**Rosliston Parish Council**

**Chairmans Report 2023/2024**

The year has been busy not least with the work to develop the Pavilion in Strawberry Lane. Currently this is owned by South Derbyshire District Council (SDDC) who, want the Parish Council to take ownership with the new lease for the playing field.

The Parish Council has seen this as a “catch 22” situation as taking this on will have financial implications. We would have to take on payments for improving the pavilion, utility costs, mowing of the field and more.

We have embarked on a process of seeking funding to bring the pavilion to a standard that meets the Equalities and Disabilities Acts and have employed an architect to prepare drawings in order that costs can be realised. We are also in the process of applying to the Community Fund but this cannot exceed £25,000 whereas, the total cost of the improvements is estimated to be at least £100,000. We have received 2 quotes and are eagerly awaiting the 3rd in order to finalise the application to the Community Fund.

When materialised, the pavilion would have better toilet and handwashing facilities, a meeting room, better outside doors and a canopy and a small kitchen.

We have been able, following a grant from the Safer Neighbourhood Team, to install solar lighting on the pavilion and have purchased new signs to be installed at the Pavilion, the Rec and by the play equipment at the Village Hall following implementation of our Safeguarding Policy.

We strongly objected to SDDC Financial Report in which it was indicated that monies would be available to upgrade parks and play equipment in South Derbyshire (none being available to Rosliston) and as a consequence have managed to obtain £10,000 from SDDC towards the pavilion costs. We were hoping to secure some funding from the Football Association however, they were not in agreement with our plans for this facility and as such, we were denied any funding. It is hoped that the shortfall can be obtained from the National Lottery Fund and one councillor is exploring funding streams to pay for the solar panels and battery which is an aspect of the overall plan for the pavilion.

We have persevered with the allotments although disappointingly one holder has given up her plot and whilst a couple have been further taken up from the previous year, there are still vacant plots. To assist the allotment holders we have installed an outside tap.

Swadlincote Girls Football team continue to use the pitch and pavilion and we have recently signed a 5 year term with them.

Work has commenced to install a driveway up to the pavilion from the car park which will be an asset for those using the allotments and, for the contractors who will be involved in the re-design of the pavilion.

The Parish Council has continued with the quarterly newsletter and recently issued a further communication regarding Oaklands Solar farm – reminding residents of the timeline for objecting to this development.

We work closely with our County Council Councillor and with the Councillor from SDDC. Both provide a monthly report to the Parish Council as a means of keeping us informed of developments and providing the Council with an opportunity to raise concerns and questions.

We also welcome input periodically from the Independent Councillor from SDDC who, brings a different perspective to council meetings. In particular the work of the new bridge at Walton and Oaklands Solar Farm.

Again this year we applied for funding to reinstate the Warm Hub. £700 was allocated to us and feedback from attendees is that they like to meet and chat. The Parish Council is grateful to the Landlady and Landlord at the Bulls Head for providing the facilities. The Warm Hub has been attended by our local PCSO on a number of occasions which attendees liked.

This year we were able to co-opt a Councillor following the departure of another.

We have been nothing but persistent with communications with Highways in particular regarding the culvert, drains and flooding. The long overdue recommencement to clear the blocked culvert has recently started with the installation of 2 new inspection chambers. We await the start of substantive repairs to the culvert which may necessitate road closure.

Residents will recall we have suffered with flooding again this year and it was pleasing to see residents helping with delivery and collection of sandbags. It is disappointing however, to see uncourteous drivers ignoring road closure signs driving through the village causing damage to some properties during times of flooding.

A councillor recently met with representatives of the Highways Department about the drains and culvert who, in summary of the communications, asked if we would participate in a pilot scheme to do with flooding. The pilot scheme would enable actions to be taken by the Parish Council e.g., close a road. We await details of the scheme.

We are grateful for the initial works to warn drivers of the impending crossroads “of doom”. Hazard signs indicating the closeness to the crossroads have had a positive effect The remaining parts 1 and 2 work regarding the crossroads of doom has been installed and we await final installation of flashing lights at the crossroads.

Earlier in the year we took over responsibility for the play equipment at the Recreation ground and councillors themselves undertake monthly inspections. We have responded to residents’ concerns about access to this play equipment and have installed a concrete pathway from the track into the play area for ease when using pushchairs. We are grateful to a resident for funding the work.

In response to residents’ concerns we have installed a new child safety swing as councillors identified one of the 2 swings was hazardous to use. A new dog bin at the Rec has also been installed as the old one was beginning to corrode.

Since our last annual report, we have seen the Coronation of Charles III and the Parish Council financially supported residents to commemorate the event.

We have continued to provide dog poo bags as a means of ensuring our footpaths are clean and have tidied up the Jubilee Garden which was getting a little overgrown.

The railings along Yew Tree Road at the back of the Village Hall have been painted as part of our maintenance programme.

In terms of our future plans:-

1. We will continue with our plans for the pavilion
2. We will continue to explore options for enhancing community engagement
3. We will explore the feasibility of having a further Councillor to hopefully bring fresh ideas to the Council.
4. We will hold our annual walkabout and community litter pick later this year
5. W will discuss at a Council meeting in the near future the allotments – in particular how successful this initiative has been and, how we can improve the site.

Chair

Rosliston Parish Council

May 2024