



BURTON JOYCE PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

Chair's Report

The past year has again been dominated by COVID and its consequences. However, as we hopefully come out of this very difficult period and look to the future, the Parish Council is focused on restoring and enhancing facilities and services for the village, both within its responsibility...and a little beyond. The excellent refurbishment of the Roberts Recreation Ground (see front cover) complements the additional activities and work at the hugely popular Poplars Sports Ground, versus the tranquillity afforded by The Grove park area.

Improvements to the village centre and the Old School Building site remain a crucially important priority for the coming year, to give a new 'heart' and enhanced facility that will benefit all ages now and into the future. As the world changes around us (or at least close by with the new Gedling Access Road and significant residential, retail and industrial development) we look to promote a village that retains a friendly, caring and vibrant community. The Council have enabled a focus point for those who wish to be a part of Homes for Ukraine and the village Jubilee celebrations. We have put considerable efforts, in conjunction with other groups and councillors, into pressing for improved train services for their social, economic and environmental benefits.

It was extraordinary to see the turnout at the last Annual Parish Meeting, that we managed to hold in a COVID 'gap', of village groups and individuals as we all sought to re-establish village life and activities after a prolonged lockdown. The village is very fortunate to have the level and range of activities provided by clubs, groups and individuals. As time and generations progress we hope that this will continue and grow with new leaders and contributors getting involved...maybe you?

Finally, my grateful thanks for the incredible efforts of the very small, professional and capable team of Parish Council staff, led by our Clerk Jessica Sherrin with Deputy Clerk Jayne Savage and David List our Grounds & Amenities Manager with grounds staff Danny, Jed and Digby; we are fortunate to have them. I also wish to thank all councillors and individuals who commit time and energy towards the wellbeing of the village and its residents.



*Cllr Laurence King
Chair of the Parish Council*

Finance & General Purpose Committee

Chair – Cllr Paul Hyde

During the last year, we have continued to see the impact of the Covid Pandemic on the access to and functioning of our facilities. We have however been in the fortunate position of having a number of successes in our grant applications, which coupled with reduced expenditure and increased revenue within our facilities has resulted in a surplus this year. This is a very positive position to be in having experienced such uncertain times. In line with guidance regarding recommended reserves levels, this surplus will go into our *general reserve* to ensure that the Parish Council is in a financially stable position going forward and is protected from any future unexpected circumstances, as exemplified by the one we have recently faced from the pandemic. We were also successful in gaining the £100,000 grant for the playground we applied for in collaboration with the Friends of Roberts Recreation Ground, which can now be enjoyed by children and their parents in the village.

Old School Building Phase II Committee

Chair – Cllr Laurence King

The development of the Old School Building (OSB) and the adjacent site has remained frustratingly at arm's length, with one step forward one step back! And yet, it has the potential to put a tremendous creative community garden and flexible use facility at the 'heart' of the village. We had hoped that Balfour Beatty would fulfil earlier promises (under its 'Social Value' commitments to communities nearby to its works, ie the Gedling Access Road) which included demolishing the old school classroom and completing the required surveys of the OSB site. This would have eliminated a significant cost to progressing the project and enabled the Parish Council to initiate the drawing up of initial plans, proposals and costings for consideration and consultation. Unfortunately, Balfour's withdrew the initial proposal, but we hope that they will finish the work that was started on cemetery path repairs.

Looking ahead, around the middle of the year, we hope to enter a discussion with the Old School Trust, to work jointly on the delivery of larger investment that would facilitate progress on delivering a project that would be transformative for Burton Joyce and its residents.



The Old School Building



Old Classroom (due for demolition)

On wider village centre development, following an invitation from the Parish Council and facilitated through Councillor Mike Adams, senior Communities and Highways Officers from Nottinghamshire County Council joined us at the Parish Council office for a very encouraging meeting on how we might progress the long-held wish of the village for improvements. We would like to thank them for listening to our issues, concerns and wishes for our village centre. As a result we have held a further meeting with highways and communities planners to begin a study into what might be possible. Perhaps, just perhaps, after many years of trying, this will be a year for breakthroughs on the village centre and OSB development, we certainly hope so.

Planning Committee

Chair – Cllr Terry Hazard

During this past year, the Planning Committee has considered planning applications for:

- 42 new properties, 25 of which were for '*reserved matters*' approval, having previously been granted outline planning permission by Gedling Borough Council (GBC).
- 38 new extensions.
- 1 barn conversion and 8 miscellaneous applications.

At the start of the year meetings were held on-line via *Zoom*, but as the year progressed the team met in person, following social distancing rules. At one of these earlier meetings the team did communicate their thoughts and concerns about the planning rules, which at times appeared to be at odds with GBC thinking. A list was compiled and submitted via an email to GBC in order to gain a greater understanding of their planning criteria. GBC responded and a remote *Zoom* meeting was subsequently held. It was generally considered by the team to be a useful discussion.

Poplars Sports Ground Committee

Chair – Cllr Robin Ringham

Nobody would have expected that COVID would still be around after 2019, but unfortunately we were all wrong and again it impacted the Poplars greatly. Slowly we were able to bring back Clubs and services during 2021 but still with some restrictions. My thanks go to Dave List and his team, Danny, Jed and Digby for continuing to maintain a significant level of operation in very difficult times. Unfortunately for the second year we had to cancel the Firework display but let's hope we will be able to have one this year.

The new mowers have made a significant difference to the grass playing surfaces and we were able, during lock downs, to alter areas on the ground to give us maximum usage going forward.

We have made some progress on the casual play area and now have planning permission with our next goal being a grant to fund it.



Proposed Poplars Casual Play Area

There is going to be an open afternoon at the Poplars on June 12th to celebrate and showcase all the sports and activities available at the Poplars open to all. We hope this will be an opportunity for everyone in the village to come and see what a fantastic facility is available to everyone in our village.

Now we are delighted to be back in full swing, enjoying such a varied range of sports and activities in operation including, football from seniors to minis and now a full age range of girls' sides. Cricket is

at both senior and junior level, Archery, Petanque, Slimming World, Bridge, Bowls, Yoga and our latest club Table Tennis are all active users of the ground. It is a well-used facility and one that the residents of Burton Joyce should be proud of.

Communities Committee

Cllr Yvonne Greenfield

The Community Engagement Committee has been very busy this year, with full agendas and both repeat and new events being organised. We were delighted to see the return of the Picnic in the Park, which though postponed in July due to Covid restrictions, went ahead with great success in September. The sun shone and wonderful tunes were provided by Burton Joyce Brass.



Picnic in the Park in 'The Grove'

Our Christmas lights switch-on made a return this year too, through the determination and perseverance of our staff, councillors and all the groups and volunteers involved in the event, as the wind howled and the rain fell! Father Christmas, flanked by our very own elves, arrived in style aboard Severn Trent's tractor thanks to Farms Manager John Jackson and his team, supported by the Sherwood Chapter Harley riders and headed by Tom Randall MP. The grand finale was the light switch on, with the countdown led by Olympic Gold Medalist Richard Whitehead MBE. It was an evening to remember in so many ways!



Christmas Lights Switch-on Procession

We have also begun the process of selecting acts for a new programme of Live & Local events in the Village Hall, hopefully starting in November. Details will be publicised around the village and on our website.

After much campaigning, we hope some progress is being made with our bid to get an improved train service, with a recent meeting between East Midlands Railways, BJ Trains Action Group, our MP Tom Randall and Trent Valley Councillors Sam Smith and Mike Adams. There is much to be done still and your support will help greatly.

As well as the Friends of Lowdham and Burton Joyce Stations, the Committee collaborates with other community groups including the Climate Action Group, The Village Society and more recently the Homes for Ukraine Group, as well as liaising closely with the editor of The Magazine . In July we had a visit from Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust who surveyed The Grove, where bat boxes were suggested and the app "Seeks" was demonstrated. They also visited the cemetery looking at the new beds planted for pollinators, followed by the allotments and Poplars. The Group has been represented at many of our meetings to promote their values and assist in instigating new policies such as 'No mow May'.

The work on improvements to the Millennium Sundial area has been reinvigorated recently, with the clearance of the site by Cadent through their 'site husbandry' department. We continue to work with them now in planning the pollinator-friendly re-planting scheme, again with assistance from the Climate Action Group. We were also grateful to receive a donation from a resident to renew the lettering on the boards on the sundial this year.



Renewed lettering on the sundial

As part of our drive to find new ways to engage with the community and find out more about what is important to residents, we have recently started having a presence at the Community Market. This is proving to be an effective means of meeting residents and discussing pertinent topics, so we plan to continue to have a spot in the market periodically through the year.



Community Market Stand

Amenities Committee

Chair – Cllr Robin Ringham

The Amenities committee oversees the Cemetery, The Allotments, The Grove, The War Memorial and Sundial and the Roberts Recreation Ground. I took over as Chair in June 2021 with many projects under way.



The War Memorial

We have been successful in getting most of the pathways in the Cemetery resurfaced by Balfour Beatty as part of their Social Values program, which has been a great cost saving. There is still more to do and we remain hopeful that they will finish it soon.



New Cemetery Path

Throughout all our sites there has been a need to check the health of all the trees. This process unfortunately identified two diseased beech trees in the cemetery, which have now had the necessary work carried out on them. Similarly, two trees in The Grove suffered storm damage and sadly the large beech tree, which has been partially felled, will now need to be brought down to ground level. Roberts Recreation Ground also has tree issues and work to rectify these problems is ongoing.

The allotments proved very popular during the pandemic and at the moment there are no vacant plots and only a short waiting list.

We are working with the Primary School to install an outdoor gallery in the Grove which should be operational soon.

In the previous report it was stated that we were applying for funding to update the Roberts Recreation Ground. As mentioned above, this was successful and after much research and deliberation, Jupiter Play, was appointed to supply and install the new equipment for the refurbishment. Despite bad weather and supply issues we were able to officially open the Park on the 14th Feb 2022. Looking at how popular and busy it is now I think it is a resounding success, so my thanks go to Jess, David and his team for all the effort in getting such a wonderful facility up and running.



Project start November 2021



Park opening in February 2022

We are always keen to hear from community groups and our residents on issues you think we should be considering, that you may need support with or if you would like to become involve. Please do get in touch with us using the details below.

Contact us:

Burton Joyce Parish Council
The Old School Building
Main Street
Burton Joyce
Nottingham
NG14 5DB

Tel: 0115 931 40 84

Email: admin@burtonjoyceparishcouncil.org.uk