

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting**  
**Held at the Old Grammar School Room, Church Road, Rolleston on Dove**  
**On Monday 25 April 2022 commencing at 7.30pm**

**Present**

Councillor Stewart (in the Chair)

Councillors Appleby, Houston, Robson, Sanderson, Sharples and Toon

T Foster, Rolleston Cricket Club

**1. Minutes**

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 21 May 2019 were taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**2. Matters arising**

None raised.

**3. Welcome**

Councillor Stewart welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**4. Chair's review of parish activities**

Writing this review for the Annual Parish Meeting of 2022 has provided an opportunity to reflect on the last couple of years since the previous meeting held in 2019. The meetings for 2020 and 2021 had to be cancelled as did many other village activities. These years have been challenging, often difficult and leave us all a legacy of profound impacts, some of which are either just being or indeed yet to be felt. Over the two years there has also been great determination and resilience displayed within the village as organisations including the Parish Council, businesses, schools and residents endeavoured to maintain some sort of normality where possible.

We are 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, various play areas, the Jinny Trail and other well used footpaths. There are many village organisations that were determined to keep their village activities running where possible, and the thanks of the Parish Council goes to all those volunteers. Without their tireless work and dedication to making things happen the village would have been a very different place during that time. The Parish Council also thanks the village establishments and schools who somehow managed to survive and keep going despite several shutdowns by displaying great ingenuity and putting in a lot of hard work.

For the Parish Council it has been two years of progress, change, some frustrations and many opportunities.

In January 2021 Steve McManus stepped down from the role as Chair, being replaced by Clare Stewart and Steve Sanderson as Vice Chairman. A huge vote of thanks to Steve for successfully leading the Parish Council into the world of online meetings back in 2020 so ensuring it continued to operate and deliver services to the best of its ability. Also we thank him for his robust and strong chairmanship handling matters during the difficult lockdown period with some associated anti-social behaviour that sadly occurred in our open spaces.

**Some of the many highlights of 2020 and 2021 are:**

Approval of the important revised Neighbourhood Development Plan that offers us at least some protection over planning matters that may impact us.

A program of improvement and much needed tree works / maintenance on Tafflands and the Jinny Trail.

The resurfacing of Craythorne playing fields car park that was done as part of the compensation for the location of the SCC road works compound located there during the delivery of long awaited flooding mitigation measures and road surfacing.

Installation of replacement benches and large play equipment maintenance on Tafflands.

In addition, with gratefully received help from TREATS, a play tractor has been located in Tafflands which has been much enjoyed!

Installation of the Blacksmiths' gate near the village blacksmiths' anvil on the Spread Eagle Island and an information board (thanks to Clive Baker for designing this) sited opposite these historic items, along with the stepped plinth of a memorial to the horse "Poet" owned by Sir Oswald "John Bull" Mosley 4th Baronet.

Thanks to the Civic Trust for their village improvements which include the creation of a delightful wildflower meadow outside the Jubilee orchard and for their monthly litter picking and also for its continued financial contributions towards the planting of the troughs on Burnside.

The Jubilee Orchard continues to provide delicious fruit for the village and really is looking good with tree maintenance planned in this year. Thanks for all the donations and help and to Cllr Mike Robson for leading this.

The Station Heritage Group has also continued their outstanding work in maintaining and ongoing improvements to the station end of the Jinny Trail. The spring flowers on the platform areas this year have brought an abundance of colour making it a pleasure to walk along.

Friends of Brook Hollows Group is now firmly established with a group of extremely dedicated volunteers meeting regularly. It is fantastic to see the transformation happening there as areas are opened up, overgrown vegetation and invasive species are removed and muddy paths are improved with chippings. In conjunction with the work and investment by TTTV and ESBC Open Spaces team, especially around the waterfall area, Brook Hollows is returning to its former glory and will no doubt be much enjoyed by residents. More to follow ...!

It is very also positive that RoDSEC has decided to continue albeit in a slightly different form, focusing on holding small events.

#### **Looking to the future - opportunities and challenges**

Looking ahead the Parish Council has a number of exciting projects that are in the process of moving forward. These include:

- 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
- Further tree management on the Jinny trail

- Whilst footpaths and stiles around the village are predominantly on private land the Parish Council will actively continue to work with landowners to maintain, repair and replace these well used trails for all to enjoy
- Monies paid to the village for the development on College fields provide a major opportunity to focus on much needed improvements to play areas and outside projects in the vicinity of the development. Such projects include a younger children's play area at Meadow View, complete 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, improvements to Tafflands footpaths with woodland flowers, bird and bat boxes
- Also discussions are taking place over how best to replace the old changing facility at Craythorne playing field

The Parish Council has a full council as we welcomed three new councillors during the last year. Together with the longer serving councillors, the strong links with other village organisations and the Parish Council contractors, this will all really help maintain delivery of Parish Council services to a high standard for the village in these times of increased pressure on public funding.

#### 5. **Borough Councillor's report**

Councillor Toon said that it had been a busy year. The regeneration of the Washlands had created a lot of interest, as had the proposed move of the Library to the Market Hall which the council had agreed not to progress. The Market Hall is a Listed building and needs a lot of work done to it, including the roof and funds are being sourced to see this work done. ESBC are looking to get more traders into the Market Hall and it is looking to have more functions held there to raise more income in the future.

She was most pleased to see the Brook Hollows project progressing and said that she hoped that the lake would be dredged as part of the works. She said that the Friends of Brook Hollows were doing a good job.

Planning issues continue around the village and enforcement has been difficult.

Councillor George Allen had been elected as the new Leader of ESBC; Councillor Hudson would be the new Mayor and Councillor Sylvester the new Deputy Mayor.

Councillor Toon said that the coming year would be her last year as a Councillor as she would be standing down in May 2023 from both the Borough and Parish councils.

#### 6. **County Councillor's report**

The County Council has had a busy twelve months in the village delivering the much needed road resurfacing and flood prevention scheme on Beacon Road, School Lane, Chapel Lane and the adjoining section of Station Road. The comments I have received during the works were very positive in terms of the professionalism of the work crews and I think it is fair to say they have done a good quality job. I think we will all wait a few winters before we draw any conclusions on the flood prevention works but certainly they appear to have worked well this winter.

We are awaiting the implementation of the new parking restrictions in the same area of the village which are aimed at improving the situation around the school and dealing with some other "hotspots" where inconsiderate parking creates problems for residents and these should be in place during June.

The build-out on Dovecliff Road should also be moved to its final position in the summer. This is following a review of the positioning which I think we all can see is still not in the best location.

The engineers who dealt with the repositioning attempted to minimise the loss of parking spaces but this clearly has not worked so following consultation with nearby residents the build-out will move to the brow of the hill. This will be done at no further cost to the taxpayer.

I am also waiting for confirmation that Station Road will be included in the road resurfacing programme this year. The road is a priority in the county-wide resurfacing programme but unfortunately, the Department for Transport has seen fit to cut Staffordshire's highways grant by one-third which has dramatically reduced the number of projects that can be delivered so while I am hopeful this will happen I cannot promise it at this time.

Outside of the world of highways, I was delighted to be asked to join the governing body of John of Rolleston since the last annual Parish meeting. Having previously been the Cabinet Member for Education for the County it has been very pleasing to see the quality and ambition the school displays along with a highly nurturing approach, something recently confirmed by the visit of OFSTED, whose official report we look forward to receiving.

**Agreed** That Councillor White be thanked for the work he has done for the village over the last three years.

## **7. Reports of village organisations**

### **7.1 St Mary's PCC**

The PCC has continued to hold regular meetings over the last three years on Zoom or in person depending on the restrictions in place.

Of the outstanding issues reported at the AGM in May 2019, the steps through the Lychgate were modified to improve access with hand rails added for safety, a survey of the surface water drains identified a blocked soakaway under the York stone path, jet washing cleared the blockage but this will recur at some point and investigations are ongoing to find an alternative solution, the condition of the wall on the east and west sides of the church yard is monitored regularly and will be inspected as part of our Quinquennial inspection later in the year.

On 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020, the Church was closed for public services and the OGSR closed for meetings and events. On Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup> March the Communion service was live streamed on Facebook from the Rectory kitchen using a mobile phone. We moved back into church with appropriate Covid procedures as soon as we were allowed. The Sunday service continues to be streamed on Zoom and Facebook but now with more sophisticated equipment donated to the church. A difficult time for us were the restrictions on congregation size at funerals.

Despite the restrictions on meeting in groups even outdoors we were able to mark the anniversaries of VE Day, VJ Day, Armistice and Remembrance Sunday last year in church but with a reduced congregation.

In the summer of 2021 we had a display of over 30 Banners from the various village organisations postponed from Advent weekend 2020 and then at the end of November the same organisations participated in our decorated tree festival. It has been good to see the resurgence of village activities and we look forward to the events of the Jubilee weekend.

### **7.2 Rolleston Civic Trust**

This has been a very busy year for the Civic Trust. We began it by creating our first ever Wild Flower Garden at the top of Knowles Hill. This created a welcome splash of summer colour to

the area outside the Orchard and we hope that this will become a regular annual feature in the village.

In April we ran our first ever Easter Bunny Treasure Hunt which involved placing pictures of a dozen well-known rabbits on lamp posts around the village, giving children various clues to help them locate them all. This proved to be hugely popular not only within the village but from the surrounding area as we received over 160 entries to the prize draw with some coming from as far as Swadlincote. The activity raised £140 for the Blue Cross Animal Shelter and will definitely be repeated this year.

Obviously, a lot of our activities were restricted because of the pandemic and our monthly meetings for members became virtual meetings on Zoom. At least we were still able to offer members a talk on a monthly basis with interesting talks by Dave Hollis, Robert Mee and Clive Baker. In July we were able to resume our talks in person with Malcolm Goode, Chris Copp and Blue Cross coming to talk to us on a variety of subjects. In October we were treated to a fascinating talk by ex-village resident Rodney Paul who packed out the Cricket Club with a talk about his hero, Ernest Shackleton.

The Committee decided to give the 2020 Civic Trust Award to The Jinnie public house. This was because of their much appreciated efforts to remain open and offer food and hot drinks from their outdoor stall throughout the lockdown periods.

Also new for 2021 was the creation of a regular litter picking group that meets on the last Saturday of every month at Craythorne Road Car Park. Volunteer numbers have varied considerably during the year but it has been good to see various families with young children turning up to help keep our village clean.

On the first Sunday of every month the 'Friends of Brook Hollows' meet. We have over 20 volunteers who turn up when they can to do conservation work within Brook Hollows. Our work is funded through the Transforming the Trent Valley (TTTV) initiative using National Lottery funding. We have purchased tools to use on site and many of the volunteers have undergone training in everything from First Aid to Water Safety.

Visitors to the spinney will notice that we have laid a lot of wood chip on the paths to help keep down the mud. This has been donated by a local tree services company and will be an ongoing project for the volunteers. Our other tasks have involved cutting back the non-native Snowberry, which dominates parts of the woodland and removing small self-set trees that are growing in the wrong place. We have cleared an area near the middle bridge and we will be planting Bluebells and wild flower seeds in this area in April. We received a donation of 1000 snowdrops and these were planted by the lower lake in February.

The Summer months will see the volunteers busy removing the invasive Himalayan Balsam by the watercourses and there will be two information boards being installed, one on the history of the site and one detailing the wildlife. In addition, a wooden 'totem' sign is being installed with a sculpture of an eagle on top that will welcome visitors at the entrance by The Lawns.

Future plans are for the installation of more benches, a bird hide/screen at the far end of the woodland, an eagle sculpture trail and the creation of an educational area with wooden log seats as well as the ongoing maintenance and care of the woods.

In October last year, the Civic Trust were immensely saddened by the news that our Rollestonian editor, Lesley Bayston, had passed away. Lesley had been a stalwart of many village organisations and had been our editor for a number of years. She will be sorely missed.

In November 2021 the Trust organised our first ever Wine Tasting Evening. The sold out event at the Rolleston Club was enjoyed by everyone who attended, even though not all the wines were liked by everyone! The event raised well over £400 which the Trust will be re-investing in the village, probably with a bench in a suitable position.

In December we were approached by the Parish Council to take on the role of putting up and decorating the village Christmas tree outside the Almshouses. With the help of experienced old hands like John Phillips and some of our newer and younger volunteers from the 'Friends' group this feat was achieved successfully and we were immediately rewarded by a fall of snow that made the decorated tree look a picture.

The Civic Trust continues to take an active role in planning matters within the village. We are always asked for our approval or otherwise of building or garden alterations. We take this role very seriously and comment on most of the cases brought before us. One of our principal concerns is the loss of green space for housing, despite the existence of the village plan which was created to try and prevent this. We will continue to fight against these building projects where we feel they are detrimental to the future of our community.

The Civic Trust has done its best to try and maintain and add to our membership over the last twelve months. We have been posting 'Welcome Packs' through the doors of all new residents to the village which contain a copy of the Rollestonian, walks around the village, the Parish Council Directory and leaflets promoting the Trust's activities. As a result, we have now recruited several families as new members.

Your Civic Trust has plans to build upon the work we have achieved over the past twelve months and want to introduce some further activities later in the year to try to keep as many people involved in our community work as possible.

Tim Salmon, Chairperson

### 7.3 1<sup>st</sup> Rolleston Scout Group

The lighter nights and the with the summer on the way the Scout group is busy planning and training ready for camps and a vast array of activities and events planned for this year.

The Scout group now consists of two Beaver colonies (6–8 years), two Cub packs (8-10.5 years) and two Scout troops (10.5-14 years) boys and girls. In addition to the group, we host one of the district Explorer units (14–18 years). All these sections combined make up well over 220 young people meeting at RSG HQ every week from the village and the surrounding area. We are the biggest group in the district and one of the largest in the UK and for this we as a village should be very proud.

The fact that we have a large group is purely down to the dedication on over 35 uniformed leaders, a proactive management team of 12 and parent helpers that make the group what it is.

The downside to this is that we have a waiting list of over 50 young people who cannot access the group because we are full. This is a factor that we are looking at constantly, but we won't

sacrifice large sections as this will lead to a drop in the quality, delivery, and level of Scouting that we provide.

As you may have seen phase one of the HQ build is now complete and, in this regard, I invite you all to an open afternoon on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May to have a look round the new extension to see what we have achieved and our plans for Phase 2.

The new rooms are used by the group over 95% of the time but when it's not used by us, we have been able to welcome local groups and classes to use the venue. This has long been a main driver for me for the group to be as approachable as possible and an integral part of the village.

#### Become a Rolleston VIP

Our events are all up and running for this year and we strongly thank the village for allowing us to deliver them. I know all of them are not to everyone's taste but over that year we do try to cater for the whole village. All information regarding our events is on the website but here is a reminder of the dates confirmed at the moment for this year.

This is a no brainer if you are a regular patron of a Rolleston Scouts event, and you want to make a difference to your community:

- You are guaranteed standard entry to all our events.
- You can buy additional tickets 24 hrs before they are on general release.
- Your name will be engraved on a plaque to acknowledge your commitment to Rolleston Scout Group
- And you get your FULL INVESTMENT BACK!

So why are we doing this?

We have now completed the first phase of the new build at your Scout Headquarters. The upstairs meeting room is now open and used extensively by Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and many external community groups, classes, and organisations. The leaders room extension, together with the additional storage area, is complete, with the toilets to be completed very soon.

The second phase will see the marquee dismantled and a new permanent steel structure take its place, which can be used all year round. The current marquee can only be left up in the summer and autumn months.

We need to raise over £60,000 to complete this. Our plan is to use the capital raised by the VIP ticket scheme. We would love to be in the position where we can achieve this in the next few months.

Tickets cost £550 each or two for £1000. There are two options:

- You gift the money, and the ticket remains active for 15 years  
OR
- We repay the loan in FULL, and the ticket is cancelled on repayment. We aim to repay the loan within 10 years.

We remain a staunch supporter of village life and all other events and are working very closely with the team from the Transport Festival to support them where we can.

Thank you to you all for the support you have shown the Group and we will continue to do our best to be an asset to the village.

Graham Jacks

#### 7.4 RoDSEC

At the RoDSEC AGM on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021 the position of Chairman became vacant. This followed 13 years of exemplary chairmanship by John Phillips who's dynamism and enthusiasm took us on a journey of celebration and achievement for the Village.

The Zoom meeting of RoDSEC Committee held on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021 concluded that RoDSEC should not put on any large events and that they postpone any decision until the next meeting when hopefully they could meet in person. Without a Chairperson RoDSEC would remain rudderless until the next meeting that was due to be held on 7<sup>th</sup> September.

Comment in the Autumn Rollestonian that year declared that if a Chairperson could not be found RoDSEC was liable to fold.

This seemed a terrible state of affairs given the hard work put in over many years by John Phillips and the Committee. It had been agreed at a meeting held on April 27<sup>th</sup> that RoDSEC should not hold a large event for the foreseeable future. This was mainly due to the complexity of the legislation that is required and it was felt that the effort needed in putting events on was not rewarded by the turnout. The last large event was the Peace Day which was not well attended. Also, the numbers turning up for 'Carols Round the Tree' fell year by year. So what is the future of RoDSEC? I thought it worth putting my head above the parapet and suggesting a slimmed down version of RoDSEC that carried on with the most successful aspects: that of putting on entertainment at Rolleston Club. The Live and Local performances were generally a sell out; as were the Magic Evening and the Murder Mysteries. We also had a big turnout for the Blue John Soul Band. These type of events combined with trips out to Concerts and the Theatre for all the people of Rolleston would be a way of keeping RoDSEC alive until such time as we felt it was appropriate to have a large event. To this end I offered to be Chairman to get this off the ground. At a meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> October this proposal was put to the full RoDSEC committee and it was accepted on a majority vote that we go this route. I asked for volunteers to sit on a small committee to kick it off and 7 people said that they would attend.

I chaired this first meeting in October 2021 and we put in place a programme that included a Murder Mystery at Rolleston Club on 27<sup>th</sup> February and a 'talent evening' of local bands and performers in May. The later event is now called "The Music Box" and will take place on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May. Also, we thought it worthwhile trying a new venture; that of providing a coach to take people to Concerts and Shows. To this end the Derby Concert Orchestra performance in Derby Cathedral on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December was targeted. The response was very positive and 32 people went on the coach to hear a very entertaining programme.

On 27<sup>th</sup> February The Phoenix Players performed a Murder Mystery at Rolleston Club. We had limited ticket sales to 80 and these were snapped up making it a ticket sell-out. Those who were there were treated to a first class 'who donnit' .

On 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022 RoDSEC held an AGM where 19 people attended. Councillor Clare Stewart Chaired the proceedings. With no other nominations Philip Irwin was re-elected as Chairman. Sue Irwin filled the post of Vice-Chairman after giving up her post of Treasurer, which she held



for 12 years. We thank Sue for doing this job for so long and welcome Kay Simnett as the new Treasurer. The post of Secretary was filled by Kath Pickering, who for some time had been minutes secretary. It is pleasing that now we can go forward with all roles filled!

Given all that has happened in the last two years it is some relief that we can start planning events with some sort of certainty that they will happen. We are therefore planning more entertainment in the Autumn and hopefully bringing Live and Local Acts back to the Rolleston Club.

I thank all those who offered their supported to me over the last few months and I know we will take RoDSEC forward for the foreseeable future.

Phil Irwin, Chairman RoDSEC.

#### **7.5 Rolleston on Dove Allotment Society**

The allotment site is currently thriving, and all plots are taken. We have 45 plot holders, eight associate members and one life member. The 2022 season has seen a larger than normal intake of new plot holders. Most are new to allotment gardening. Many have indicated that they are looking for space to grow their own produce, that perhaps their home gardens do not provide. We continue to hold a variety of social events throughout the year for members and these are generally well attended.

Of concern, is our new tenancy agreement with ESBC. Our leases have previously been for five-year periods. However, the current agreement in place, is for two years to the end of September 2023.

ESBC have indicated that they are currently reviewing the available land for burials in the Burton on Trent area.

Graham Anderson, Allotment Secretary

#### **7.6 Rolleston on Dove Station Heritage Group**

Due to the pandemic, this is the first report to the Parish Council (PC) since April 2019. Following the February 2020 working party, members did not attend as a group until June 2021. Once the first lockdown ended in August 2020, individual members carried out necessary tidying and maintenance.

It is with sadness that we acknowledged the passing of Alan Partington in June 2020. Without Alan's interest, encouragement and active assistance, I feel that the project would not have passed the first hurdle.

During the winter lockdown of 2021, we were encouraged to witness so many visitors enjoying the early spring blooms, snowdrops and daffodils etc. We continue to receive complementary comments from passers-by when we work at the site.

Following an assessment in July 2021 by a judge representing the Royal Horticultural Society 'It's Your Neighbourhood Scheme' our project achieved Level 5 – OUTSTANDING. Thank you to our dedicated band of hands on helpers without whom this could not have been possible.

The assessor noted the latest feature; a ‘bug hotel’, its components, old pallets, garden canes, unwanted bricks etc, had been sourced from many village residents. This palatial residence has proved a great attraction to younger visitors.



Above: Building the Bug Hotel 2021

The assessor made just one criticism – we should clarify on our signage that the site is maintained by volunteers. We do actually have one such sign that portrays two of our members weeding the wildflower meadow and inviting others to join.

Those two members are Joe and Maureen Martin who in the early days put their hearts and souls into our project as they always do, whatever they tackle. Maureen’s love and vast knowledge of plants together with Joe’s many practical skills, particularly wood carving, proved vital to achieve the goal. In March they relocated to Anglesey and we wish them happy days looking out to the sea and the Snowdonia mountains.



Above: Maureen and Joe tending the wildflower meadow

As a source for education, both transport heritage and the natural world, we maintain ties with local schools and organisations such as Scouts, Guides, Brownies and other societies. Recently when site visits were not feasible illustrated talks were presented by Zoom.

Apart from developing the flora throughout the seasons, our current railway project is to rebuild the signal box foundation and add a graphic showing the original building cutaway to demonstrate the lever mechanism that once controlled the points and signals. Another goal is to restore the facing wall to the carriage/cattle dock.

The project survives thanks to support from 'The Friends of Rolleston-on-Dove Station', who not only make regular donations but help in many practical ways. Burton Railway Society adopted the station as their charity for the 2019-20 season and the Transport Festival Committee have named us as a beneficiary for this year's event.

Our thanks to PC members for their support in generating a walker's gateway to our village.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm

Signed .....

Date .....