

Costock Parish Council

Rushcliffe Borough Council, Nottinghamshire

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Minutes of the Costock Annual Parish Meeting

**On Wednesday 26 April 2023
in the Village Hall at 7.45pm.**

The Parish Council Chairman Cllr Kath Owen took the chair and welcomed the 7 parishioners present.

- 1] **Apologies** received from Bob Simpson and Jill Howdle
- 2] The **Minutes** of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 20 April 2022 were read out, approved and signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council, Kath Owen.

3] **Chairman's report - Kath Owen**

Clerk - Mike Elliott's retirement in October 2022 led to a recruitment process for the first time for many years. Although I was involved in appointing Mike, I cannot remember how long he served. He certainly provided excellent support for the parish and we are very grateful to him. He was presented with a fountain pen as a mark of our appreciation.

There were 6 applications for the vacancy, none from the village, and we were delighted to appoint Lucy, welcome to your first Annual Parish Meeting. Lucy has made a flying start and is fast learning the intricacies of what can and cannot be done. Her appointment is for 21 hours per month but she is doing far more than that and her enthusiasm is much appreciated.

Moving over to online banking with new signatories is taking an inordinate amount of time, we are getting there slowly with a keen eye on Financial Regulations.

Jubilee - The major event of the year was the celebration in June of the Queen's Jubilee. This proved to be a very full long weekend with lots of activity - a true community event, attended by many and enjoyed by all who took part.

We are grateful to a number of local businesses who provided sponsorship and support from our Borough and County Councillors. I am also grateful to Parish Councillors and other volunteers who gave a huge amount of time to make it so successful. Particular thanks are due to Peter Gordon and Lindsay Mc Gowan for their time and effort in leading the organisation.

Nature Reserve - This continues to thrive thanks to a small group of volunteers led by Bob Simpson, Lindsay McGowan and Ann Lister. Trees have been surveyed for safety and a wild flower list has been kept which is impressively long.

New volunteers are much needed and are always welcome on a regular or occasional basis.

Village Hall - The village hall committee has a new Chair - Kate Knaggs, who will be leading the next meeting. There was alarm when bricks fell out of the wall above the door by the kitchen days before the Jubilee events. Temporary arrangements were made and all repairs are now complete, including work in the same place on the other end of the hall. The toilets have also been refurbished. As both areas of work relate to the fabric of the hall The parish council was responsible for payment.

Litter is an ongoing problem and we are grateful to those who spend time picking it up. Major items and fly tipping should be reported directly to Rushcliffe Borough council who will deal with it.

Planning - has not caused major concern this year. An application for alterations to the Manor House wall to provide an additional entrance raised issues of safety and visibility in a conservation area and the Parish Council objected. However the application was withdrawn by the applicant.

Looking ahead - local events to mark the coronation have already been announced. However this will not be on the same scale as the Jubilee celebrations, we cannot ask for that level of sponsorship again so soon and the weather in early May is considerably less reliable than that in June.

The current Parish Council was elected 4 years ago and the next elections take place on May 4th this year. Sharon Wilson has decided not to seek re-election after 12 years. A huge thank you to her for her work on behalf of the village, her common sense approach to problems will be much missed at meetings.

Thank you to all members of the Council (and to their partners and spouses who often get pulled into supporting them) for another successful year.

4] **Finance report** - by the Clerk, Lucy Brazendale

The council began the 2022/2023 financial year with a balance of £36,238 – this balance is held at Natwest bank.

During the year the main items of expenditure included:-

- £14,636 for unforeseen, urgent repairs to the Village Hall and for refurbishment of the Village Hall toilets. This amount is more than had been budgeted for but given the age of the Village Hall this is why the Parish Council keeps good reserves in the bank to cover such eventualities.
- £3,312.28 for insurance – this is a higher figure than last year as we have had to change insurance cover to ensure improved cover for both the parish council cover and for the village hall
- £490 for grass cutting and equipment and maintenance
- £138 on audit fees
- £777 to the village school for rent of the playing field
- Office admin and expenses cost £5067.24
- Street furniture, including a new bin and new batteries and the running costs for the defibrillator cost £852.10

In total the expenditure during the financial year was £27,719.36 (£12,289 last year) so an increase of £15,430.36 - mainly attributable to the Village Hall repair costs and the additional insurance premiums required.

Income for the financial year was £21,667.99 made up of:-

Annual precept £19,000

Grants of £2045.66 for the Jubilee Celebrations and Notice board repair / replacement from very generous local businesses and the District and Borough Councils

The council ended the year with a balance in hand of £30,186.87. (£5647.37 of this is earmarked at 1 April 2023 for Nature Reserve)

The precept for the new financial year 2023/2024 is £20,000, an increase of £1,000 to cover the recent increase in prices for most supplies and services.

Financial statements and the budget for the Council can be found on the Parish Council website www.costockparishcouncil.org

The accounts are currently being audited and signed off by the accountants who carries out the audit work for the Parish Council.

5] **Any other business including King's Coronation celebration - Cllr Peter Gordon.**

Cllr Gordon gave details of all the events planned for the King's Coronation on the weekend of 6 May 2023 and asked for lots of support from the village.

The events are:

Sunday, 7 May 2023 from 1.30 - 4.00 there will be a Village picnic on the School Playing Fields. Tuxedo Swing band will play again, as they did for the Jubilee celebrations, from 1.45- 3.45. The band will be smaller this year (charging a smaller fee). An ice-cream van will also be in attendance for the afternoon.

Monday, 8 May 2023 Open Gardens

- 10.30 - 12.30 the Costock School Garden will be open free of charge

- 1.30 - 4.00 Seven gardens in the village will be open - the start is at 25 Main Street, where a map / entrance fee can be purchased for £2.00

No other business raised and no questions from the parishioners.

Minutes approved by the Chairman of the Parish Council:

.....**Dated:**