



Rolleston on Dove Parish Council

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

NOTICE OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT

The Annual Parish Meeting for Rolleston on Dove will be held at the Old Grammar School Room, adjacent to St Mary's Church, Church Road, Rolleston on Dove DE13 9BE on Monday 22 April 2024 at 7pm.

Local Government electors for the Parish will be entitled to vote at the Meeting which will be open to the public.

The business to be transacted at the Meeting will be as follows:

- 1. Chair's welcome**
- 2. Rollestonian of the Year 2023**
- 3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 24 April 2023 (Enclosure 1)**
- 4. Matters arising from the previous minutes**
- 5. Review of parish activities**
- 6. County Councillor's report**
- 7. Borough Councillors' reports**
- 8. Reports from village organisations**
- 9. Open Forum: Questions / comments from parishioners**

Councillor Clare Stewart
Chairman 2023-24

08 April 2024

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
held at the Old Grammar School Room, Church Road, Rolleston on Dove
on Monday 24 April 2023 commencing at 7.30pm

Present

Councillor Stewart (in the Chair)

Councillors Appleby, Houston, E McManus, S McManus, Robson, Sanderson and Sharples

2 No. Youth Representatives

C Baker, Station Heritage Group

Mrs S Martin

1. Apologies for absence

Councillor Badcock

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 25 April 2022 were taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising

None raised.

4. Welcome

Councillor Stewart welcomed everyone to the meeting.

5. Chair's review of parish activities

Writing this review for the Annual Parish Meeting of 2022 offers a welcome opportunity to reflect on how village life has returned and evolved after the two difficult years of the pandemic. The many varied organisations and groups continued in some way during that time and have now moved forward continuing with all their hard work and activities that take place within our village. How good to see these return! There are many successes and achievements, all demonstrating a great sense of pride and commitment to the village. It is so positive to see projects coming to fruition finally, some of which have been in the pipeline for many years that enhance our surroundings. We are really fortunate to live in a lovely village with open spaces and facilities to enjoy such as Craythorne playing fields, Tafflands, the Jubilee Orchard, The Croft, our various play areas, the Jinny Trail and other well used footpaths.

For the Parish Council it has been a year of moving towards completion of our projects, successfully applying for grant applications and working with generous donors on projects.

Clare Stewart continued in post as Chairman as did Steve Sanderson as Vice Chairman, and the Parish Council had a full council of 11 councillors as we welcomed three new councillors.

Some of the many highlights of 2022 are:

- Creation of a Platinum Jubilee orchard (with thanks for the generous donation of fruit trees).
- Installation of a Platinum Jubilee bench on the Croft for all to enjoy.
- Compost bins (funded by a County Council climate change fund) for distribution to residents.
- A program of improvement and much needed tree works / maintenance on Tafflands and the Jinny Trail.
- Removal of the old green portacabin and complete tidy up / stoning of the far end of the Craythorne playing fields car park, plus surfacing of the footpath through into

Tafflands. This work was done free of charge as the final part of the compensation for the location of the SCC road works compound located there during the delivery of Stations Road resurfacing.

- On-going maintenance of paths and stiles including a successful grant application to improve the drainage and stoning of the entrance at the Tafflands end of Footpath 14 (leads through to Beacon Road).
- Whilst footpaths and stiles around the village are predominantly on private land the Parish Council actively continued to work with landowners to maintain, repair and replace these well used trails for all to enjoy.
- S106 monies paid to the village for the development on College Fields provided a major opportunity to focus on much needed improvements to play areas and outdoor projects in the vicinity of the development which included:
 - An extension to the Meadow View play area incorporating younger children's equipment and resurfacing of the original play area
 - Replacement of the broken railings around the Craythorne playing fields car park area (with free labour provided by the SCC contractors as a further part of the compensation for the compound location)
 - Thanks to a most generous donation we now have a new bus shelter on Rolleston Road opposite Hall Road which has been dedicated in honour of the King's Coronation

The Jubilee Orchard continues to provide delicious fruit and herbs for the village to pick for free. Thanks for all the donations and help and to Cllr Mike Robson for leading this.

The Station Heritage Group uncovered and re-established the signal box area as part of their outstanding work in maintaining and on-going improvements to the station end of the Jinny Trail. The wild flower areas and spring planting have been delightful again this year.

The Friends of Brook Hollows Group just goes from strength to strength working with Open Spaces and TTTV. Thanks also to the most generous donor who has funded many projects there. All of this has combined to make Brook Hollows unrecognisable from where it sadly was a few years ago! Paths, tree maintenance, opening up of the lower banks, benches, duck feeding area, carved eagles in the woodland and the removal of tons of silt to mention just a few of their many projects.

It is very also positive that RoDSEC have successfully continued to hold small events during the year. They are decorating floating Lily pads on the brook in front of the Alms Houses for the coronation. This will be enhanced by decoration of the Almshouses and the white railings on Burnside with bunting and colourful planting in the gardens and gate areas. It will be lovely and provide a riot of festive colour!

In April 2023 Beryl Toon tendered her resignation after 24 years as a Parish Councillor and 12 years as a Borough Councillor. On behalf of the past and present councils, we thank her for the tremendous support and dedication she has shown over the years. Her knowledge and experience will be much missed.

Looking to the future - opportunities and challenges

Looking ahead after the May election the Parish Council has a number of projects to complete delivery of and will be considering others that have been proposed by residents. These include:

- Further program of tree management on the Jinny trail and Tafflands.
- On-going footpath and stiles maintenance either on Parish Council land or working with private landowners.
- Completion of the installation of the Meadow View Play area extension.
- Consideration of the remaining monies left that were paid to the village for the development on College fields (S106). Possible projects are - a footpath to the Meadow View play area from Forest Street / Rolleston Manor area, work on the Tafflands zipwire, improvements to Tafflands footpaths with woodland flowers, bird and bat boxes.
- Supporting Rolleston Football Club in their application for a storage container to replace the old one removed from Craythorne playing field car park.
- Progression of the Sports England Monies project – this is really challenging as the pot of money is insufficient to meet the attached condition on these (i.e. that they must be used for changing facilities), however the Parish Council will continue to try to achieve the best outcome for the village representing residents views.

6. County Councillor's report

Councillor White said that he would like to thank our fellow villagers and the Parish Council for their patience and support while the roadworks have been happening in the village over both this year and last. He said that he thought the results speak for themselves, especially in terms of the lack of flooding on the roads concerned.

The resurfacing of the top surface of various other roads in the village will be happening this summer following the structural patching of recent months and once this is complete we will have one of the best road networks of any village in the county. There is more to do, especially in terms of securing traffic calming for Knowles Hill but he was very pleased with the progress that has been made.

7. Reports of village organisations

7.1 Rolleston Choral Society Report 2022

2022 was the Choir's 60th anniversary of formation and we wanted the year to celebrate this.

It started still under the shadow of Covid with rehearsals for the spring concert starting but members still arriving in masks and signing Covid certification forms.

The highlight of the spring concert was Faure's Requiem and it was touch and go whether it would go ahead as many of the choir members contracted Covid and were unable to sing. Luckily, our Musical Director, Simon Lesley, was able to secure the services of a number of last minute stand-ins and the concert was able to go ahead.

We then moved straight to rehearsals for the summer concert – 21st Century Classics – which included pieces by Simon himself and which had not been performed previously – RCS does world premieres! We were delighted to have one of our founding members in the audience for the concert, Freda Hoten, and flowers were presented to both her and June Wedd, another founding member, who could not attend.

After the summer break, we started rehearsals for the Christmas concert, where we would be collaborating with John of Rolleston Primary School choir for the first time since 2020 - the weekend before the first lockdown. For this concert, we sang Alexander L'Estrange's 'Wassail!' with the school and a five piece professional band. The church was full to capacity and it brought the community together in a joyous celebration of Christmas.

Other highlights of 2022 include the launch of our YouTube Channel, carol singing at Far Fillimore Care Home and in the Spread Eagle. We also started to get together for a wide

variety of social activities this year including skittles, afternoon tea at Dovecliff Hotel and trips to various concerts.

It was pleasing that the membership continued to expand although more voices are always welcome.

Ann Morris, Hon Secretary

7.2 **Rolleston Civic Trust**

Rolleston Civic Trust has had a busy last 12 months with the Trust being active in numerous activities within the village.

In the Spring we once again ran our popular Easter Bunny Treasure Hunt for children and families which attracted a lot of interest from people both within the village and beyond. We had numerous entries for the prize draw and the event managed to raise over £100 for the Almshouses charity.

The Wild Flower Garden at the top of Knowles Hill provided a splash of welcome colour to the village and the area was enlarged slightly to accommodate more flowers. The flowering season was regrettably short, despite our best efforts at watering the area, as the long hot dry spell took its toll on the flora in the garden.

Our co-ordination of the 'Friends of Brook Hollows' conservation group has continued into its second year and with the support of vital funding from the National Heritage Lottery Fund and Transforming the Trent Valley, an awful lot has been achieved in this much-loved local woodland. The group meet once a month on a Sunday for a couple of hours, but several volunteers have spent additional hours in the Spinney completing various conservation tasks.

An Oak tree was planted in a clearing in the woodland to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, an educational area of log seats was created in the middle of the Spinney which has been used by various local schools in trips to Brook Hollows organised by Staffordshire Wildlife Trust. Our trail of the ten beautifully carved 'Rolleston Eagles' was installed at various points and our bird hide was eventually installed on the arm of the lake near The Lawns. An Eagle Totem sign has been created by our excellent wood carver and this will be installed in the next month or so.

The area around the lower lake and the waterfall has been cleared and opened up with numerous old or self-set trees removed. This work was completed by ESBC and paid for by a local private donor. This area is to be grass seeded and is now much more accessible for visitors and will continue to develop as a few specimen English trees will be planted in the months to come.

Some work was done by Burton Conservation Volunteers, led by Lawrence Oates, to improve the paths in the woodland in two particular areas where mud and drainage was a constant problem. This work was paid for by TTTV and the group will be returning in April 2023 to do some Snowberry removal, building on the work already started by the Friends group.

The TTTV project will be coming to an end at the end of 2023, start of 2024. Thankfully it appears that funding has been found for some de-silting of the lake. A contractor has been appointed and the silt should be captured and placed upon the local farmer's field. It is

unclear how much de-silting will occur, but we are hopeful that it will provide the opportunity for the lake to be re-stocked with fish at some point in the future.

It is hoped that the Friends group will continue as an arm of your Civic Trust after the TTTV project ends. We have a group of up to 20 keen and enthusiastic volunteers who are to be commended for their commitment and dedication. Future plans include the installation of a reed bed at the far end of the Spinney to create a new habitat for wildlife and to assist in the capture of silt coming down the Alderbrook. We are also looking to increase the number of spring flowering bulbs in the woodland and we already have a donation of 1000 Bluebells which we will be planting in Spring 2024. The group will doubtless seek funding from other sources in the long term and will continue to look to care for and improve the woodland for the benefit of all local residents.

In May we once again organised a Plant Fair for the benefit of St Mary's Church. This was a huge success and we were delighted to raise over £650, a record amount.

Around this time, we were delighted to award our 2021 Civic Trust Award to The Rolleston Club for their building extension at their Bowls Club and for their continued support at the heart of the village. Retiring Secretary John Brandon accepted the award. This plaque now sits alongside the Civic Trust Award given to the Club back in 1989. This was the first award we ever gave out.

Our monthly litter picking group continues to meet once a month on a Saturday morning. The turnout of volunteers is sadly very low although those who do turn up always collect numerous bags of rubbish each month. It should be recognised though that there are several individuals within the village who take it upon themselves to pick up litter in their own time and we are very grateful for their continued support in helping to keep the village relatively free of litter.

The Civic Trust continues to welcome new residents to the village and tries to encourage them to support the work we do and to get involved with village life. We post our 'Welcome Packs' through the doors of all new residents. The packs contain details about village life, a copy of the latest Rollestonian, the village directory and the Parish Council produced walk leaflet.

The Trust continues its programme of monthly talks at the Cricket Club on the third Wednesday of every month. Our highlights for 2022 included talks about Staffordshire Evacuees, Recycling and Reusing from Waste Savvy Staffs, the story of clean water by David Moore, the history of our own Jubilee Orchard by Mike Robson, the Burton & Ashby Light Railway and a talk by Paul Taylor on the Rolleston Remembers project – visiting the graves of the brave men of Rolleston who fell during the Great War.

The Civic Trust continues to take an active role in Planning matters within the village and we take our role very seriously as we continue to keep to one of our core aims which is to promote high standards of planning and secure the preservation and conservation of Rolleston on Dove.

The Rollestonian magazine continues to flourish under the editorship of Glyn Fitchett-Watkin. We have made a conscious effort to update the look of the quarterly publication, moving it from green to white paper and trying to introduce more photographs and short articles rather than lengthy blocks of text which are unlikely to be read.

The Civic Trust now has a website which contains a wealth of information on all our activities

and has a digital copy of the Rollestonian which can be downloaded in a few minutes.

A new addition to our programme was the introduction of a 'Quiz Nite' at the Rolleston Club. This was very well attended by over 50 people and we will definitely be building this into our programme once again for 2023.

In November we organised our second Wine Tasting Evening at the Rolleston Club. This proved to be a sell out with over 90 people attending and enjoying the six wines put in front of them. We learned from the experience of last year and gave attendees a multiple-choice answer booklet which at least gave them a chance of guessing correctly what wine they were trying. The event raised approximately £500 and the Civic Trust committee is now looking at possible ways of re-investing this profit back into the village.

In December, we once again took on the task of erecting the village Christmas Tree. This was only possible with the help of several important individuals like John Phillips, Toby Dickens and Paul Williamson. Our thanks go to them and everyone else who turned up to put up the tree and to take it down in January.

In January 2023, we were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of our President Tom Martin. Tom's contribution to the life of the Civic Trust and the village as a whole cannot be understated. His list of achievements is both impressive and lengthy and include helping run the Almshouses charity, the Allotment Society, fundraising for St Marys Church, the Advent festival, the Christmas Tree festival, raising funds for the lighting for the church, having the idea of putting the Christmas Tree outside the Almshouses, Carols round the Christmas Tree, the village Gala, the Transport Festival, the establishment of RoDSEC at the turn of the century, the annual plant fair, editing the Rollestonian magazine, running Garden Sunday as well as being an active member of the Civic Trust and being involved in the work done to improve Brook Hollows. To say Tom will be missed is a massive understatement and everyone in the village owes him a debt of gratitude for his years of selfless service towards Rolleston and its residents.

Tim Salmon, Chairperson

7.3 **Rolleston on Dove WI**

This year has had a feeling of normality about it and we have been able to hold our meetings in person. We have enjoyed each other's company on many social occasions. Risk assessments were made and sensible precautions were taken.

The Annual Meeting was held in March. Eight of the committee offered to stand again. Joy Killick stood down and Peggy Jacks volunteered her services. Nine members were voted on to the Committee and Sue Fraser was re-elected as President. The following took office: H. Barnett, A. Cook, S. Foord, S. Fraser, L. Harding, M. Jacks, D. Johns, E. Murphy, J. Phillips

President S. Fraser
Treasurer D. Johns
MCS Rep S. Fraser
Assistant Treasurer L. Harding
Programme Planning H. Barnett, assisted by A. Cook
Catering Officer E. Murphy, assisted by M. Jacks
Competition A. Cook
Newsletter Distribution M. Whyte
Press Correspondent J. Phillips
Raffle L. Craske J. Sharratt

Vice –President E. Murphy
Secretary J. Phillips
Outings Secretary H. Barnett
Assistant Secretary S. Foord
Welfare Officer E. Murphy
Speaker's Hostess M. Jacks
New Members hostess L. Thompson
Flower Rota M. Mawer
Sales Table A. Styne
Archives J. Phillips

Our membership stands at 46 full members and 7 dual making 53 in total. Understandably, a few people have left due to illness. Sadly we lost two former long standing members of our WI this year. Barbara Michael, the "Scrabble Queen", died in October 2022 and Mary Jobson in February 2023.

Joan Price has been a WI member for fifty years and has been a valued committee member and awesome quizzier. Helen Newman, our SFWI Chairman, presented Joan with a badge and certificate at our meeting in May. Rolleston WI has been here since 1935 and we have carried on several traditions which have been passed down through the years. There are several competitions. The Amy Everett Bowl for monthly competitions was not awarded due to an interrupted year and zoom meetings. The Barbara Reynolds Plate for knitting was won by Karen Wenn. Several Trauma Teddies were donated and will be sent on to a charity. In May we held the Burston Bowl Competition for cooking. Val Farmer was the winner with her chocolate chip cookies. Joy Killick entered the Huxley Cup, a national competition, on our behalf and featured a lovely entry about the Brook Hollows Spinney Project. Joy also co-ordinated our entries for the County Show and Peggy and Annette delivered them. Joy was awarded a splendid third prize in the foliage class.

Our move to the Rolleston Scouts HQ has made a big difference to our planning. We do not have to avoid school holidays and we can meet in the afternoons at times. Helen Barnett has been a great help in booking the room for us. This year we have had eleven main meetings. Our speakers have been both enjoyable and informative. Anne Ryan spoke about her hedgehog charity in March and brought along sample hedgehog boxes. We have learnt about the Derbyshire Mountain Rescue Service, the Trent Valley Project, the town of Belper and characters of Derbyshire. We have had an insight into the life of a national netball player and a psychiatric nurse. We learned about the history of glass and tea and had fun with Rhona Pownall and her Christmas Crackers. The June meeting was a street party to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee with sandwiches, cake and bunting. Sadly it was not long before we mourned her passing and marked it in October. We still sing the National Anthem at the close of each meeting but it is now "God save the King". We have been lucky to have Liz's daughter Olivia and Ann's daughter Lesley as our special guest speakers.

Some of our members do not want to come to evening meetings in the winter and Friday afternoon get togethers were offered at various times during the year. Joy Killick and Sally Foord hosted craft sessions for the County Show and the Advent Christmas Tree Festival. We enjoyed strawberries and cream in July and fish and chips in October. The Committee met eleven times this year to plan and do essential administration and a programme planning meeting was held in October. Our President has sent out her monthly newsletter both online and printed and passed on vital information from the National and County Federations. Diane has taken over as treasurer, assisted by Lesley, and is managing our finances and using online banking. Many members prefer to pay this way. Rolleston WI has always been a part of the community and in March we hosted a Speaker Lunch and tickets were on sale to the public. The food was delicious and Jen Stone was our guest speaker with her talk entitled "But I can't Tap Dance". Throughout the year cakes have been baked and we have volunteered to help at village events like the Scouts Carnival, Transport Day, the Civic Trust Plant Sale, Gardens Sunday, Sarcoma's Great British Picnic, the Art Exhibition and the Advent Festival. Our Christmas Fair was well attended and we made money to pay for our expenses. A coffee morning was held in January with help from the scouts. They are sending a group out to an international camp in Switzerland and the profits were donated to them. The Committee work hard to provide interesting outings throughout the year. We have been to The Secret Diner, Marsh Farm, the Willow Tree, the Mulberry Restaurant and an NGS Garden in Stretton. The Christmas meal at the Boars Head was very popular and made a lovely start to Christmas. On one of the hottest days of the year we travelled by coach to

Melton Mowbray, visiting the market and then on to Farmer Barnes farm. We had a bumpy tractor and trailer ride and watched the cows being milked and sampled the famous stilton cheese. The weekend away to Coventry, city of culture, was very enjoyable and many of us visited the cathedral and various museums. We keep up to date with the wider WI movement. We have supported the WI carol service in Stafford. Members of the committee have attended meetings on Resolutions, Officer Workshops and the Annual Council Meeting. Verity is an SFWI trustee and vice chairman and keeps us up to date with future events which we try to support. Her team organised Homes and Gardens Day in April. Helen is the Group Co-ordinator and supports the Forest and Vale Group Meetings. Many of us went to Hanbury and Draycott WI in October. Lorna Thompson and Sally Foord made excellent windmills for the competition. Congratulations go to Sally whose recycled working model won first prize for Rolleston WI. Some of our committee helped out with the federation lunch in Cannock, the County Show preview evening and "It's Christmas!" We entered a team for the County Quiz and Ann, Diane, Liz and Sue were triumphant in winning the Knighton Shield once again. We voted on the proposed Resolutions, bought raffle tickets and sent reports to the Rollestonian, St Mary's church magazine and the SFWI. Our Committee has worked hard this year to provide interesting meetings and tempting outings. Sue Fraser has been an excellent President for three years and will be standing down at the Annual Meeting. We would like to thank Sue for her hard work over her term of office. We would also like to thank our members for their support and loyalty. On behalf of the committee I would like to present this report to the Annual meeting of Rolleston WI and hope for a happy and successful year ahead.

Jennifer Phillips, Secretary

7.4 **RoDSEC**

The new revised version of RoDSEC started in October 2021. The reasons behind the change was that the opportunity to run large village events became increasingly difficult due to organisational problems.

In this last year, since our AGM in March 2022, we have focused on putting on entertainment in Rolleston Club; trips out to hear Derby Concert Orchestra and attempted to have a 'Carols Round the Christmas Tree'.

Our first event after the AGM last year should have been in May; showcasing local performers and the event called "The Music Box" was to feature five local acts but unfortunately it had to be cancelled at the last minute due to three acts pulling out. Actually, in hind sight, I think we should have gone ahead with the two acts we still had; but refunded ticket money.

In July we organised a bus for 15 people to go and hear another splendid performance given by Derby Concert Orchestra in Derby Cathedral.

The next event was the Magic Evening on 19th November. The Derby Magic Circle turned out in force supplying nine magicians. The first half they came to the tables to perform 'close up' magic and then the second half they put on a cabaret act. This went down very well with the audience and we will endeavour to repeat this sometime in the future.

In December we took 30 people to hear Derby Concert Orchestra's Christmas Concert. This is always very entertaining and is a mixture of light classical music with popular songs. This time we had excerpts from Star Wars; West Side Story; Sound of Music and Frozen. Good family entertainment.

We joined forces with Rolleston Civic Trust to put on another 'Carols Around The Christmas Tree'. This we organised for Friday 16th December using the U3A choir and to be led by Rev. Phyllis Bainbridge. Unfortunately the weather was against us and we had to revert to holding it in the church. It was heartening to see that over 100 people turned out on such a cold night. Rev. Phyllis kept us amused with jokes appropriate to the Carols and Christmas songs and donations amounted to over £300; which was split between the Almshouse Charity and St Mary's Church.

2023

On 29th February The Phoenix Players performed a Murder Mystery at Rolleston Club. We had limited ticket sales to 90 and these were snapped up making it a sell-out again. From the clues in the first two Acts the audience had to identify the murder and their accomplice. Also, for the first time in this play there were clues to historic events and people that you had to note; a prize being given to the one who recorded the most. Also getting a certificate and prize was the team who provided the most amusing answer. We are pleased to say that we have booked The Phoenix Payers to perform another Murder Mystery for us at Rolleston Club on Sunday 28th January 2024.

On 26th March RoDSEC was very pleased to be able to put on another Live & Local event after a two year absence. Live and Local organisation provide a menu covering a wide variety of acts but getting the act you want on the night that is available to us is quite an exercise so we were very fortunate in getting Naomi Paul. 'Despite Everything, Price Still Includes Biscuits'. She is a fantastic one-woman show with original songs, topical stories and Jewish humour; a comedy-cabaret with theatre, storytelling and audience engagement at its centre. And we were treated to biscuits that were handed out during her act! RoDSEC also provided packets of biscuits for everybody so that nobody was left out. This, together with the Club providing filled cobs at the bar meant nobody went home hungry!

RoDSEC is in the process of getting another L & L act in March.

We have now got through the first year and I think the re-introduction of the entertainment at Rolleston Club has been a success - if success can be measured in terms of full houses for the two Murder Mysteries and the Evening of Magic.

The test will be for the continuation of support for these events.

RoDSEC thank the Parish Council for their support and particularly their contribution to the floral display that will be outside the Almshouses for King Charles III Coronation.

One of the problems we are facing is the reduced level of commitment we are seeing in the proposed events that we are thinking about. Certainly the reason for the restructuring of RoDSEC was to account for the lack of support in the large events that RoDSEC had put on in the past. We could not envisage doing the same sort of events for the village that were originally done in the past. In fact we are starting to struggle with even our small events that we are putting on. There seems to be a reluctance for people to join committees and take active and leadership roles in our community. This is a concern for the future of all organisations and is a worrying aspect of modern life.

Phil Irwin, Chairman

7.5 **Rolleston on Dove Station Heritage Group**

The station site has been maintained in good order throughout the year by group members, both horticultural and heritage aspects. Appreciation for the groups' efforts has been frequently registered by members of the public.

In July 2022 Parish Councillors attended the site to discuss issues with group representatives: signal box feature, control of trees/saplings and the condition of the carriage/cattle dock facing wall.

The group has received donations from The Transport Festival Committee (proceeds from the 2022 event), Burton Railway Society and Friends on RSHG. Income has also been sourced from illustrated talks presented to various local associations.

▪ **Signal box feature**

During the Summer and Autumn the foundation to the building was re-built, an interpretation panel installed and the area surfaced with ballast. Also two new direction signs were installed.

▪ **Carriage/cattle dock facing wall**

Due to donations received, RSHG has been able to pledge £1,000.00 towards the re-building of this wall in a manner sympathetic to the original. A structural engineer has visited the site. Enquiries have been made to ESBC and the County Councillor regarding application for grants.

▪ **Tree work**

During February a tree surgeon carried out work at the station site as well as the Jinny Nature Trail. The group took advantage of chippings that have been used to replenish the station paths.

We maintain an association with local schools (particularly William Shrewsbury Primary at Stretton) as well as Scouts, who have been willing to lend a hand, Guides and Brownies.

With an increase each Spring of flora, including Snowdrops, Daffodils and Bluebells, a small but dedicated group of volunteers are responsible for the excellent condition of what was once a wilderness. Our sincere thanks are extended to them.

Clive and Rosemary Baker

8. **Vote of thanks**

Councillor Sanderson gave a vote of thanks to Councillor Stewart on behalf of the council. He said that he knew from his own experience that the position of Chair was not an easy one and that he and the rest of the council appreciated the hard work and time that Councillor Stewart had given in leading the council.

The meeting closed at 7.56pm

Signed

Date