

Rolleston Annual Parish Meeting

7.00pm 25th April 2024 Rolleston Pub, Staythorpe Road

Present Cllr Bob Steele (in the Chair) and 28 members of the public.

Minutes

1. To receive apologies for absence
No apologies
2. To receive and approve the minutes of the last annual parish meeting
No Annual Parish Meeting was held in 2023 and so minutes were available to be signed.
3. To discuss any matters arising from those minutes
Not Applicable
4. Parish Council Chair's report (Cllr Bob Steele)
Cllr Steele welcomed everyone especially the speakers. He summarised the activities of the Council over the last months since they reconvened the Council. The first was to have on-line banking and accounting software (Scribe and to create a parish website. The council created a village website using GoDaddy. Bob encouraged people to use the website and to contribute content.

He reported that flooding in the village was a major event, and the Council had a flood warden team and were liaising with both the District and the County Council.

Cllr Steele stated that new email addresses had been adopted throughout the council (.gov.uk official addresses) and new policies and procedures have been developed and will be formally adopted in May. Cllr Steele paid tribute to the great work done by Maria Broadbent as a councillor and what a sad loss. He advised the meeting that the Council were looking for more councillors and Bob would welcome anyone who is interested to talk to him about the role.

A final major initiative was tree planting in the village and the council are working with Councillor Melton from NSDC on this initiative.

5. Parish Council accounts (Cllr Michael Gemson)

Cllr Gemson reported that the council's income is largely from the village precept and that whilst this income had been flat between 22/23 and 23/24, expenditure had not been flat. The council had spent £11,000 in 23/24 in comparison to £6k in 22/23. He reported that all the councillors are looking to increase the effectiveness of the council and had put in place an infrastructure which would enable the councillors to concentrate on the village and not the administration. He reported that the council had recruited a new clerk who was helping navigate any pitfalls and enabling the council to work with the best practises. Cllr Gemson reported that the council had invested in Scribe Accounting software. This would de-risk the Council against the potential departure of both clerks and councillors.

Cllr Gemson reported that the 24/25 budget will increase due to inflation and also clerk's costs etc. He stated that 50% of the increase will be funded via precept and 50% will be funded from parish council reserves. He noted that the Corner Farm Account is ringfenced funding, which can only be spent on Corner Farm. Based on historic expenditure this ringfenced funding should last the council another 25 years.

6. Notts County Council report (Cllr Sue Saddington)

Cllr Saddington expressed her thanks to former members of Rolleston Parish Council for the sterling work they have done in the past.

Flooding is the main theme of this year. She reported that signage was a major issues for the flood warden teams. The Rolleston flood warden team is part of the Notts Flood team group and there may be access to interconnecting moulded signs when they are part of the NCC Scheme.

Cllr Saddington reported that throughout the year, funds had been given to Rolleston from the Community Divisional Fund for events and schemes that Rolleston wish to have funded. She also highghed that funds are now being scrutinized, and details need to be accurate.

7. NSDC report (Cllr Keith Melton)

Cllr Melton introduced himself and gave a history of how he became a District Councillor.

Cllr Steele asked for parishioners to suggest areas for tree planting. Cllr Melton stated that NSDC would maintain the trees and might include insurance.

8. Holy Trinity Church report (Julian Ellis)

Julian reported that it has now been 12 months since Rev Phil Wright had retired and a new vicar had yet to be recruited.

Please see report for further detail.

9. Kate Greenaway Action Group report (Cllr Pati Colman)

Please see report for further detail.

10. Rolleston Book Club report (Pati Colman)

Please see report for further detail.

11. Rolleston Junction report (Gill Rowles)

Gill Rowles presented that Rolleston Junction is now 9 years old and so there had been 36 issues to date (quarterly). The Junction covered community interest information and aimed to develop a community spirit. She stated that everyone was welcome to contribute. There is a team of 4 work on Rolleston Junction and they were really grateful to all contributors but they would love more from a wider audience.

Sh expressed her thanks to everyone and asked for ideas as to what should be included in the future.

It was agreed that Cllr Bob Steele and Gill should discuss how the website and the Rolleston Junction email service should work together.

Cllr Coleman proposed a vote of thanks to the Rolleston Junction team and stated that Rolleston Junction goes to elderly ex-residents who really enjoy it.

12. Rolleston Village Hall Committee report (Julian Ellis)

Please see report for further detail

13. Flood Action Group report. (Steve Bosworth)

Steve reported that he had a team of people ready to spring into action when needed. As flood warden he was a member of the Flood Forum groups, and attended the Brackenhurst training events. He reported that there was a great deal of planning, but little activity.

Steve was asked if flood wardens have responsibility for the flood resilience store and is it adequately stocked. Steve responded that it was an NSDC issue aquasacs.

14. Rolleston Allotments and Bee Keeping report (Michael Coombs)

Michael Coombs presented on bee keeping in Rolleston allotments. There are 3 hives in the allotment area, soon to be 4 but he also commented that the hives were not healthy. He suggested that there is a need to focus on planting trees that are good for bees. Each hive would contain 30 thousand bees who will travel wide distances to feed themselves and pollinate between 2 and 4 million flowers in the process. Michael requested if it would be possible to request a small donation from the Parish Council for the care and maintenance of the bees. Wild honeybees are almost non-existent and Michael would like to extend the Rolleston Allotment hives.

Michael offered to teach Rolleston residents to look after the hives. It was agreed to post an article in Rolleston Junction to promote the care of bees in Rolleston.

15. Any other Business

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

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.21.