

Bulcote Parish Council



Annual Chairman's Report

2021-22

Covid 19 Pandemic

The Covid 19 pandemic has apparently now eased and whilst infections are still occurring, thankfully vaccinations are keeping the worst of the symptoms at bay. Bulcote Parish Council business always continued through the with meetings occurring virtually until July 2021 by Zoom and since then have been reinstated as full in-person meetings.

Members of the Council

It is my duty to report again the sad passing of two prior Chairman of the council during the last 12 months.

In my report of 12 months ago I said that, Keith Simpson, prior Chairman of the Parish Council for the five years before had resigned due to ill health and it sadly transpired that only a few months later that Keith passed away. In addition, Ken Hutson another prior Chairman and very long-standing resident of the Village died March 2022. The Parish Council again send our thanks and condolences to Keith and Ken's family and friends.

In July 2021 the Parish Council held a full election to contest the vacancy left by Keith. It was very closely contested by two excellent candidates which resulted in Mick Tobin being elected to the Council – and we welcome Mick to our group.

Finances

The Parish Council finances are satisfactory and we maintain reserves in excess of the annual precept. In early 2022 the Parish Council increased the precept but because of the new residences in Wisteria Place the resulting Council Tax bill has decreased by about 5% for most residents.

Significant Planning Events and Bulcote Farm

In May 2021 the electrical installation at Bulcote Farm was condemned and, given the imminent development of the site, the owners were unwilling to make it safe for us. It is sad to say that after many years of use Bulcote Farm Buildings are now permanently off-limits to us as both a Council and Community venue. A proposed Community venue is included in the plans for the Bulcote Farm development and we continue to lobby Severn Trent for early discussions regarding this with any developer. In the meantime, we have, hopefully temporarily, set up shop in the Burton Joyce and Bulcote Village Hall on Trent Lane.

I previously reported that in October 2020 the development at Bulcote Farm was given planning permission subject to agreeing Section 106 funding from the developer to the Community. I understand that negotiations between the planning authority and the developer are still not concluded and so planning permission is not yet fully granted and thus the project is delayed. 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 remain unaware of any imminent plans to develop the site.

The McCarthy and Stone development – Wisteria Place – is now complete and in my opinion is a very high quality development. The development has added a significant number of new residents to the village and we welcome them into our beautiful community.

Improvements to the Village

Since the last report various improvements have been made to the Village which include: washing all the road signs, a larger dog waste bin by the Farm and a new dog waste bin on Old Main Road. We were successful in

obtaining matched grant funding for two additional streetlights at the Village Green by West Wall – I hope everyone agrees this is now a safer route at night from the bus stop.

The Parish Council continue to lobby the Flood Team and have had 4 pinch points added to the inspection schedule. I need to remind the village that a riparian responsibility lies with the adjacent private homeowners for maintaining ditches and water courses. I am told that it is certainly possible that homeowners that allow ditches to flood where they have a disregarded their maintenance responsibility could be liable to insurance claims made by any properties affected.

Outlook

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 and improving the Parish footpaths as per the Neighbourhood Plan. We are also currently lobbying Nottinghamshire Highways to add a proper pedestrian crossing on the A612 near Wisteria Place to allow residents to more safely cross the road and slow down traffic as it enters Burton Joyce.

We hope all Bulcote residents will support us.

Best wishes to all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Leaves', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nick Leaves

Chairman

Bulcote Parish Council