

Bulcote Parish Council



Annual Parish Council Report

2020-2021

Covid 19 Pandemic

Bulcote Parish Council business has continued through the Covid 19 pandemic with meetings occurring virtually by Zoom. It is fair to say some of us have found that a bit challenging but we achieved it. Well done everyone. Parishioners are always welcome to login and have their say.

Members of the Council

Since the last report we have seen some significant changes to the Parish Council.

In January 2020 we appointed an experienced Parish Clerk in Lisa-Jayne Campbell. Andrew Washbrooke resigned after a considerable length of service on the Council and was replaced by Victoria Shillaker by co-option. The Parish Council wishes to thank Andrew for his service to the Village.

Most recently, Keith Simpson, Chairman of the Parish Council for the last five years, has resigned due to ill health. Keith has expertly guided the Parish Council through some tricky times and we all give him our very sincerest thanks.

Finances

The Parish Council finances are satisfactory and we maintain reserves in excess of the annual precept. It was therefore unanimously agreed not to increase our element of Council Tax in 2021-22.

Significant Planning Events

In October 2020 the development at Bulcote Farm was given planning permission. It was referred to the Secretary of State for review but was not called in. The Parish Council remain opposed to the scale of the development and hope that a future developer sees that the opportunity is much more limited than the permission given. We are not aware of any imminent plans to develop the site.

The McCarthy and Stone development – Wisteria Place – now appears to be completed. The building works were suspended for some time due to Covid. The development will ultimately add a significant number of residents to the village – perhaps as many as ninety. We look forward to welcoming them into our beautiful community.

The Bulcote Village Neighbourhood Plan has been approved by an Independent Examiner and by Newark and Sherwood District Council. It was due to go to referendum in May 2020 but was delayed until May 6th 2021 to be voted alongside the local Election and the Elections for Police and Crime Commissioner. A key finding in the Neighbourhood Plan is that the Village needs a Hall and related to that the Parish Council have for some time been debating the possible consequences of the Bulcote Farm development on our meetings and on the normally very active Village Social Committee. It has been agreed to seek pre-application advice on draft plans to construct a Village Hall for Bulcote with the possible site being the lower left corner of Roper's Field by the Church. Further information on the plan will be made available in due course.

Improvements to the Village

Since the last report various improvements have been made to the Village which include: a new waste bin by the flag, restringing of the flag, painting the benches and display board by the flag, a larger dog waste bin by the Farm and a new dog waste bin on Old Main Road. The Parish Council lobbied the Flood Team to remove 8 tonnes of silt from the culvert under Old Main Road by the flag.

Separately, concerns regarding flooding are being supported by the Parish Council and we are making representations to the authorities regarding this. Specifically; flooding of the ditch at the end of The Leas and The

Spinney and flooding at the culvert near the telephone box. The Parish Council were unsuccessful in obtaining grant funding to keep these ditches clear because the riparian responsibility lies with the adjacent private homeowners.

Recently, the Parish Council have submitted a grant application to improve the lighting from the bus stop by the village green into the Village. We await news of the application.

Outlook

With the improvement in Covid levels the Parish Council have been instructed to resume in-person meetings from July 2021 and there is plenty of work to do.

Our priority concerns for the coming year include: supporting all our residents as they require and as much as we can fairly do, lobbying for any development on the Farm site to be mindful of the existing village residents, finding a new temporary home for Parish Council meetings if we cannot use the Farm, and, pushing ahead with our plans for a Village Hall as far as is practicable and improving the Parish footpaths as per the Neighbourhood Plan.

We hope all Bulcote residents will support us.