

Bulcote Parish Council

Annual Chairman's Report

2022 - 23



Royal Events

During the prior 12 months we have seen two celebratory and one very sad Royal Events which we have marked in our Village.

On 5 June 2022 the Village Social committee hosted a village event to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth; the Parish Council gave a small grant so that it was free for everyone. Sadly, it was only three months later on 8 September that our Queen died. The Council marked the occasion with the appropriate messages to the public via email and on the noticeboards, lowering the flag and hosting a condolence book at Bulcote Church. Recently, on May 7th, we celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III with another garden party, again organised by the Social Committee made free to all Bulcote residents following a grant from the Parish Council and with some funding we applied for and received from N&SDC.

My thanks go to the Village Social Committee for organising the events.

Local Elections and Membership of the Council

The election on 4 May for Parish Councillors was uncontested and four of us: myself, Victoria Shillaker, Paul Mountain and Mick Tobin, have been returned to office for another four years. Carl Sprinthorpe did not seek re-election because he is moving out of the village within the next election period. I would like to thank Carl for his service to the Parish Council.

The Parish Council now has a vacancy, and we will move to co-opt a Councillor over the next few weeks. Please speak to any of us if you are interested in becoming a Councillor.

Finances

The Parish Council finances are satisfactory, and we maintain reserves in excess of the annual precept. For many years the precept has been frozen or indeed reduced. However, for 2023/24 the Parish Council increased the precept significantly as a percentage but by less than £10 annually for a Band D property. The element council tax for the Parish Council is still lower than our neighbours in Burton Joyce.

Bulcote Farm

It appears that Bulcote Farm has been sold to a developer although we understand that the sale has not yet completed. It is likely that building work will start in the near future. A video of the current development plan is available on the Parish Council website.

It is the Parish Council's most important objective to engage actively with the developer, minimise disruption as much as is possible for existing residents, create a valuable and useful community space and get the project completed in a timely fashion..

Improvements to the Village

In the prior 12 months we have made some small improvements to the village which include some additional road signs to the village which better define the village boundary. We also

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created a small book exchange in the telephone box and it seems quite popular. Just before Christmas we planted a permanent Christmas Tree near the noticeboard at the entrance to the Spinney; hopefully we can add some nice lighting to it next year. In April 2023 we appointed a Village Gardener to do various jobs around the village including planting tubs with colourful flowers and strimming around the benches, bins and bus stops. The gardener will not do any work which is the responsibility of a resident. In prior years a small group of volunteers have maintained and planted the tubs and I would like to thank them for their work.

The Parish Council continue to lobby the Flood Team for maintenance to our ditches and culverts. I am sorry to report that there has been some flooding recently in the village which might be related to a blocked culvert under the A612 which is the responsibility of highways. That is being investigated by the authorities but it is important that everyone, including private homeowners, understand if they have a riparian responsibility for maintaining ditches and water courses.

Outlook

Our priorities are: supporting our residents as they require and as much as we can fairly do, and lobbying for the development on the Farm site to be mindful of the existing village residents. In addition, there are two significant projects underway which we will complete in 2023/24.

Firstly, we have recently been successful in securing matched grant funding to get a Speed Sensitive warning sign installed near the bus stop at the easterly end of the village at the point where speed reduces on the A612 from 50 to 40mph.

Secondly, in February we were approached by Anne Buttler and Rob Anderton of the Spinney to install a defibrillator in the village. Subsequently, they have successfully raised a large sum for the project which will be topped up by Roger Jackson (Chairman of Notts CC) and the Parish Council. I hope everyone will agree that this could be a wonderful life saving asset for the Village. It is likely that the defibrillator will be installed in or near telephone box and I anticipate us moving forward with this project in the coming weeks.

Finally, Roger Jackson has proposed to Nottinghamshire Highways to add a proper pedestrian crossing on the A612 near Wisteria Place to allow residents to move safely across the road and slow down traffic as it enters Burton Joyce. This is an expensive project and cannot be financed by the Parish Council and so may not appear in the next 12 months.

We hope all Bulcote residents will support us,

Best wishes to all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick Leaves".

Nick Leaves, Chairman, Bulcote Parish Council