

## **Rowsley Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 28 July 2025**

Present: Councillors V Friend (Chair), R Hockley, K Potter, K Rowney and J Wildgoose

In Attendance: Councillor S Hobson – Derbyshire County Council  
S Stockdale – Locum Clerk

At the start of the meeting there were two members of the public present.

Apologies for absence – none

#### **26/10 Declaration of Members Interests**

Councillor Potter declared an interest as a member of the Peak District National Park Authority.

#### **26/11 Public Speaking**

Permission was sought to make some changes at the allotment site. It was reported that plot 10 is currently overgrown and the allotment holders are seeking permission for the following:

- To create a Community Orchard in the space. It is envisaged that 3 or 4 dwarf fruit trees would be planted and members of the public would be able to take the fruit.
- The Council were asked if they would consider sponsoring a tree.
- To create an area of hardstanding and install a bench for the general public to use.
- The rest of the site would be tidied up.
- That the Village Handyman is asked to repair the low fencing between plots 10 and 10a.
- The allotment holders would like to install a tap as water is currently sourced from the Parish Church.
- STWA have quoted a fee of £170 to look at the feasibility of installing a tap. The approximate cost of running piping from the nearest water main would be in the region of £3,000. It was noted that STWA have a community grant fund and this may be a source of funding for the project.

The County Councillor reported on the following matters:

- The Council were informed that there will be a significant amount of housing required under the Local Plan in the area of Derbyshire Dales that lies outside the boundary of the Peak District National Park. It is expected that housing provision in Derbyshire Dales will be considered in November as part of the Local Plan consultation. The areas in Rowsley that have been identified as suitable for development are the shop and adjacent land and land at Rowsley Bar.
- The new administration at Derbyshire County Council are promoting a north/south divide for Derbyshire as part of Local Government reorganisation.
- The County Council are not paying insurance claims for damage to vehicles caused by pot holes if the pot holes have not been reported to them. It is therefore important that all pot holes are reported to the County Council and this can be done via the website.

- The County Councillor attended a site meeting regarding the Beeley landslip. With the Chair. Councillor Claire Ward, who is the member responsible for Highways and Derbyshire County Council was present and confirmed that the County Council have earmarked funding in place.
- It is suggested that Councillor Ward is invited to look at the active travel plan for Rowsley.
- The Level Centre will be encouraged to engage with the County Council.
- The businesses at Station Road have asked for the tap to be removed and the Councillor Hobson agreed to take this matter forward.

Councillor Potter spoke as a member of the Peak District National Park Authority to express her concern for the cuts to funding for the National Park Authority. She reported that in the last 30 years the funding has halved and this has resulted in the loss of a significant number of members of staff and services. She advised that she intends to take the matter up with the MP, and asked for support from the Council. Chair asked her to provide the Council with a list of bullet points to bring to the attention of the MP.

**26/12** Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 24 March 2025 and the Annual Meeting held on 18 June 2025 were presented.

Minute number 26/6 was amended to read the Councillor J Wildgoose is the Council's only representative on the Village Hall Committee.

**RESOLVED: That the Chairman be authorised to sign the amended Minutes as being a true and correct record.**

**26/13            Matters arising from the last meetings**

- That the Council will write to the MP regarding the funding of the Peak District National Park Authority
- That there are outstanding actions in respect of seed turf and bird boxes

**26/14            Chatsworth Road**

It was reported that the issues relating to bins has now been resolved and that this matter can be removed as an agenda item in the future.

The Chair advised that she will action the Chatsworth Road Playground issue.

**26/15            Planning Applications**

None.

**26/16            Bus stops, Recreation Ground, Car Boots and Playground**

Following a meeting with Rowsley 86 Football Club it was agreed that the Council will look to draw up a 10 year lease with the Club. This will allow them to apply for funding for the Club. As a mark of goodwill for the way the area is maintained, it was agreed that the annual rent for the 2025/26 season will remain at £330.

It was agreed that the annual rent for the first year of the 10 year contract remain at £330 and then be reviewed annually in July with the Club being invoiced annually in August.

Derbyshire Dales District Council are currently consulting on their Public Space Protection Orders and clarification is being sought regarding the Rowsley Recreation Ground and if it is covered by an Order.

It was unsure if the annual ROSPA Play Equipment annual report has been received and this will be checked.

It was confirmed that payments are being received following the car boot sales and that the new inspection regime is working well.

#### **26/17                   Allotments**

Three requests have been received from residents looking for an allotment plot. At present there are no plots available. However, there are two plots that have been rented but are not being cultivated. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to these two plot holders. There is also a starter plot that may become available. Clerk to follow-up with Councillor Wildgoose.

The Council agreed that Parish residents will be given priority for allotment plots.

The Council agreed to purchase a fruit tree for the proposed Community Orchard and to cover the £170 charge from STWA for feasibility work in respect of installing a tap. The Village Handyman will be asked to repair the low fencing.

#### **26/18                   Burial Ground**

The Council has received a request to inter three sets of ashes in the Rowsley burial ground. A sensitive discussion took place and as the deceased were not local residents and in consideration of the space available it was agreed that the Council were unable to agree to this request. The Clerk will respond to the person who has made the request.

#### **26/19                   Biodiversity Plans**

It was agreed that seeded turf would be sown in the New Year. The Council also agreed to the request for a Community Orchard on the Allotment site and stipulated that any sowing of wild flowers should be bee and butterfly friendly wildflowers.

#### **26/20                   Road and Footpath issues**

The County Councillor reported on the Beeley landslip and road closure in Public speaking.

**26/21                    Finance and Audit – July payments**

	Net	Vat	Total
Inspection Report	195.00		195.00
mad4ink	120.00		120.00
Rowsley Village Hall Hire	70.00		70.00
Gallagher Insurance Brokers	471.64		471.64
ICO registration Fee	47.00		47.00
S Stockdale Locum Clerk	481.20		481.20
Haddon Estate	67.48		67.48
Haddon Estate	62.33		62.33
Rowsley Village Hall	25.00		25.00
mad4ink	120.00		120.00
Rowsley Village Hall	47.50		47.50
	<b>1707.15</b>		<b>1707.15</b>

**Bank Balances**

Current Account	50.00
Reserve Account	22889.62

**26/22                    Village Hall**

The next meeting is scheduled for September 2025.

**26/23                    Parish Magazine**

The following article content was agreed:

- Pot holes and how to report
- Community Orchard project
- Casual vacancy
- Travellers site

**26/24                    Casual Vacancy**

The Casual Vacancy has been advertised and if no election is called by 31 July 2025 the Council will be able to co-opt to fill the vacancy.

**26/25                    Correspondence**

None

**26/26                    Appointment of EMAS as the Councils Internal Auditor for 2025/26**

It was agreed that EMAS be appointed as the Internal Auditor for 2025/26 at a cost of £60.00.

**26/27                    DALC Newsletter**

The newsletter has been circulated electronically to all members.

**26/28                    Reading**

Circulated by email.

**26/29                    Clerk pay and access to HMRC Government Gateway**

It was agreed that this matter will hopefully be resolved at the end of the month as the Clerk is expected to return to work.

Dates of future meetings:

Monday 22 September 2025

Monday 27 October 2025

Monday 24 November 2025

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.15 hours.

