

**ROLLESTON ON DOVE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON**  
**MONDAY 24th APRIL 2017**

**PRESENT**

J Philips (RODSEC)  
J Nichols  
M Nichols  
Cllr Robson  
Cllr Fraser  
Cllr B Toon  
Cllr J Toon  
Cllr Wyatt  
Cllr Sanderson  
Cllr S McManus  
Cllr E McManus  
P White  
P Barnett  
Cllr B Gooding  
C Baker (Station Heritage Group)  
T Martin (Almshouses)  
S Martin  
J Bucknall, Clerk

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Rev I Whitehead, and Mr Graham Jacks (Scouts). Of course noting the absence of Mr John Wyers (Neighbourhood watch).

**2. MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 18<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

The minutes of the previous meeting were signed as a true record.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Nothing to note.

**4. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND REVIEW OF PARISH ACTIVITIES**

Can I take this opportunity to welcome you all to our Annual Parish Meeting. It is a pleasure to see so many representatives of village organisations here to share with us reports on their activities and successes of the last year, and also to other village members who have joined us tonight.

Many of you will be sad to learn that a well-known village stalwart and recipient of the Rollestonian of the Year award 2016 sadly passed away after a short illness. Delia Wyers has had leading roles in many groups and organisations in the village including amongst others Guides and Brownies, Rodsec, The History Group, Mummers, The village Gala and Vintage Car events. I would extend on behalf of the PC and I am sure everyone present tonight our sincere condolences to her husband John and daughter Oriana. I would ask you to spend a few moments of silence remembering Delia and her many contributions to village life.

I find myself coming to the end of my second year of tenure of the role of Chairman of your Parish Council. The time seems to have flown by, though unfortunately for seasoned observers of the Parish Council meetings, many of the matters we have been dealing with seem to be ongoing, long term problems. I would again like to thank Jane who as Clerk has to deal with many matters as the first point of contact for villagers seeking help or advice on matters whilst continuing to keep me on the straight and narrow. Also to Jason Wyatt who as Vice Chairman has been a calm source of reasoning and helpful advice through what at times has been

a stressful and turbulent period, and lastly to all of the members of the Parish Council. We have had one or two personnel changes over my time as Chairman, so I give my thanks to all members past and present who give their time freely to enable us to look after and try to improve the environment in which we live.

This year has been a special year for two members of your Parish Council who have had an extremely busy time as Lady Mayor and Consort – Beryl and James. Their term of office also shortly comes to an end, and some of us will be sharing in her Gala Dinner the Pirelli Stadium on Friday. We wish them well and I know they are looking forward to some rest and recuperation at the end of Beryl's time at the top as well as a well-deserved holiday.

We continue to try to keep the village informed on events through our twitter and Facebook pages as well as the more traditional noticeboards. We have a significant following which enables us to get important information out quickly – as shown when we had an itinerant camp set up on Craythorne fields following an illegal break in through the padlocked gates. Thanks to swift action initially by John Deacon our village handyman, and then belated help from Burton Police we were able to get them moved on swiftly.

Significant movements on late 2016 led to the Secretary of State deciding, some 3 years after the plan was initially called in, to allow Burton Colleges appeal to succeed and permission to be granted for 100 houses to be built on the former College playing fields. This effectively was the final nail in the coffin of our Neighbourhood Development Plan. We held a public meeting in the Church on 20<sup>th</sup> March to allow the Parish Council to hear the views of villagers and to allow them to vent their frustrations with the members of ESBC Planning Department who were in attendance. Following this meeting the April meeting of the Parish Council unanimously agreed to a rewrite of the Plan with the assistance of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group. Several members of the original group have agreed to carry on with the work and their numbers have been increased with some new volunteers. I would like to place on record our thanks to all members of the original group who spent so much time and effort in producing our initial Plan only to be met by the intransigence of ESBC. We are now encouraged to hear that the local authority are keen for us to develop a new plan based significantly on our original plan, and that help and advice will be given, as well as sources of further funding, to enable us to achieve our aim of producing a document that will carry legal weight and is a statutory document that can guide future development and give protection to our village for years to come.

A bid for Heritage Lottery Fund has been successful, so over the next seven years £3m funding will be given to a much wider Central Rivers Authority project in the Trent/Dove area. This includes Brook Hollows. There are two sections of work involved, a start date should have been published in January for the development stage. However this has been delayed. The Borough Council and Heritage Lottery will pay for consultation to restore the lake. The project will also look at the Heritage and wildlife at the site for the purposes of educating school children. Project coordinators will be employed. The first 15 months will be spent defining the project. Once all projects have full details submitted, (by November 2018) and providing all criteria has been met, £225k funding will be given over to the project on Brook Hollows (this includes ESBC and PC funds). Realistically it will be 2019 before any works starts.

We are still hopeful of entering the Best Kept Village Competition, possibly in 2018. We are conscious that several areas of the village do need to show improvement. A BKV sub-committee is to be formed of Cllr Gooding, Cllr Wyatt and Cllrs McManus plus anyone else who wishes to be involved.

The state of the drains and their lack of regular maintenance has been a significant source of irritation to the PC throughout most of my time as Chairman. Regular letters of complaint, photographs, details of specific major problems all seem to have failed to produce any improvement in the situation, but we will continue in our efforts. We also have significant concerns over potholes,

their poor quality of repair where these have been done, and the general cracking up and failure in the surfaces of most of the roads in the village to an extent that a major resurfacing of these roads would seem to be the only viable solution.

I again would like to praise the work put into the Station area by Clive Baker and his team for preserving part of our industrial heritage for villagers and visitors to enjoy. Many positive comments have been made about the work done and the improvements made to the site, as well as the educational opportunities this has already provided. Also congratulations to them for the recognition they have received on both the local and national stage for the work they have undertaken.

May 13<sup>th</sup> will see our annual Clean-up day where members of the Parish Council and villagers join together to try to improve the appearance of areas of the village. Please feel free to come and join us with some tools for a morning of good company and worthwhile endeavour, and if we are lucky ending with a well-earned drink and chip butty at the Spread Eagle hostelry.

The Orchard continues to mature and develop thanks to the care and effort of Mike Robson and his team of volunteers. I am sure any further contributions of raspberry canes, soft fruits and bird or bat boxes would also be welcomed! We look forward to sharing in the fruits of their efforts.

Other areas of discussion have included footpaths and stiles, vandalism, illegal dumping, planning matters, tree matters including replacement stock, flood risk funding, website provision and we are actively looking at replacing the tractor play equipment for our younger children near the Meadow View adventure playground.

Finally my thanks go to John Deacon and Phil Gould who as our contractors often spot and sort out situations for us before they have the opportunity to develop into a significant problem. They are often our eyes and ears on the ground and put in many hours of work helping us to keep the village in the quality and condition we are proud of.

These are just some of the activities your Parish Council has been involved with over the last year. As always we welcome the interest and input made by members of the community, and the help given to us to help look after this village we are proud to call our home.

## **5. REPORT OF BOROUGH COUNCILLOR**

Cllr Toon noted that she has thoroughly enjoyed her time as Mayor, and has been incredibly grateful for the support of villagers and village organisations.

As well as her time as Mayor Beryl has still been assisting individual residents with their concerns and troubles. Many of the calls being received currently are regarding the bungalows which are proposed for Craythorne Road – residents wanting to move into them. This shows there is a real need for this type of accommodation in the village.

Beryl has managed to obtain funding for the Station Heritage Group and RODSEC.

Beryl also noted the excellent work done by Andy Mason at ESBC for obtaining funding for Brook Hollows.

## **6. REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Cllr Fraser gave a report of his time as Borough Councillor over the last 10 years.

## **7. REPORT FROM THE RAILWAY HERITAGE GROUP**

Regular monthly Saturday morning working parties have been convened throughout the year except August, December and January. A steady number of local people have maintained the paths, wildflower meadow, woodland area and signage. The group are very grateful to those persons who have donated bulbs and seeds.

Here is a calendar of events attended to promote the project:

22<sup>nd</sup> May

Display at Scout Jousting Carnival.

30<sup>th</sup> May

Display at Transport Festival.

2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> June

Open weekend, when the group staged a display and acted as guides to the site, attracted a steady flow of interested persons.

17-19<sup>th</sup> June

Working model of Rolleston-on-Dove station and display exhibited at the Great Central Railway model exhibition aroused much interest and potential visitors to the site.

25<sup>th</sup> June

Display at Garden Festival at Burton Market Hall.

22<sup>nd</sup> July

Site visited by Royal Horticultural Society judges as part of "Its Your Neighbourhood Scheme".

29<sup>th</sup> August

Display at Rolleston Club Gala.

6<sup>th</sup> November

Display at Burton Railex at National Brewing Centre.

At many of these events people with memories and memorabilia relating to the railway contacted us and, in some cases, gave us their items of memorabilia.

Throughout the year the working party has made steady progress to build a footprint of the booking hall. This is now almost complete, apart from part tiling the floor to the gent's toilet and ticket office hearth. We are grateful to Councillor Beryl Toon for arranging a grant to purchase the materials required to complete this work. A new sign showing a cutaway illustration of the booking hall as it used to appear is to be installed.

During the Christmas period the Parish Council commissioned a builder to erect a new facing wall in front of a small part of the carriage and cattle docks. With this work complete, the February working party, replaced the cross members to the buffer stop. At the March and April working parties the surrounding ground was prepared for planting and paths laid.

10<sup>th</sup> April

Station site and model railway visited and filmed by publisher of British Railways Modelling magazine for publication and on line videos in June.

The Group will be monitoring the condition of the remaining facing wall to the cattle dock, removing any self-set vegetation before it does further damage to the brickwork. The PC has agreed to organise maintenance work to small areas, preserving original brickwork, on a yearly basis as funding is available.

Please visit our website: [www.rolleston-on-dove-station.co.uk](http://www.rolleston-on-dove-station.co.uk)

## **8. RODSEC**

Committee for 2017-2018

Chairman, Peter Barnett, Deputy Chairman Roger Gawthorpe, Secretary Anne Overton, Treasurer Mike Hill, other members Sue Fraser Phil Irwin, Linda Martin

It has been a year of much activity behind the scenes with one major backward step for the village and our Neighbourhood Plan and one major step forward regarding Brook Hollows, more about both later. The Civic Trust is changing, some changes as a result of the unstoppable influence of time and some as a result of new ways and technology. We can only hope that the changes improve our service to our members and the village and add to our undoubted community spirit.

### Meetings Programme

Our programme began in April with a talk by one of our regular visitors, Janet Spavold, entitled Necessary Addictions, and in May Steve Booth brought the history of the Fauld Explosion back to life. This talk had been eagerly awaited following last year's last minute cancellation due to JCB unloading a number of machines on the A50 roundabout at Uttoxeter, and it did not disappoint.

Terry Garner regaled us with "Tales of Old Burton" in September followed by memories of numerous Characters from the Classroom as recalled by ex-teacher John Redfern in October.

November saw us going down an abandoned lead mine in The Via Gella to see amazing photographs of the wild life to be found in this unique environment during a year. David Attenborough eat your heart out.

January saw our annual talk by Richard Stone, who cleared up the mystery of the body in the Leicester car park and the princess in the Tower. Was Richard 111 really that misunderstood.

Our February talk led us through Calke Abbey, its history and how it came to be one of The National Trust's jewels, all ably narrated by Dot Morson.

### Events

Our plant swap was held on the 14<sup>th</sup> May and raised £188.65 for St Mary's, and our walk and talk, on 15<sup>th</sup> June was a local affair with a walk round Rolleston led by Janet Spavold followed by a buffet in Rolleston Club.

Saturday June 25<sup>th</sup> saw Rolleston at the forefront of history as our Summer Event at John of Rolleston School was a talk by Andrew Griffiths about his life as our MP, followed by supper.

How were we to know when we arranged the event that it would fall the day after the result of the EU referendum? What timing, and what an interesting evening it gave all those who were lucky enough to be there.

This year our annual mulled wine event was held at Ealand Street in January.

### Village Projects

#### Spread Eagle Island and Burnside Troughs

We continue to assist The Parish Council in maintenance work on the Island and on Burnside with the help of Janet Sanderson and her small band of helpers. They really do put in a lot of work, many thanks to them all.

#### Brook Hollows

This has proved the bright spot of our year as, after a lot of work by Andy Mason of ESBC, our Mayor, Beryl Toon, the Parish Council and local people, we have managed to secure lottery funding to improve the facilities at Brook Hollows.

This is only the start of the works as much is still to be done, but a project manager is to be appointed by The Trent Valley Living Landscape Partnership to develop the whole project which covers the Trent and Dove area, but Brook Hollows has been adopted as part of that project. We will have to raise funds locally as is the case with all Lottery Funded Projects, but ESBC have already ring-fenced a five figure sum for the project, and following our successful Summer Event The Civic Trust have allocated £1000 for the works.

#### Rollestonian

Following the “bombshell” news last year that Tom Martin and Clare Norman were to step down from the Rollestonian at the end of 2016 we have spent a busy year looking for replacements in what we thought would be an impossible task, but fortune has smiled upon us.

Leslie Bayston has taken over the task of publishing our magazine and Anne Overton has taken the burden of enlisting advertisers to pay its way.

They managed to produce their first issue with assistance from Tom and we look forward to providing the village with its usual quarterly copy of “The Rollestonian” in the years to come.

Many thanks to Tom and Clare for their hard work over the years and welcome to Leslie and Anne with best wishes for the future.

#### Village Tree Survey

Over the year Phil Irwin, with the assistance of willing volunteers, has completed a survey of Rolleston’s trees, and in the process has produced what we hope will be a useful and fascinating document for use in protecting and developing our tree stock throughout the village.

This project is still ongoing but we are now in active discussion with the Parish Council regarding the creation of a tree nursery.

#### Planning

In November 2016 The Secretary of State finally issued his decision regarding the College Playing Fields Development, and all the village’s fears over the years came home to roost. I do not intend to comment at length here, I did that in the Spring Issue of The Rollestonian, but this is the final nail in the coffin of our Neighbourhood plan produced after much consultation throughout the village in May 2013. Work must now start afresh to ensure the village does have the protection of a Neighbourhood Plan, which has clearly been denied to us in the past.

The other major development to affect the village appears to be in Craythorne Lane where a development, for originally three executive properties, has been altered into a development of thirty plus elderly person’s bungalows with warden accommodation. We must question what protection we have against planning applications despite Government Legislation assuring us we do have a say.

#### Committee and Membership

Our membership is growing for the first time in quite a few years. This is really good news, and I hope I can say it is down to the hard work of The Committee and the service we provide.

### **9. ALMSHOUSES CHARITABLE TRUST**

Mr Martin expressed his gratitude for the sums of money which have been donated and gone into the ‘pot’ for the future.

A planning application is due to be submitted for improvements to the cottages.

Tom noted that his term of office with the organisation comes to an end in September 2017 after some 25 years.

Cllr Sanderson thanked Tom for all of his hard work in many different organisations though the village.

If you wish to join us in 2017 come to our regular meetings at Rolleston Cricket Club on the third Wednesday of the month.

#### **10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr J Toon reiterated the Mayors words, and has also enjoyed his time as Consort.

Mr Martin thanked the Parish Council for their work over the last 12 months, which hasn't been an easy one, and thinks that they have come through it on the whole with flying colours. Whilst it may not be evident all the time, the work is appreciated by residents.

#### **11. BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION**

The Clerk gave a presentation on the competition and how support from residents and organisations is vital.

The following reports were received from those organisations not present:

##### **St Mary's Church.**

We are so grateful for the continuing support of the whole village. Come the spring we are reminded by the snowdrop of the support of the Civic Trust who planted them. With the grass beginning it's first spurt we are grateful to the village grass cutters. Come the early summer it's a joy to see our grounds used to support the Transport Day and we are grateful to TREATS and the Spread Eagle for their continuing support. In the height of summer our Gardens Sunday can only continue through those gardeners in the village who support us. Late Summer & Autumn brings us the Village Gala and once more the opportunity to offer the churchyard and grounds to the village. The village turning out for Remembrance reminds us of the debt so many of us owe to villagers from the past as well as the present. Come Advent we thoroughly enjoy all that the village offers in its creativity in dressing the church with Trees and when Winter with Christmas is upon us we celebrate together on the Almshouse Lawn with carols and later in church once more with the whole community.

It is a privilege and an honour to be part and parcel with the village in this place of Rolleston throughout the year

##### **Rolleston Scouts**

As this is the first meeting that the Scout group has attended in many years I feel we may need to inform the village on how over recent years we have developed as a group.

All Scout groups as with most things fluctuate in size, this is natural. I took over as Group Scout Leader in 1998 and at the time the group was running a very successful Beaver Colony, a Cub Pack and a Scout troop. In 2006, the cub leaders had reached retirement age and had decided to hang up their uniforms. This led to one of the largest recruitment drives we have ever undertaken together with the introduction to girls in the group and the year after celebrating 100 years of Scouting, the group has grown and developed from 56 in 2016 in number to 207 in uniform, comprising of three Beaver colonies, Two Cub Packs and Two scout troops, plus our non-uniform helpers and Executive committee members.

The group has also seen a massive development on how it raises money. The carnival is now in its 40<sup>th</sup> year has had many themes but more recently has developed into an event for all the village to enjoy not just ones with those in the group.

ROLLESTONBURY now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year has been a major factor in the group and has created the funds to enable us to build a multipurpose activity centre on the field and hopefully next year to replace the marquee canopy at the rear of the HQ with a permanent structure.

Your Scout group currently provides over 1000 nights of camping per year

Current membership of 207 seeing consistent growth since 2006 and the curve should Plateau in 5 years taking the projected group total to nearly 300.

We currently have 27 appointed leaders and 4 under training.

A solid event portfolio of three events Carnival, ROLLESTOBURY and Bonfire night and the development of a fourth in September 2018.

We have an army of support that makes our events and our weekly meetings happen but we as all the village organisations could always do with an extra hand.

We are extremely grateful over the years for all the help and support we have been given by the village and the surrounding area and we also have been proud to be of help and assistance to all the organisations in one way or another.

Last year we had to make the difficult decision to cease with the marquee hire that has been of great use to us financially and to the village as a service. This decision was not made lightly but the insurance became so difficult we had no choice.