

ROWSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

MINUTES

Held on Monday 27 April 2026 in the WI Room at Rowsley Village Hall

Present: Councillor V Friend Chair
Councillor K Rowney Vice Chair, Councillor R Hockley, Councillor K Potter, Councillor J Wildgoose

In Attendance: S Stockdale – Locum Clerk
Councillor S Hobson, Councillor David Hughes and Councillor Peter O'Brien

Apologies: None

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

1. Chairmans report

It has been another busy year for the Parish Council, starting with the continued campaign to stop the District Council designating our Station Road car park as a temporary Traveller site. The loss of such a busy the car park would have had an extremely detrimental effect on the village, not to mention local businesses and users of the cycle trail, so the Council was delighted when the District Council voted to reject the proposal at a meeting in June. Hopefully that finally puts an end to an ongoing issue that we have been dealing with for more than a decade. In May we had an independent inspection of the playground and it was found that one of the swing sets needed to be replaced, which we were able to do without seeking any external funds thanks to the extra income from the car boot sales on Rowsley Recreation Ground. This income also enabled us to give a grant to the Village Hall for some new chairs later in the year. We have also recently replaced a water butt on the allotments which will help keep the area irrigated during the drier summer months. Thanks to Jo Wildgoose for organising this and also for planting wildflower seeds around the bench at the bottom of the burial ground. Thanks too to Kevin Rowney for compiling our badly needed Flood Plan, organising the purchase of emergency materials and being our Flood Warden. If a flood emergency occurs in the village Kevin will be prominent in helping to coordinate our response. We had a public meeting earlier this year with members of the Chatsworth Estate, Highways and the Police to discuss traffic control management on Chatsworth Road for special events in the coming year which was well attended by local people whose feedback and suggestions have helped to shape the arrangements for the coming year and beyond. I would like to personally thank everyone who came and participated in the event

It has been a challenging year for the Council and I would like to thank our Locum Clerk Sue Stockdale who stepped in at short notice and has been invaluable in helping manage both our ordinary business and also put in places new policies and reporting requirements. I do not know what we would have done without her! My thanks to my fellow councillors Jo Wildgoose, Rob Hockley, Kevin Rowney and Kath Potter for all the work that they do for the village.

We would also like to thank the Village Hall Committee for all their hard work managing one of our most important village resources. It is great to see the village halls so well-used. My thanks also to all those involved with looking after the Community Garden on Church Lane. Their hard work is much appreciated. I am glad to say that we are continuing to practice “No-Mow May” in areas of the Community Garden and graveyard to encourage biodiversity. Thanks also to Anthony Boswell our PCSO who is often seen around the village, at the Community Hub and attends as many of our Council meetings as he can. I also must thank the team at Rowsley 86 Football Club who help to keep our recreation ground in such fantastic condition. Their care and cooperation are invaluable. Finally, thanks to Sue Hobson our District and County Councillor who does an amazing job representing Rowsley within these wider organisations and continues to support the village in every way she can.

2. Reports from Local Organisations

Rowsley Village Hall

We have now completed six months of our current financial year and we are ahead of last year at this time.

The main contributing factors for the improvement this year so far is our increase in hall hire revenues and in monies raised by grants, fundraising and donations.

Various repairs/maintenance continue – several items so far this year (£1,481 total spent to date) including external redecoration, roof repairs, external lights repaired/ improved, boiler service and gas safety checks.

Fundraising activities and Donations – so far, we have achieved £3,220 this year against £2,484 for the same period last year.

To date, we have £2,866 in Grants received this year against £2,179 at this time last year - £650 through Cllr Sue Hobson (DCC MCLS), £600 from RPC and £1,616 from DVA WAWS.

On the Utilities front, we have spent approximately £250 less than the same period last year but should work out about the same overall.

Regular user bookings fill Monday to Thursday in the days/ evenings and Sunday evening; overall we now have a huge range of activities happening at the Village Hall which is great.

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. We have had wonderful sessions

throughout the year, very busy in the summertime (activities during school holidays), Easter and a special visitor at Christmas!

We have replaced the chairs in the village hall which was a major cost but has been funded with generous support.

We reported a small surplus of £47 for our financial year (ended 30th September 2025) – we had set up a 3-year plan (started Summer 2022) to balance our books of (normal) outgoings vs income and have achieved that; the second half of this financial year will be challenging again as they are always are but we have a good chance of reporting a small surplus again for this financial year.

William Fell Treasurer – Rowsley Village Hall

Parish Magazine

This year will see 8 issues printed rather than the usual 10. This is because we were due to be away at the end of April which had to be cancelled. We will now be away at the end of October so there will be a double issue then.

Mad4Ink have been handling our printing, and we are very pleased with the results. We are now getting a magazine which prints colour as standard and comments have all been positive. We continue to use photographs on the front of the magazine and have asked villagers to send photos for use.

All advert slots are full.

Delivery is done by six teams of Village Hall volunteers and copies are available in the Post Office and at the Village Hall. The payment from the Parish Council benefits The VH.

Rowsley AFC Report

Kevin Wagstaff presented a report covering the previous 12 months of activity at Rowsley AFC.

Thanks were expressed to the Parish Council for the continued use of the Recreation Ground.

The First Team is currently just short of achieving promotion.

The Reserve Team has been competing against First Team opposition.

Appreciation was given to those who are assisting in preparing the proposal for the Football Foundation grant.

It was noted that the club remains financially solvent, operating on a sustainable basis and not for profit.

3. Reports from County and Borough Councillors

Councillor Hobson's Report

Councillor Hobson reported that Derbyshire County Council will undertake repairs to the damaged bridge.

Environmental Health has investigated the spillage at Rowsley Bar and considers it likely to have originated from a mud spreader; therefore, there is limited action that can be taken.

It was noted that responsibility for flood debris in rivers lies with the Environment Agency.

Councillor Hobson advised that Derbyshire County Council's consultation on the proposed closure of the refuse tip at Glossop will not affect the future operation of the Darley Dale refuse tip.

Peak Rail has indicated that it would not support the reopening of the White Peak line.

Potholes at Rowsley Bar have been reported to Derbyshire County Council.

Councillors Hughes and O'Brien gave a presentation on the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan Consultation

It was reported that a formal consultation on the Local Plan proposals will take place, concluding in July 2026.

Submissions are scheduled to be made to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities by December 2026.

A Planning Inspector will subsequently hold a public examination of the new Local Plan, which will cover the period from 2028 to 2042.

The Government has set a requirement for the provision of 9,660 new homes in Derbyshire Dales over the Plan period. This equates to approximately 415 properties per annum outside the National Park and 160 properties per annum within the National Park.

It was noted, however, that the National Park Authority is considering a lower annual housing provision figure.

4. Parish Council priorities for the next 12 months

- Appointment of a new Clerk
- Purchase of a Parish Council Laptop
- Adding safeguards to the Councils banking arrangements
- Review of the Rowsley Flood Plan
- ROSPA report recommendations
- Speed Indicator Device for Chatsworth Road

5. Matters raised by Local Electors

None.

Dates of future meetings

18 May 2026 – Annual Council Meeting

27 July 2026 – Full Council Meeting

28 September 2026 – Full Council Meeting

23 November 2026 – Full Council Meeting

All meetings held at 7.30pm in the Rowsley Village Hall WI Room. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND:

The meeting closed at 9pm.