



**BURTON JOYCE**  
PARISH COUNCIL



**ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23**

## *Chair's Report*

This past year has been particularly busy as activities have returned to more normality following the lifting of covid restrictions, which in many ways seems like such a long time ago? The maintenance of our great range of facilities, such as the Poplars Sports Ground, Roberts Recreation Ground, The Grove, the Allotments and Cemetery, along with the provision of amenities and support service to the community at large have been at the forefront. This has been alongside the long-held wish to develop and improve the village centre, as well as pursuing improvements on behalf of the community beyond the direct remit of the Parish Council, such as train services which has been undertaken in conjunction with BJ-Train Action Group, our Borough Councillor Sam Smith and local MP Tom Randall. As the world changes around us, we look to promote a village that retains a friendly, caring and vibrant community.

My thanks go to the staff of the Parish Council, and of particular note, the Parish Clerk Jessica Sherrin and Grounds & Amenities Manager David List. We are fortunate to have them and their tremendous hard work in delivering the services, amenities and facilities we all enjoy. That delivery has not been without its challenges during the year, with exceptional issues such as the Old School Trust, grant applications, or extreme weather all adding to their workload, plus two celebration events; the late Queen's Jubilee and the Coronation of a new King.

Thanks also to my fellow parish councillors and all those who have put in voluntary time and effort to benefit their community, such contribution is invaluable. Recently we have been delighted to welcome Cllr Hazel Chadbourne-Doyle to the team and have seen the departure of three parish councillors; John Richardson, Robin Ringham and David Wright, all of whom were committed individuals who worked tirelessly for their community and 'team Burton Joyce'! We look forward to welcoming new volunteers who come forward for this interesting and highly rewarding role for our community.



*Cllr Laurence King*  
***Chair of the Parish Council***

## Finance & General Purpose Committee

### *Chair – Cllr Paul Hyde*

Our finances continue to look secure as, in line with regulatory guidance, we have steadily built reserves over the past 5 years, allowing for a high degree of financial stability, particularly in times of crisis, as was experienced in Covid pandemic. We have been in receipt of both Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 monies from Gedling Borough Council which will help us invest in the community. We were also successful in our Lottery grant application to fund the recent King's Coronation celebrations at the Old School Building. During the course of this year we have been reviewing all our facilities to prioritise expenditure and plan for the future.

## Old School Building Phase II Committee

### *Chair – Cllr Laurence King*

The Old School Building (OSB) and its adjoining site are a uniquely valuable village asset being at the 'heart' of the village. The site presents a rare opportunity to define our village centre, now and for future generations. The Parish Council recognised this some years ago, particularly when it started a process to protect and develop the site for the community by purchasing a 125-year lease in 2017. Following a two-year study and definition of need by the Council and village experts, a community space containing a partially covered community garden with adaptable ground space for events and community gathering was a clear requirement. This would give a permanent, pleasing environment to encourage people to linger and enjoy during the day, benefitting community groups, local businesses and people of all ages and at the same time being adaptable for community events.

It is great news that we have secured £70k for a first phase of developing the site, which will begin with the appointment of a designer to produce a range of plans, which will be subject to consultation. The Carnarvon Room building was assumed to be an integral part of a community facility and site, though not under direct control of the Parish Council. As you may have read in our recent reports in 'The Magazine', following concern within the village, there have been a number of issues associated with its future. The Council is seeking routes to now bring about a constructive and inclusive realisation of the long held requirement to develop the village centre for the benefit of the whole community.



**The Old School Building Garden**

Another breakthrough during the year, following a presentation we gave to Nottinghamshire County Council, is the drawing up of plans for the village centre outside of the OSB site. We have just received initial designs for “Burton Joyce Village Centre Improvements”, which will be considered by the Committee before being subject to wider consultation. This is a significant milestone after over a decade of pursuing something better. By improving the village centre (subject to appropriate funding), the site of the Old School Building, and by having a holistic and interconnected vision for the whole village and seeking improvements to public transport, the Council’s aim is to mitigate downside effects of some of the change taking place from nearby residential, road and industrial development.

## Planning Committee

### *Chair – Cllr David Yates*

Town and Country Planning is an important issue which the Parish Council entrusts to a Committee that regularly meets to consider every planning application submitted to Gedling Borough Council in respect of our local community. The Committee is responsible for monitoring and commenting on such applications, which in 2022 numbered over 100. The function of the Parish Council is restricted by law to commenting; it cannot grant or refuse any application.

Generally speaking, most applications do not give rise to observation but there have been several instances when applications have given reason for concern and the Committee have made appropriate representations to Gedling Borough Council. The key issues which fall for consideration have been infringement of the green belt and the effect of development in the ‘uplands’ of the village, such as Lambley Lane. The pressure on land being the subject of planning applications north of the village centre, as increasing incremental development is being sought, is causing potential flooding problems which impact on the lower reaches of the community.

The other major concern is the housing mix that is being developed, with greater emphasis being placed on 3 and 4 bedroomed houses, without adequate provision being made for ‘starter’ homes in the context of 2-bedroom houses. In terms of housing development provision, Burton Joyce has already exceeded Gedling Borough Council’s housing regulatory requirements [as set out in the five-year plan] and the concern is that education and other facilities will be put under pressure, if the trend of increasing development continues.

The Committee which sits in public will continue to monitor applications and residents who have specific concerns about any application are very welcome to attend the meetings.

## Poplars Sports Ground Committee

### *Chair – Cllr Yvonne Greenfield*

The Poplars Sports Ground is a great facility for the village and home to a wide range of clubs, which include archery, cricket, pétanque, football, bowls and walking netball. The clubhouse is also hired by slimming and yoga classes, bridge club and for birthday parties. It has a tea-bar for match days and the summer Friday night bar is now open, with the new option of contactless payments becoming increasingly popular. A new access path and gate from the fisherman’s car park to the Poplars is due to be put in place by VIA East Midlands this year.

The very active **Burton Joyce Football Club** has been undergoing changes in its personnel this year. With new members coming into position the Poplars Committee looks forward to continuing to build a successful working relationship with the Club. The casual play area remains under review, with a delay due to changing representatives at the FA and in the Parish Council, coupled with rising costs of

materials. Fresh contact has now been made with the FA and the project will be reinvigorated in the coming year.



Football Match at the Poplars Sports Ground

**Burton Joyce Archery** remains a thriving and well attended Club at the site and, with agreement from Severn Trent Water as the land owner, have installed a new path around the perimeter of the ground to better access their shooting area.



Burton Joyce Archery Firing Range

**Burton Joyce Cricket Club** (BJCC) is growing its membership and we have assurance that a full season of cricket will be played by them at the Poplars – we wish them a successful season.

The **Bowls Club** is thriving, with good membership numbers and high usage of the greens which have been much improved by David List following issues with insect damage to the greens in 2022. David was awarded '*Groundsman of the Year*' by the Bowls Club this year for his extraordinary efforts.

The popular **Pétanque Club** continues to grow and thrive too. Following their request, a new accessible footpath to the pistes was installed, with joint funding from the Trent Valley Councillors' Community Fund and the Parish Council. Their success has enabled the Club to raise sufficient funds and share the cost with the Parish Council for the installation of additional pistes.



New accessible footpath for pétanque

Our annual **Fireworks Display** was a huge success with significantly increased numbers, partly due to a combination of fine weather and other local events being cancelled. We had a new supplier this year and introduced pre-paid ticketing and contactless payments for the first time and were pleased to see the benefits of both.



Fireworks Night at the Poplars Sports Ground

Finally, we were sad to have to say farewell to the previous Poplars Chairman, Cllr Robin Ringham this month. Rob has been involved with the Poplars and the Football Club for many years and his presence will be missed hugely. We wish Rob and his wife June much happiness in their new home.

## Amenities Committee

### *Chair – Cllr Paul Hyde*

The Amenities Committee oversees the running of the majority of the Parish Council's facilities. This includes The Grove, Roberts Recreation Ground, the cemetery, the allotments, the war memorial and the millennium sundial area. From the next council year it will also oversee the maintenance of the Old School Building. Our sincere thanks are extended to David List and his team for the excellent work they undertake in maintaining all these sites.

One of the major expenses this year for the sites has been in carrying out tree surveys and tree maintenance in these public spaces. A system is now in place to carry out periodic checks on the trees at all our sites.

**The Grove** is a tranquil park at the top of Willow Wong and provides a space for casual play for children in the village and an ideal place to picnic. This year it has been used to welcome Ukraine guests to the village through the 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme and for the annual 'Picnic in the Park'. We have also been working with the Primary School to create a gallery, which is now installed and in use.



BJ Primary School Gallery at The Grove

**Roberts Recreation Ground** has become even more popular since its re-vamp last year. It is delightful to see so many families enjoying this facility in the centre of the village. We have had some issues with the new spinner over the course of the year resulting in the installation of a brand new one this month by the suppliers.



**Roberts Recreation Ground**

**The Trent Lane Allotments** continue to be very popular, with a waiting list of people wanting to rent one. During the course of the year we have had many interactions with the Garden Holders Association (GHA). The Association is an independent group of allotment holders which liaises with the Parish Council on practical issues relating to the allotments and tenancy agreements. This year sees a change in committee membership and we look forward to working with the new team in the coming year.



**Trent Lane Allotments**

**The Cemetery** is a place of contemplation and reflection. As well as tree surgery in the cemetery, the front wall has also required some maintenance works this year to help maintain this beautiful space.



**Cemetery and Garden of Rest**

## **Community Engagement Committee**

### ***Cllr Yvonne Greenfield***

This year has been an exceptionally busy one in our events calendar, starting with the Queen's **Platinum Jubilee Celebration** in June 2022. The event was held at the Old School Building with incredible support from the Women's Institute (WI) and other volunteers.



Queen's Jubilee Celebration, Old School Building

Funds were also raised for the refurbishment of the **Old School Clock** as part of the wider celebrations, co-ordinated by the Village Society and the History Society. We were delighted to see the culmination of all this hard work with the unveiling of the commemorative plaque at our King's Coronation celebration afternoon in May 2023. The BJ Climate Action Group also were involved in local commemorations by planting bulbs near the millennium sundial in memory of the late Queen Elizabeth II. We are also collaborating with the Group with 'No Mow May', a national initiative to encourage pollinators in the spring months.



**Volunteers' Week** takes place 1-7 June every year in the UK to recognise the fantastic contribution volunteers make to our communities and for us to say 'thank you'. We hope that you will look out for the many voluntary groups and activities within Burton Joyce during that week and the rest of the year and, if you haven't already, find an activity in which to participate.

In conjunction with **Burton Joyce Train Action Group**, Trent Valley Councillors and Tom Randall MP, the Parish Council continues to lobby and pressure for change on train services and crossing safety. We are all seeking improvements to services, aiming for at least an hourly service each way from Burton Joyce station, on the basis that with convenience and predictability of services, comes increased passenger usage. This is against a conflicting backdrop of proposals being put forward to increase the line speed through Burton Joyce to 75mph!



Train Action Group, BJ Station

Meetings were held with Network Rail in 2022 over concerns about rail crossing closure threats due to abuse of level crossings and antisocial behaviour. Incidents on crossings are still occurring to the detriment of train drivers and the network, with the potential for harm to those crossing inappropriately. The Parish Council supported Network Rail in holding an awareness raising event at The Nelson in October 2022.



Network Rail Awareness Event, The Nelson

We have been providing support to residents of the village who have signed up to the **Homes for Ukraine** scheme and have hosted a series of informal meetings to help get a network of support started. Over the months since it was formed it has become a cohesive and supportive group, with lots of practical information-sharing about the processes involved in registering and hosting, with people bringing a wide range of skills and experience to the meetings.

It was wonderful to see so many people attend the annual **Picnic in the Park** event in September, in which Burton Joyce Brass played a wonderful selection of music to the audience for a restful and entertaining afternoon. We look forward to hosting the next one on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2023.



Picnic in the Park, The Grove

Following the **Proclamation of HRH King Charles III** at the historic ceremony at St James's Palace on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September, we were honoured to take part in the wave of further proclamations across the country on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September. The reading was delivered by our Chair, Cllr Laurence King at the War Memorial, attended by members of the public and representatives of the Parish, Borough and County Councils.



Proclamation of King Charles III, War Memorial

Our annual **Christmas Lights Switch-On** saw hundreds turn out to see Father Christmas arrive to switch on our wonderful display of lights this year. With the newly cleared area beside the Old School Building being used for the first time, we were able to accommodate new stalls, expanding the variety of craft and food stalls available.



Christmas Fair and Lights Switch-On, Old School Building

Our **'Meet your Parish Councillor'** event was organised in February 2023 to give the opportunity for villagers find out more about what exactly we do at the Parish Council and raise awareness of what goes on 'behind the scenes'. We hope those who attended found it a useful opportunity to understand the facilities we run, our aspirations for the future and the on-going projects we are working on.

We continue to liaise with the editor of **The Magazine**, Steve Swann to support this popular and well-received village publication. The Magazine has seen continued growth to both its magazine subscribers and online visits over the past year with new advertisers joining them each month. We are grateful to Steve for his assistance in producing the banners and supplement for the King's Coronation celebrations.



Steve and Anne Swann Delivering the Coronation Banner

After many months of planning, we were delighted to see the efforts of so many people come to fruition over the bank holiday weekend to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. It was wonderful to see the community come together to provide a fun-packed weekend of activities for all age groups. Our own **'Big Coronation Party'**, funded by the National Lottery's *'Community Fund'* was a huge success and despite the weather forecast it saw large numbers turn out for the celebrations. As a result of the funding we now have a full new set of outdoor chairs and the 4 window boxes and floral displays as a lasting legacy. Funds raised by the WI through their cake and hot drink sales and other donations for food and drinks will also be invested in items for the Old School Building's community garden.

The unveiling of the plaque marking the installation of the newly refurbished clock by the Village Society was a key moment in the afternoon, with the pleasure of seeing the fundraising efforts to restore the clock to its original glory being formally recognised and celebrated.

It was heart-warming to see so many people in the village come and support this special occasion and to make it an afternoon to remember. It demonstrated what a wonderful space that is available at the Old School Building, in the heart of the village.



Children Entertained by 'Jolly Jingles' at the 'Big Coronation Party'



Parish Councillors Providing Food and Refreshments



The Women's Institute Providing Cake and Hot Drinks



Burton Joyce Community Brass in Concert



OSB Jubilee Clock - Steve Wright, Chair of BJ&B History and Martin Roe, Village Society

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