked into getting another ibex tank. It was suggested that a tap was placed on the allotments.

It was noted that the end post on the pear trees has rotted.

4. Any Other Business

None

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- Monday 27th April 2026 - Held at 7.30pm in the Village Hall