

The Rothley Centre, 12 Mountsorrel Lane, Rothley, Leicester, LE7 7PR

Normal Office Hours: Monday to Friday 09.00 to 11.00am

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## Newsletter No 9 March/April 2020

### Rothley Parish Councillors & the committees they sit on are:

#### Andrew Brettle

Planning

#### Claire Cole

Open Spaces

Staffing

#### Mike Ferguson

Staffing

Premises/Health/Safety

#### Roger Gross

Finance

Staffing

Planning,

Premises/Health/Safety

#### Graham Hall

Finance

Open Spaces

#### Percy Hartshorn

Finance

Planning

Premises/Health/Safety

#### Steve Mitchell

Finance

Open Spaces

Premises/Health/Safety

#### Barry Simons

Finance

Staffing

Planning

Premises/Health/Safety

Open Spaces

#### Douglas Sutherland

Staffing

Planning

Premises/Health/Safety

Open Spaces

#### Christine Watts

Premises/Health/Safety

Staffing

### Administration

Rothley Parish Council staff

Parish Clerk - **Gail Newcombe**

Admin Assistant - **Bev Eldridge**

Caretaker - **Jennifer Cornish**

Caretaker - **Bernadeta Skubala**

Caretaker - **Andrew Hodgson**

### Funding of Community Library

Following many positive responses from the community, after the article in October, the RPC has decided to include funding in their future budgets for financial assistance towards the Community Library. Thank you for your support.

### War memorial developments

Following the Remembrance Sunday service, the Parish

Council left the gates to the War Memorial open to allow greater public access. We are aware that many local village memorials all have open access and we are now also considering removing the gates altogether. Also under consideration is the installation of a further slate vertical tablet to recognise any local armed service personnel who have lost their lives in conflicts post 1945.



### Charles Church developments.

Following protracted negotiations Charles Church have at last agreed that all open spaces, grass verges and play areas currently under their management can be transferred to RPC and we are working towards adopting the open spaces by April this year. This will mean that the grass in these areas will be cut on a fortnightly basis by our grounds maintenance contractor, including the grass in the three play areas at Elderberry Drive, Old School Way & Warren Way. These playgrounds will also be under Parish Council control and will therefore be inspected on a regular basis.

Before adoption takes place, we have arranged for all outstanding problems to be addressed at the expense of Charles Church: including replacing dead or dying trees, hedges being lopped replacing verge protectors, mending broken benches. The future costs of regular maintenance will be met by agreed s106 funds which come from developers. We have their agreement to complete the resurfacing of the track by the side of the Library. Initially they resurfaced 75% but the rest will now be done. The

car park at the Tennis Club will be scalped, levelled and an improved surface of granite waste installed. The costs of all of these will be picked up by Charles Church too. RPC expressed concern regarding the safety of toddlers at the bases of the fences surrounding balancing ponds at Warren Way and Elderberry Drive. These ponds are in the vicinity of nearby play areas and Charles Church has agreed to put wire mesh up to a height of 800mm and install signs to warn the public to keep out. It is likely that Charnwood B. C. will adopt these ponds.

### Mountsorrel Lane playing field.

Following the installation of new play equipment last Spring, RPC has followed up on the parental approval to re level the centre of the field, which will be out of action until the summer. We would appreciate it if all users kept to the perimeter of the field to allow the ground to settle and when sown the grass to establish. Meanwhile, we would suggest that dog owners seek other areas to exercise dogs. In addition, the Parish Council is aware that since the installation of the new play equipment last year there has been a big increase in use by many families with children. We are looking at how best the area can be used for children's play and for the exercising of dogs and will in due course come up with some suggestions for the community to consider. At Town Green Street and Fowke Street the dedicated under 5 play areas are enclosed by fencing but the new play equipment at Mountsorrel Lane is mixed and used by various age ranges so fencing would present difficulties which may or may not be necessary or practical.

### Access improvements

Following on from an independent report RPC are to improve the accessibility aspects of The Rothley Centre as they are aware that those who use the Centre who are either infirm or who use wheeled assistance

have difficulty at certain locations with entry to or exit from the building or going into certain rooms. We have approached Charnwood B.C. for financial assistance as it is their building but this request has been declined and so RPC will be funding this from the precept.



We are also looking into access issues at the Village Hall and improvements such as a new kitchen and redecoration.

### Wildflowers

As mentioned in previous Post articles the sloped bank at the end of Woodgate and the open space in the 'Donkey Field' are to be allocated as areas for wildflowers and the process will start in March with applications of herbicide in order to help reduce considerably the grass. Consequently, there will be large patches of yellowing grass and bare soil, which will persist for sometime before the sowing of seed in April. The first flowers should be showing in July. A number of residents have already offered help with public wild flower patches and RPC will be contacting them. RPC would still welcome further offers.



### Parish Precept

The Parish Council's budget for 2020/21 is £200,007. This compares with around £188,000 for 2019/20.

As always, the 'precept' (the Parish Council's share of your Council Tax) makes up the greater part of our income - £138,000 for 2020/21 compared

with £132,000 for 2019/20. In recent years we have been able to rely on an increased precept because of the newly built and occupied houses in the Parish. This year our 'tax base' (the number of households contributing to the precept) will be 2,195 compared with 2,106 last year. There will inevitably be a small increase in the contribution of each household to the precept in 2020/21 but the average increase per household will only be around 19p per year. The breakdown of Parish Council expenditure for 2020/21 will be approximately as follows:

Salaries	35%
Admin/operating costs	6%
Open spaces (grass cutting, maintenance, floral displays, playgrounds etc)	18%
Christmas lights	4%
Village Hall (largely offset by lettings income)	6%
Cemetery	4%
Street Lighting	2%
R. Centre Running Costs (largely offset by lettings income)	19%
Other	6%

Now that it has been agreed to assist the Community Library financially as its County Council funding comes to an end we expect there to be a small increase in precept in the financial year 2021/2022 and in the following year 2022/3. This will be around £2 to £3 extra per year for a band D property representing around 4.5% of the total precept.

#### **Dog waste bags.**

Rothley Parish Council currently spends approx. £500 per annum on the provision of free 'poo' bags to any resident who wants them. We would welcome views from our community as to whether we should continue this practice. Some local councils charge for these others provide them for free. E mail your views to the Clerk at the address above.

#### **Neighbourhood Plan update**



The long and complicated process of producing a Neighbourhood Plan for Rothley continues to make progress. A few months ago, a draft plan was

made available for public consultation. A revised draft with amendments taking account of responses to the consultation, particularly those from Charnwood Borough Council, was formally approved by Rothley Parish Council at its meeting on 20th January. The next step is to submit the plan to Charnwood for their formal approval. They will carry out their own six week public consultation as well as appointing an 'Inspector' to scrutinise the plan. The last stage of the process will be a referendum giving the opportunity for Rothley residents to have the final say.

#### **Macauley Walk developments.**

As part of Charles Church's planned community development, they pledged to reinstate much of Thomas Macauley's 1819 carriage route to be known as 'Lord Macauley's Walk'. Charles Church has asked Leicestershire County Council to carry out all necessary works including gates, styles, waymark signs, but the progress on this has reached a temporary halt due to Rothley Temple Estates, who own the land, raising a number of concerns over two spurs off the main path. Charles Church, LCC Rights of Way officials and the land agent for Rothley Temple Estates are trying to resolve these issues.



Thomas Babington Macauley

#### **Neighbourhood Watch**

There has been a Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) scheme running in Rothley for many years, run by a small group of coordinators. Many thanks to them for their community commitment. Leicestershire Police are putting a fresh impetus into their support for our local NHW Schemes, with Police Support Volunteer Eric Scions. Along with Eric Rothley Parish Councillor Chris Watts, have taken on the task to grow the

Rothley NHW Scheme.

A meeting was held on the evening of Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January. Current coordinators recognised by the police attended and an invite to the public was advertised. Those who attended were given an update on general current vision for NHW schemes, the soon to be launched Charnwood Watch and the Neighbourhood Link (which is a Police Community Messaging Service). A further meeting will be held in February to progress the initiatives underway. We are looking for people to volunteer to be coordinators because Rothley village has grown and we wish to encourage a continued close village community.

The success of NHW is largely down to volunteers who give up their time to engage with their neighbourhoods and communities and local services, such as the police, to combat crime, reduce isolation and boost community activity.

The co-ordinator plays a key role, however, when the whole neighbourhood or community gets involved then the Watch is stronger and more effective for its members. The relationship between the NHW coordinator and the police is also helpful to the sustainable success of any NHW scheme. Co-ordinators pass concerns from the community about criminal or anti-social behaviour on to the police and create a way to regularly interact with the police to discuss community safety issues. If you are interested in becoming an NHW coordinator please contact Police Support Volunteer Eric Scions who will provide you with more information about a coordinator's role.

Contact email address [eric.scions5294@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:eric.scions5294@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk)

#### **William Davis developments**

*Rothley Meadows news.*

There is currently a footpath being developed which will start at Mountsorrel Lane, to the right of the Cemetery and continues into the Rothley Meadow development. When completed in the Spring 2021 the footpath area will have grassed sections, benches and a play area. In the meanwhile, a trim trail at the eastern end of the development should be open by this summer. The area to the south of the Rothley Meadows housing is being developed as a biodiversity park. Discussions are currently

underway with various wildlife trusts to manage this site in the future. Once the management of this site has been finalised RPC will engage with the wildlife organisation to see what opportunities there are for local volunteers.

Much planting of trees and other vegetation is under way at present. In addition, within the next few months timber walkways are to be constructed as well as the installation of bat, bird and owl boxes.

#### **Duck Race 2020**



This very popular event has been organised by Ben Price from the Nottingham Building Society over a period of 4 years but he wishes to step down from being the main organiser and is keen to know if there is any organisation that wishes to put this on in 2020. Ben is very happy to provide advice, support and 400 ducks! Anyone wishing to get further information should either contact Ben directly at the Woodgate shop or email the Parish Council.

#### **Parish Council Newsletter**

All RPC newsletters along with Rothley Posts are now available online via the Parish Council website. The link is on the left-hand side of the home page.

**RPC would be grateful for this information being passed on by anyone who knows of any local residents who do not receive a Rothley Post, as there are a few roads that are not delivered to.**