

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

Normal Office Hours: Monday to Friday 09.00 to 11.00am

Phone: 0116 2374544 Email: clerk@rothleyparishcouncil.org.uk

Newsletter No 8 October 2019

Rothley Parish Councillors and the committees they sit on are: -

Andrew Brettle- Planning
 Claire Cole - Open Spaces
 Mike Ferguson - Staffing
 Buildings/Premises
 Health/Safety
 Roger Gross - Finance
 Staffing
 Planning,
 Buildings/Premises
 Health/Safety
 Graham Hall - Finance
 Open Spaces
 Percy Hartshorn - Finance
 Planning
 Buildings/Premises
 Steve Mitchell - Finance
 Open Spaces
 Health/Safety
 Barry Simons - Finance
 Staffing
 Planning
 Buildings/Premises
 Open Spaces
 Douglas Sutherland - Staffing,
 Planning
 Buildings/Premises
 Open Spaces
 Health/Safety
 Christine Watts - Buildings/Premises

Administration

Rothley Parish Council staff include:
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Parish Clerk - Gail Newcombe
 Deputy Clerk - Pam Armstrong
 Admin Assistant - Bev Eldridge
 Caretaker - Jennifer Cornish
 Caretaker - Bernadeta Skubala
 Caretaker - Andrew Hodgson

Future of the Community Library

A statement from Rothley Parish Council

In October 2015 Rothley Community Library opened and the story in the ensuing four years has been one of growing success. It has added an extra dimension to our village with a range of activities that were not previously offered when the County Council ran it. The lending library and public computer stations have been augmented by

under 5s sessions, a monthly film club, a book group and clubs for chess and Lego as well as computer support sessions and careers advice.



During holiday periods children have enjoyed a huge range of art and craft activities.

By accessing one off grants the facilities have been improved too with new lighting, heating, additional and more modern computers, extra storage and a sophisticated projections system with surround sound.

This success has been based on a loyal and committed team of local volunteers all of whom have given up their time to attend to counter duties, run all the extra activities or perform a whole range of administrative tasks behind the scenes.

When the County Council transferred the Library over to the community it did so with a 7 year funding package which reduces year on year and which will run down to £0 by 2022

Currently the Library raises income from fines and charges, running a film club, Gift Aid, book sales, occasional events etc. However, this only covers approximately one third of its costs. The Library Trustees have sought ways to reduce their expenses and have saved approximately £3,000 per annum by

dropping some expensive contracts that were put in place by the County Council.

In addition, the Library are always looking for further sources of funding and have, as an example, signed up recently to the Charnwood Lottery.

However, the financial projections indicate that without additional funding the Library will start being in debt from 2022/23 as they will have spent all their cash reserves and so they have approached the Parish Council for help. Assisting the Library is something the Parish Council would like to do and could be done without too much difficulty.



To their credit the Library Trustees have asked that any use of public funds to help keep the library open is based on seeking positive approval from the community. With more people moving into the village and other additional pressures facing our residents we certainly feel that assisting the library financially in order that it may continue to operate,

is an excellent use of public funds and we would encourage the community to support this initiative.

The Trustees have estimated that in order to ensure that library funds do not run into the red in 2021/22 they will need an additional £2500 for the year. When funding from the County Council reaches zero in 2022/23 and thereafter the library will need £6500 on a recurring annual basis. If the Parish Council makes up this shortfall it will mean in effect that there is a cost to every household in Rothley of around £3.50 per year or approximately 30p per month. This does not necessarily mean that an increase in council tax will be required as income to the Parish Council is likely to increase naturally as more new houses begin to pay council tax for the first time over the next few years.

Comments can be made either by email or by post using the addresses shown at the top of the page. Please mark any envelopes 'Library future'

Thank you

Wildflowers/ ecology issues.

In the last newsletter there was an extensive article about Parish Council plans for wildflowers areas. There will be a meeting to which all people interested are invited on Wednesday 6th November 7.00pm at Rothley Community Library where plans for wildflower sites in Rothley will be outlined as well as the William Davis Biodiversity Park and local footpaths developments. There will also be an opportunity to look at further tree planting within the village. Please come along especially if you could make a contribution to the success of wildflower areas.

Outdoor recreation equipment.

Following extensive improvements at Mountsorrel Lane the Parish Council are reviewing any further improvements at other sites especially with regards to equipment for teenagers. The Parish Council would welcome and suggestions, via email or by post.