

# Rolleston Annual Parish Meeting

7.00pm 24th April 2025 The Crown, Rolleston

Present Cllr Bob Steele (in the Chair) and 22 members of the public.

## Minutes

**1. To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Chris Baillon-Sanders and Lucy Kyte

**2. To receive and approve the minutes of the last annual parish meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th April 2024 were approved and the Chair signed.

**3. To discuss any matters arising from those minutes**

No matters were raised.

**4. Parish Council Chair's report (Cllr Bob Steele)**

Cllr Steele welcomed everyone especially the speakers.

Cllr Steele reported that the Village Hall Planning Application had taken considerable effort from the PC leading to the successful application for a certificate of Lawful Development. This year the PC have been working on a tree planting project for the village which will now take place in the Autumn/Winter of 2025. He also asked if there were any MOP who wanted trees planted on their land, they should inform Cllr Steele and Cllr Melton.

Cllr Steele reported that the Play Park is potentially a major expense for the Parish Council and there may not have been proper provision put in place for its future replacement. Although the PC has established a reserve fund, this will be insufficient to fund a major replacement. Cllr Colman organises ongoing inspections from villagers and official inspections from NSDC.

Cllr Steele reported that three events had been organised by the PC:- a bee-keeping talk given by Michael Coombs and two first aid events organised by Cllr Colman and provided by Newark Community First Aid. Cllr Steele highlighted that the Parish Council would be very happy to run similar events in the future

Cllr Steele reported that there have been a couple of issues regarding Southwell Racecourse that have arisen throughout the year. The issues were mainly due to traffic management and racecourse signage being left out between events. Planning Applications have been submitted for the racecourse to run more events and to also increase the number of night races.

Cllr Steele reported on the development of the Rolleston Neighbourhood Plan. This needs a steering committee to be formed, and various volunteers are needed for the necessary activities.

Cllr Steele gave an update on the Rolleston Village Hall planning application. The initial application was refused by the NSDC Planning Committee in February 2025 which was the second application to be refused. Cllr Steele reported that NSDC are now lodging an appeal to the Inspectorate.

## **5. Parish Council Accounts (Cllr Michael Gemson)**

Cllr Gemson reported that the Parish Council precept is included in the Council Tax. The Parish Council precept needs to fund: - internal Audit, bank charges, software subscriptions and Local Authority membership bodies, insurance, donations to Church maintenance, village maintenance and play park maintenance (the latter two items being most of the expenditure). The total PC expenditure totals circa £13,000 per annum. The Rolleston PC 25/26 precept will be £10,297 which is an increase of 17%. This increase will lessen the need to draw upon the Council's reserves to fund ongoing expenditure. However, a substantial amount of the Parish Council's reserves is earmarked for the replacement of the Play Park equipment which he noted will cost in the order of £50,000.

Cllr Gemson wished to thank NSDC who have provided the Council with a Flood Resilience Grant which increased the funds available to the Parish to purchase flood mitigation equipment.

Cllr Gemson commented that the Rolleston PC precept increase equates to 15p per week for an average Band D house.

Cllr Gemson explained that the Corner Farm Account funds can only be spent on the upkeep and maintenance of Corner Farm and cannot be used for any other purpose.

## **6. Notts County Council report (Cllr Sue Saddington)**

Cllr Sue Saddington reported that the Notts County Council (NCC) elections are being held the following week. She recapped on her activities in the preceding four years. Sue was given the civic positions of Chair of NCC and NSDC. During Sue's tenure, she was called to Castle house to read the proclamation of King Charles III. Later that day she attended the service at Southwell Minster. During the Queen's Platinum Jubilee she attended many local events, despite the rain.

She reported that she had supported Rolleston PC with Local Divisional Funds etc where possible. She had donated to the VE celebrations, the Jubilee Celebrations, the Seniors Lunches and donated funds for a clock in the Village Hall. She wished to pay tribute to the volunteers who make the Seniors Lunch a tremendous success.

Potholes are constantly being raised in the PC meetings and NCC have invested in hot boxing equipment to provide a longer lasting repair. Fiskerton Rd is currently being repaired with the hot box.

She commented that floods are becoming a more frequent event and she paid tribute to the excellent flood warden at Rolleston, Steve Bosworth. However, she noted that flood signs being removed by drivers, so NCC are looking at signs that may be more difficult to move.

Network Rail barrier situation is continuing to cause problems. She is attending a meeting with Network Rail to highlight the issues the local villages are facing.

Marks and Spencer's (Newark) signage at the exit is causing issues. She is asking NCC highways why this situation has been allowed to develop. NCC have agreed that this is a problem and they are looking to develop a solution.

Finally, Cllr Saddington wanted to thank everyone who makes Rolleston such a success, the councillors, the clerk and all the volunteers who help make Rolleston “tick”. She expressed her enjoyment over the last 10 years of representing Rolleston and she hoped she would be returned to look after Rolleston.

## **7. NSDC report (Cllr Keith Melton)**

Cllr Melton began by stating that looking after Rolleston had been a positive and rewarding experience due to the positive engagement with the village.

Regarding the Village Hall land at Greenaway, Cllr Melton reported that he had voted against the application which was refused with a unanimous vote.

Cllr Melton reported that NSDC has funded Flood Resilience Grants to local Parish Councils which had been beyond its legal obligation.

Cllr Melton also noted that the Trees for Climate project is looking successful and trees should be available to be planted in late 2025.

## **8. Neighbourhood Plan Report (Cllr Steele)**

Cllr Steele reported that the plan was being commenced and stressed how important it was to the future of the village and that it does need support from the parishioners within the village. A questionnaire will be sent out with a final referendum to ensure that the villagers agree with the plan.

Cllr Steele discussed the Land at Greenaway planning application appeal and stated that the Inspectorate’s portal could prove difficult for people to use to submit their comments. So, he had found an email address that people could submit their representations before 29<sup>th</sup> April to the Inspectorate. Cllr Steele reported that Chris Baillon-Sanders had written a comprehensive 26-page report which he has submitted. He asked that everyone should include in their submissions the fact that that the NSDC officers are acting in contravention of the elected members of the NSDC Planning Committee.

9. **Holy Trinity Church report (Peter Salter)**

The Holy Trinity Church at Rolleston has had an interesting year. It started off with several tree limbs being damaged in storms which has resulted in a large tree near footpath on the Fiskerton side now showing the effects of a heavy pollarding. However, new branches are now emerging. The latest tree removed is the fir tree by the porch which was affecting the path and blocking up the drains and gulleys. There is still a large pile of logs available to the village.

The busiest workers in the graveyard are the moles.

Thanks to the Parish Council for a contribution towards the grass cutting.

There have been three baptisms and two funeral services during the year.

Socially there has been a Flower Festival and a Festive Fizz Evening which raised funds for a new Noticeboard which should be in situ in the next week or two.

Good attendances were achieved at the Harvest Service, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day and Easter Sunday services.

There is an entertainment evening to mark the 80th Anniversary of V E Day in church at 7.00pm on Thursday 8 May with donations being shared with the British Legion.

Services continue to be held on the second Sunday and occasionally on the third or fifth Sunday at 10.30 am.

Good news for the future is that a new priest will take up the reins after his Licencing at the end of July. We look forward to working alongside him and wish him well.

10. **Kate Greenaway Action Group report (Cllr Pati Colman)**

Please see report appended to these minutes for further details.

11. **Rolleston Book Club report (Cllr Pati Colman)**

Please see report appended to these minutes for further details.

12. **Rolleston Junction report (Carole Chandler)**

Carole stressed the importance of the Rolleston Junction as a community tool. She highlighted the need for sponsors to cover the cost of the

magazine. She stressed that the costs of printing have risen markedly and they are struggling to attract new sponsors. Every issue of the quarterly magazine costs £480 which is double the costs of 2 years ago. Carole asked if many villagers read the hard copy version of the magazine or would they prefer a soft copy that could be read on a phone etc. Carole proposed a digital version should be produced which is already published on the Rolleston Village website. However, Carole was conscious that accessibility was an issue as approx 15 villagers do not have access to email and suggested that a hard copy of the magazine was sent only to those who do not have access to email. It was requested that one copy of the magazine per year be a printed version.

**13. Rolleston Village Hall Committee report (Mark Sanders)**

Mark thanked all the Committee members for their support without which the Hall would not be a success. The Hall had operated with a small financial surplus in 2024. Fundraising is vital to the success of the village hall as without it, it would be insolvent.

Responding to the Village Hall Land appeal is important as if the planning application goes ahead, it will impact the viability of the Hall, the visual amenity will be diminished (which will negatively impact bookings) and the loss of parking will impact the practicality of the Hall being used for larger events.

Fundraising activities and securing of grants from local businesses has meant that the main hall has been decorated and the floor refurbished.

Mark asked if anyone was interested in helping to organise events and thanked Cllr Saddington for all her support. Finally, he asked all villagers to use the hall whenever possible.

**14. Flood Action Group report. (Steve Bosworth)**

Steve reported that this year has been a brilliant year because of funding from NCC and NSDC. There are now 2 new members (Michael Gemson and David Soul) of the flood warden team who have been trained to use the new pump and flood ramps. Mr Bosworth noted that, thankfully, the flood equipment only needed once this winter.

Mr Bosworth commented on the village drain (which has now been identified as a Severn Trent asset) has now been found to be blocked as a water pipe has been pushed though the drain. Severn Trent has assured Mr Bosworth that it will be repaired this year.

**15. Rolleston Allotments (Steve Johnson)**

Mr Johnson reported that there are ongoing negotiations on the funding of the allotments and all going well.

**16. Any other Business**

There was no other business.

The Chair thanked everyone for contributing and attending and to The Crown for hosting.

Mark Sanders commented that The Crown has been trading for a year to the day and the Crown team wanted to thank the village for their support.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.26pm.

## ROLLESTON BOOK GROUP 2025

2024	Title	Author
15 <sup>th</sup> May	The Boy with The Topknot	Sathnam Sanghera
13 <sup>th</sup> June	Hidden Figures	Margot Lee Shetterly
16 <sup>th</sup> July	Trust	Hernan Diaz
August	<i>No meeting</i>	
12 <sup>th</sup> September	Demon Copperhead	Barbara Kingsolver
10 <sup>th</sup> October	The Women	Kristin Hannah
12 <sup>th</sup> November	Still Life	Sarah Winman
12 <sup>th</sup> December	<i>Meal at The Crown</i>	
2025	Title	Author
21 <sup>st</sup> January	Airs Above The Ground	Mary Stewart
13 <sup>th</sup> February	Killing Time	Alan Bennett
13 <sup>th</sup> March	The President's Daughter	Bill Clinton and James Patterson
20 <sup>th</sup> May	Rogue Herries	Hugh Walpole
19 <sup>th</sup> June	Cahokia Jazz	Francis Spufford

Rolleston Book group is unlike many other local book groups in that we have both male and female members so there's absolutely no need for anyone to feel shy about joining us. All you need is a love of reading books and a willingness to try books that you possibly would never have chosen yourself!

We meet in members houses and we only have tea / coffee and biscuits after the meeting so you don't even need to be a cake baker either!

We try and stipulate that the person choosing the book has read it themselves before recommending it, and that way they can set meaningful questions to guide our discussions.

Over the last year we have covered a wide range of books in different styles and set in different periods and different places, ranging from Sathnam Sanghera's memoir of growing up Sikh in Wolverhampton in the 1960s, *The Boy with The Topknot*, and Sarah Winman's *Still Life* which was set in Florence between 1944 and 1980.

New members are always welcome so, if you would like to join us, just come and speak to me after the meeting or I've put my contact details on our poster so you can email or call me.

## Kate Greenaway Action Group Report 2025

I expect that by now you all be very well aware of the connection between the illustrator, Kate Greenaway, and our village of Rolleston. She was born in Hoxton, London (17.03.1846) but as a child she spent part of her time staying in what is now 18 Fiskerton Road (on the corner by Holly Court). It was here in Rolleston that she developed her interest in and ability to draw. Although it has been noted that at that time most of her drawings would have been done on a slate, and are therefore now long gone, what can be seen clearly in her work as an adult is the influence of Rolleston village life; the plants, flowers and the characters that she observed at the time. *(I've put some books on a table at the back should you wish to remind yourselves of Kate Greenaway's work.)*

Our group was set up in 2019 with the intention of trying to save 18 Fiskerton Road from demolition, as had happened to other similar properties in the village and now, 6 years later, we are delighted that it has been purchased, and that the owner is intent on restoring it to its former style.

Over the last year the group has been busy continuing with our research and giving talks to local groups, mainly at WI Meetings, and so spreading the word about the connection between Rolleston and Kate Greenaway. (9 Talks to date, 2 more booked for later in the year.)

These talks have been very well received and bring visitors to the village to walk the trail. This year we were also visited by the Head of Education and Engagement at Buxton Crescent Heritage Trust who had discovered our website while researching, what she called "the esteemed illustrator Kate Greenaway". We were able to take her on the trail and she was delighted to make this local connection.

On 29<sup>th</sup> March this year we marked Kate Greenaway's "nearly birthday" with our annual Tea Party, this year titled "**Cake** Greenaway" - sandwiches, tarts & cakes were served, and with help from members of the audience, The Kate

Greenaway Singers performed a medley of songs about tea & food. It was great fun and much appreciated by everyone who attended. Due in part to the cakes donated by villagers and the sterling work and amazing generosity of Claire Foster, we made a good profit which will be split between the Church (our host) and a chosen charity. (£185)

This year some of our members made a trip to visit the Nottingham University Archives and were shown a fine collection of Kate Greenaway sketches plus some of the work of her father, who was also an illustrator. These were donated by Kate Greenaway's brother John who wrote in a letter to the University how much Kate loved Rolleston and the county of Nottinghamshire. In the future we hope to carry out more research perhaps looking at the history of the period in which Kate Greenaway lived, she died young in 1901, and at other artists of the time.

And just to end, I want to remind you all of the joys of the Kate Greenaway Garden where you can currently share the bench with Rolo the dog and enjoy the flowers we have planted and the blossom on the cherry tree. Again, thank you to Claire for maintaining the garden for us all to enjoy.

**TALKS:**

- April – Woodborough WI
- May - Hawton WI
- June - Worksop Wonders WI
- July - Newark Fountain WI
- September Farnsfield History Society
- October – Southwell WI
- November – Upton WI
- February 25 - East Bridgford WI
- March 25 - Bleasby WI

Will go to Retford Art Society and Southwell Ladies Probus