

DRAFT Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for the Parish of

Ruddington held at St. Peter's Rooms on

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 at 7.30 p.m.

**Chairman**

Councillor P F McGowan, Chairman of the Parish Council, took the chair.

**Attendance**

18 members of the public were present.

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs S Kaur Samra, Councillor M McGowan, Councillor M Walsh, Jude Winwood (Ruddington Fun), and Andy Scott (Ruddington Colts).

**Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2013, having been circulated to every elector present, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**Matters Arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters raised arising from the minutes.

**Charity Accounts**

James Peacock Educational Foundation

Mr Alan Bartlett presented the accounts for the years ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013 which had been accepted by the Charities Commission. They are appended to these minutes.

He explained that the Charity had made a number of grants including supporting a field trip to Spain and another to South America, a new sound system at St. Peter's School and a new whiteboard.

He also stated that the Charity is looking for new trustees, especially those with connections to school children.

In response to a question about the Charity's ability to respond to growing demand as the Village grows Mr Bartlett explained that the Charity had been spending under budget for a number of years.

### The James Peacock Bread Charity

The Clerk explained that the annual report and accounts for the James Peacock Bread Charity had been submitted to the Parish Council office. They are appended to these minutes.

### **Annual Report on the work of the Parish Council**

Amenities Committee – presented by Councillor David Hall.

Councillor Hall gave a résumé of the work undertaken by the Amenities Committee over the past year. A copy of the full report is appended to these minutes.

Mr Gavin Walker raised concerns about the height the new tree planted at St. Peter's Rooms might grow to, as the species might grow up to 50 metres. He was reassured that it had been chosen to grow a maximum of 4 metres.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Hall for his presentation

Environment & Community Committee – presented by Councillor Nick Tegerdine

Councillor Tegerdine gave a brief résumé of the work undertaken by the Environment & Community Committee over the past year. A copy of the full report is appended to these minutes. He thanked the staff and members of the Committee for their work over the last year in moving forward the growing role of the Committee.

There were no questions raised.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Tegerdine for his presentation.

Finance & Policy Committee – presented by Councillor Nick Tegerdine

Councillor Tegerdine gave a brief résumé of the work undertaken by the Finance & Policy Committee over the past year. A copy of the full report is appended to these minutes.

There were no questions raised.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Tegerdine for his presentation.

### **Reports from Local Clubs/Organisations**

The Chairman advised that it had previously been agreed by the Parish Council that any Club/Organisation which received priority use of a Parish Council asset, or had received funding from the Parish Council during the year, be requested to attend the Annual Parish Meeting to present a report on their activities.

Ruddington Bowls Club presented by Fran Dent, Club Secretary

This season is our 90th Anniversary and its 80 years since the club came to play on Elms Park. Over those years our numbers grew from 24 to 100 in 1999. However numbers have gradually declined and now we have 53. With that in mind we are having an open day and recruitment drive during May.

Sport England have designated Nottingham as one of six hot spots in the country with the remit to develop and encourage the sport of bowls. We have had some very helpful meetings with the Sports Development Office at County Hall who have helped with advertising etc. and two of our members are taking a coaching course.

We are grateful to the Council for the provision and upkeep of the green and we are very grateful to Chris Churches and Scott Evans who have been very supportive in our efforts, they are working hard to improve the 'speed' of the green as it has become heavy in the last few years. We are very happy that the Parish Council have taken on board our suggestions for signage in the park to help visitors to find us and to be aware of all the facilities the park has to offer.

All bowls clubs are experiencing a decline in numbers, and Ruddington is no exception. The Club will welcome anyone from Ruddington and surrounding areas to come to the green and have a go. To that end we would like to challenge the Parish Council employees to a match at a time convenient to you( I believe Chris and Scott are willing to get a team together).

If that doesn't appeal, then please come and support us on our Open Day/Anniversary Day on May 11th 2.30 - 5.00 and maybe just give it a go.

The Chairman thanked Fran for her presentation.

Ruddington Local History & Amenity Society – presented by Gavin Walker

Gavin reported that the Society:

- Had resolved to be more active regarding planning and amenity matters
- Will either hold WW1 centenary commemoration events or support other organisations
- Have instituted a fund raising lecture (Sept 13) to support the Village Museum
- Will endeavour to promote volunteering opportunities across all the heritage organisations more effectively

Gavin also reported that the Village Museum is working towards accreditation with the help of a £2k grant from Museum Development East Midlands.

Gavin thanked the Parish Council for supporting the Museum and Barbara Breakwell and team for planting around St. Peter's Rooms.

The Chairman thanked Gavin for his presentation.

Ruddington Fun – presented on behalf of Jude Winwood

As Jude Winwood could not be present Barbara Breakwell read out her report.

“Jude Winwood is the Chair Person for Ruddington Fun; a community group run by local dedicated volunteers who plan organise and deliver free arts, craft sessions in the village during the school holiday periods.

Ruddington Fun's committed members are Barbara Breakwell, our treasurer, Fiona Oliver, who is our secretary, and we also have Eve Broadberry and Karen Redfern, who are greatly valued members of the committee.

Ruddington Fun was constituted in February 2011 and had grown in popularity over the 3 years. We have always worked with the philosophy of “complementing not competing” and, as well as the activity sessions, we provide parents/carers with a comprehensive guide to everything that is available during the school summer holidays. We also loan our resources to other organisations in the village.

On behalf of Ruddington Fun I would like to thank the Parish Council for allocating free space for us at their village venues; Veolia for sponsoring the printing of our programmes; Adlards for printing us a thoroughly professional programme; all organisations which have donated funds and, of course, the committee members who give their time and energy.

The Chairman thanked Barbara for her presentation.

Ruddington Colts – presented on behalf of Andy Scott

The Clerk reported that Andy Scott was unable to attend but had submitted a written report, which he summarized. The full report is appended to these minutes.

**Village Plan** – presented by Councillor Helen Opie

Following a series of public meetings, a group of volunteers set up the Steering Group for the Ruddington Village Plan (RVP) with the support of the Parish Council and Rural Community Action Nottingham.

The RVP has been given space in the Village Newsletter, allocated a page on the Parish Council website and an email address. It has also set up Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest pages and is linked on a number of blogs and webpages to help reach as many members of the community as possible.

To date, guidelines for the main consultation process have been outlined which currently includes a wide range of topics that residents are concerned about and at the present time, members of the Steering Group are speaking to organisations, businesses, schools, youth groups, churches, etc. to see what these groups feel is important to them.

The next steps, briefly, are:

- To compile a questionnaire covering the aspects that have been identified as important
- To print and circulate the questionnaire to all residents and businesses
- At the same time, to hold events in the village to support the consultation and make sure residents understand what we are trying to do, and why
- To collect the completed questionnaires, review and analyse them to draw up a report which will become the Ruddington Village Plan

Following this, the group will continue to follow-up on the plan and make sure that the community's recommendations and needs are being taken on board by the relevant authorities, etc.

So, the next big step for the group is to start to compile the main questionnaire and since the Village Plan is a community based process, we have already sourced additional volunteers from the village with specific expertise, interest or knowledge to help. The report which is Ruddington Village Plan will not happen overnight – it is important that the group covers those issues which are important to residents without making the questionnaire too daunting in size.

If anyone wants to know more, please visit Village Plan on the Ruddington Parish Council website or email

[VillagePlan@RuddingtonParishCouncil.gov.uk](mailto:VillagePlan@RuddingtonParishCouncil.gov.uk)

### **Any Other Business**

Councillor Barbara Breakwell reported that the R.U.D.D. (**Remove Unacceptable Dog Dirt**) campaign had been running for a month. It involved marking dog poo left in public places and a competition for responsible dog owners.

PCSO Jonny Wilkinson reported that Stephen Butler, who had started as Ruddington Beat Manager in January, had handed in his notice and was leaving the Police Force.

Mr David Hollingworth reported an issue of the worn down grass verge in front of 16 Kirk Lane which was now a mud hollow due to cars and lorries driving on it. It is a safety hazard and needs levelling off. It was agreed to pass this on to County Councillor Reg Adair to deal with.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting and invited them to stay behind for the refreshments which had been provided.

The meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

Chairman

## Annual Parish Meeting – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014

### AMENITIES COMMITTEE

#### Recreational and Sporting Facilities

##### Play Areas

All of the Parish Council's play areas are inspected by Play Safety Ltd. every year in accordance with RoSPA's recommendations. The overall risk rating for Elms Park, Sellors and Vicarage Lane Play Areas was 'LOW' and the rating for every individual piece of equipment and ancillary items was 'LOW'. A number of minor tasks were recommended and these were dealt with as a priority by the Parish Council Ground Staff with assistance and guidance from the installation company.

In addition to the formal annual inspections, the play equipment is checked by our own ground staff every week with more thorough inspections monthly or more frequently as required.

##### Sellors Playing Field

The new play equipment, funded largely by Awards for All England (Big Lottery Fund) was installed in 2013 and is in use.

The work to make the building safe on the playing field was also completed in 2013.

##### Bowling Green

Ruddington Bowls Club welcomes new members to this quiet and picturesque location at the side of Elms Park. Members and visitors frequently comment on the high standards of maintenance by the Ground Staff and want to ensure that as many people as possible use the facility during the season.

##### Cricket

In late July 2013 the Ground Staff were approached by an Australian chap who had sought them out to congratulate them on the excellent quality, preparation and maintenance of the grass wicket which has been put out throughout the season. He stated that as a bowler on the Ruddington second team he has been thoroughly impressed with the playing surface.

##### Football

The Parish Council Office received from the Colt's Under 9's thanking the new Senior Grounds Man and his team. The e-mail included: "I wanted to provide you and your team with some feedback, which I have been meaning to do for a few weeks. All the opposition coaches have complimented the quality of the pitches and also the appropriateness of the size of the pitches. We are very lucky in Ruddington to have this. We have not played anywhere else where this happens." Also

received was correspondence from other managers complementing the high standard of the playing fields provided and appreciation of the efforts of the Ground Staff.

Andy Scott, secretary of Ruddington Village Football Club has nominated the ground staff for "Grounds Man of the Year Award" by the Nottinghamshire Football Association (FA); the closing date for nominations is 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013. The FA inspected the playing fields on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2014; the results are to be announced.

### Venues & premises hire

#### Village Hall

This is a very popular venue in the village which is used predominantly by regular hirers for a wide variety of classes and events. However, during the 2013/14 year, it has required some improvements and general maintenance to keep it up to the standards required.

#### St Peter's Rooms

St Peter's Rooms continues to be a popular venue due to its location at the centre of the village. It is also the most appropriate venue for wedding teas, wedding receptions, birthday celebrations and socials. Craft fairs, charity fund-raisers and coffee mornings are particularly popular as hirers can use both the Lounge area and the main hall.

The Robinia (the tree that was situated at the side of St. Peters) has been replaced by one donated by Mr Ian Bardill. It is a Thuja Plicata, a western red cedar. The Parish Council was required to replace the tree and did so with a species more suited to the site.

In August 2013 the floor in the hall was sanded and re-varnished and the tiled flooring in the kitchen replaced with Polysafe, a highly durable non-slip flooring.

#### Jubilee Clubhouse

This modern, large venue continues to be in regular use for youth football but is still unable to attract as many daytime hirers as other Parish Council venues.

#### Elms Park Pavilion

Whilst essentially another sports pavilion, the hire of the social area of this pavilion has increased 2013/14, Woodley House use the facilities 4 days a week.

### Estates Working Group

The Parish Council has an Estates Working Group to consider the issues raised by the survey of village amenities which took place in the summer of 2012. This group reports to the Parish Council on a regular basis and considers the condition, use and maintenance of all Parish Council venues.

### Other amenities

#### Allotments

The judging for the 2013 competition took place on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2013. The winner of this year's competition was Mrs H Simpson (Paradise Gardens), who was awarded a personalised trophy and a cheque for £50 and a personalised trophy. The second and third places were awarded to Mr R Smith and Mr I Murdoch, also of Paradise Gardens.

As always, the Parish Council would find management of the allotment gardens on Wilford Road considerably more difficult if it wasn't for the help of the volunteers on site and specifically Mr Ron Tew who works tirelessly in the interests of both tenants and the Parish Council.

#### Car park

The car park continues to be popular with shoppers, however some miss-use the designated areas for disabled and motor cycle parking.

#### Vicarage Lane Cemetery

Wes Scarrott (a previous Clerk of Ruddington Parish Council) commented to the current Clerk how extremely well kept Vicarage Lane Cemetery is this year.

#### Flawford Cemetery

The Parish Council Ground Staff continues to maintain Flawford Cemetery which is a popular site for walkers.

#### War Memorial

The work to refurbish the War Memorial was completed on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2013. A rededication service by the British Legion took place on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May exactly 90 years since it was first unveiled and dedicated.

#### The Village Green

The work to refurbish the notice board on the Green was completed in 2013. The Clerk sent a letter of thanks to Mr Brown who undertook this work voluntarily.

## Annual Parish Meeting – 1st April 2014

### ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

#### Traffic Management

Throughout the year, the Parish Council continues to receive complaints about parking in the village with a few areas causing more than their fair share of concern. Members of the public have expressed concerns both in respect of dangers to cyclists, pedestrians and other road users trying to negotiate their way through and past these vehicles and also the inconvenience of not being able to park in the village for shopping, etc. Whilst the issue of parking does not come under the jurisdiction of the Parish Council, members and officers of the Parish Council are regularly in contact with the Highways Department, with suggestions, recommendations and forwarding individual complaints from residents.

Nottinghamshire County Council wrote to the Parish Council in February 2014 notifying us of the approved new waiting restrictions and revised times of operating the existing parking bays in the village. These will be implemented once the road resurfacing, which is to take place from Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March to Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April, is complete.

#### Highways Work

Nottinghamshire County Council will be re-surfacing the roads in the centre of Ruddington: Wilford Road, Easthorpe Street, Church Street and High Street, between 29<sup>th</sup> March and 13<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

#### Planning Applications

All planning applications are considered individually and members of the public are invited to speak on planning applications during the adjournment of the appropriate meeting. These opinions, suggestions and objections often assist members in making a recommendation to Rushcliffe Borough Council. Many members actually visit the sites when they are able to, so that they are fully conversant with the proposals and the impact they might have on neighbouring properties, etc.

On 21<sup>st</sup> January 2014, Rushcliffe Borough Council approved the planning application by Bellway Homes to build 102 houses on Pasture Lane but there is a long list of conditions attached to this application. Of course, much has been made of the flood risk and building work has to comply with specific conditions to prevent problems. Residents who were concerned about the risk to wildlife in the area will be interested to read that the builder is to install “bat boxes and/or access to roosts” which are to be permanently retained. They are also required to protect hedges and trees which are to be retained and protect the adjoining Local Wildlife Site. Before 30 properties are occupied, the builder must install a mini-roundabout at the junction of Clifton Road and Wilford Road, along with ‘no waiting at any time’ restrictions.

But it doesn’t stop there. In the ‘Section 106’ Legal Agreement, £40,000 will be put towards the construction of a new footpath to run parallel with Clifton Road, linking

Pasture Lane with Old Station Road. There is money available for improvements to primary schools, secondary schools and other facilities, and even Ruddington Library will benefit from £4,000 to replenish stock levels. View the documents in full on line on the Rushcliffe Borough Council site (application number 12/01199/FUL) or call in to the Parish Council Office.

### Community Bus

Funded by the Parish Council, the Community Bus brings less mobile residents in to the village for shopping, medical appointments or even just a coffee and a chat. The Parish Council Office has received letters of thanks from users for the provision of an invaluable and reliable service.

### Front Garden Competition & Photographic Competition

In 2013 the Front Garden Competition was combined with Hanging Baskets, Planters and Window Boxes. Judging took place on the 20<sup>th</sup> August 2013. The winner was Mrs Smith who received a cheque for £50 and a personalised trophy.

There were only 2 entries in 2013 for The Photographic Garden Competition. The winner was Mr Brown who received a cheque for £35.

Both the Garden and Photographic Garden Competitions have had a fluctuating but generally reducing number of entrants over the past few years. There may be more interest if the competitions were not held each year. Members have therefore agreed that both the Garden and Photographic Garden Competitions are 'given a rest' for 2014.

### Policing

The new Beat Manager, PC2465 Steven Butler, joined Ruddington in January 2014. Steven has been in the Police 12 years. He started at Central Police Station in the City and has worked in Clifton, the Meadows, St. Ann's and Radford before transferring to the County Division in 2009 where he has worked at Beeston, Eastwood and West Bridgford.

Councillor Mrs Barbara Breakwell continues to represent the Parish Council at the Police Priority Setting Meetings and reports back to the Parish Council at the next appropriate council meeting.

### Christmas Trees, Hanging Baskets & Planters

The Christmas Tree Scheme grows in popularity every year. This year, around 75 trees were displayed in the village thanks to donations from local businesses towards the cost of purchasing the trees.

Councillor N J Tegerdine donated a tree for the corner of St Peter's Rooms, which was decorated by the children of the village.

The Parish Council installed 3 planters in the village, one on the Green, one on Wilford Road and one on Loughborough Road. These were maintained and watered by councillors and local residents.

Parish Council introduced "Recycling of Christmas Trees" Ground Staff were on The Green on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2014 from 8am – 3pm and chipped and disposed Christmas Trees from local residents.

### The Parish Council Website

The website was updated in 2013 the homepage with new colours, look and feel, image slideshow, signposts to the most used content to increase usability (e.g. diary, village guide), and clearer delineations between Parish Council topics and village information.

The Parish Council is able to use this facility to share news and events with residents in much more detail and continues to give resident's access to agendas, minutes and planning applications.

### The Village Newsletter

March 2014 saw issue No. 50 of the Newsletter, it remains extremely popular and successful with up to 1,200 copies taken up each month. It has also grown in size from 8 pages to 12 pages.

In January 2014 the Parish Council in an attempt to reduce costs has invited local businesses to sponsor the production of the Village Newsletter.

### Cleansing

On-going changes at Rushcliffe Borough Council, have meant that the Streetwise operatives are maintaining larger areas than previously. Our regular Streetwise cleaner is much appreciated by the Parish Council but there is only so much one man can do. As a result, the Environment & Community Committee is looking at a number of options to encourage residents and businesses to take responsibility for the keeping of our streets and open spaces neat and tidy.

### Recycling

There are two recycling centres in the village; the most popular is situated in the Parish Council car park and Rushcliffe Borough Council pays the Parish Council for use of these three spaces. There is a second centre on Asher Lane. The Parish Council also had a battery collection box at St. Peter's Rooms for anyone who prefers not to leave them out for collection.

### Ways to Improve the Look and Feel of Ruddington'

This is a regular agenda item for the Environment & Community Committee and encourages Members to bring issues forward for consideration at the next meeting. Residents who feel that they would like an issue to be considered, or have an idea to put forward, can contact the Parish Council Office or one of their ward members with details.

### Dog Control Policy - Remove Unacceptable Dog Dirt (RUDD)

During March the Parish Council will be running a campaign to try and tackle the issue of unacceptable dog dirt around the village. Part of the campaign will celebrate "responsible owners" by encouraging their dogs to nominate them. The names of the nominating dogs will be entered into a prize draw to win some doggie goodies!

On Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup> there was be a stall in the Co-op explaining what the campaign is about and entry forms will be available then.

### Christmas Business Window Competition

Christmas 2013 saw the introduction of the Christmas Business Window Competition. It was a great success, 16 businesses entered and the winners were:

First Place: Perkins Hardware

Second Place: Ruddington Post Office

Third Place: Bluebells Florist

Highly Commended: The children of St. Peter's School produced some lovely artwork that was displayed in the Co-op window.

All of the hard work resulted in Ruddington looking very festive and welcoming. The team of independent judges was made up of Rev. Andrew Buchanan from St. Peter's Church, Mrs Julie Lazonby from the Baptist Church and Rev. Simon Rose from the Methodist Church.

### Parish Council Meetings with Businesses

There have been 4 meetings between the Parish Council and Local Businesses. These have enabled better communication between local businesses and the Parish Council; enabling discussion of issues impacting the Village and how the Parish Council can work in partnership with businesses to improve local facilities.

## Annual Parish Meeting – 1st April 2014

### FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Finance & Policy Committee is to manage the financial side of the Parish Council and oversee all expenditure to ensure that the best value is always achieved. Other committees refer their expenditure proposals to this committee before any decision can be taken. The Finance & Policy Committee is also primarily responsible for reviewing any policy decisions before they are taken to the full Parish Council. It has three members from each of the other committees so that all sections are represented.

#### Annual Budget 2014/15 and Scale of Charges 2014/15

The proposed annual budget was discussed and the Clerk explained that the original proposed budget assumed Ruddington Parish Council would not get any Transition Grant of (adjusted for inflation) approx. £23,000 in 2014/15. Since then the Parish Council had been informed that a proposal to give Parish Council a reduced transition grant for the next two years has been approved.

The Clerk also reported that an application had been made for a reduction in the Business Rates for the Jubilee Clubhouse as the original valuation was on the basis of the whole Clubhouse being a single type of use, whereas other similar buildings were valued recognising changing rooms etc. A notification had arrived earlier that day that the Rates would be reduced by £2,100 a year. This should be used to reduce the projected deficit.

#### Cost pressures and budget savings

The Government has brought in new arrangements for making Council Tax Benefit local (the Council Tax Reduction Scheme) which means that the Parish Council loses over £25,000 a year in the long term. This would have meant a 10% increase in the precept even before inflation. Rushcliffe Borough Council have passed on an element of transitional protect which was 'ring fenced' in 2013/14 but is not for future years.

During 2013/14 a number of savings have been made. For example:

- An estimated £5,000 a year has been saved in Gas and Electricity costs.
- Bank charges have been removed (saving £850 a year) by changing bank.
- Interest earned has been increased by investing money in the Public Sector Deposit Fund (increasing income by over £400 a year).
- Insurance costs have been market tested. This has resulted in a saving of over £4,500 for next year's insurance (starting 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014).
- A revaluation was requested of the rateable value of the Jubilee Clubhouse, resulting in a £2,000 a year saving.
- The contract for photocopying has been renegotiated. A 5 year contract gives savings of £9k over the lifetime of the contract.

The savings above and other changes to the budget mean that the Parish Council has a balanced budget even without the 'transitional protection' and is, therefore, on a sound financial footing.

### Parish Council Surgeries

Parish Council Surgeries continue to be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday each month, except for August and December, at St. Peter's Rooms between 10am and 12 noon. This is an opportunity for members of the public to meet with and talk to a Parish Councillor, a Borough Councillor or a County Councillor without the formalities of a council meeting. Appointments are not required and issues which affect the Parish Council will be referred to the Clerk for action and will then be discussed at the next Parish Council Meeting. On some of these dates, you will also find representatives from your local neighbourhood policing team available for you to speak to if you wish. As before, you can find a full list of these dates on the website or the notice board.

### New Parish Councillor

On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September George Ellison was co-opted onto the Parish Council to represent Camelot Ward. George is a barrister and Head of Law at University of Derby Online. He has particular experience in planning and employment law. He is interested in the Parish Council pushing for improvements on behalf of the people of Ruddington.

### Village Plan

The Parish Council has initiated a Working Group to consider a Village Plan. The Group has met twice, the progress to date is to identify from the residents and businesses what they want and feel is important from the village. The Working Group is currently carrying out a survey to find out what residents and businesses want from the Village.

### Staffing

A new Employee Handbook is being produced to help existing and new members of staff with current processes and arrangements. A number of the existing policies have been reviewed and where there were gaps new ones introduced.

Rosanna Turner was appointed as Deputy Clerk in April 2013. Sue Peacock has been employed on a temporary contract to progress with project work.

### Risk Assessments

Each year, the Parish Council reviews its Risk Assessments in addition to recording individual incidents and notifications during the course of the year. Serious issues are dealt with immediately by the Parish Council Office and those less serious are then prioritised by the appropriate committee.

## Closure of the Youth Club and Community Centre – Parish Council Statement

Ruddington Parish Council has been looking at all of its assets with a view to ensuring that it spends the Council Tax it receives in the most efficient way whilst catering for as many facets of village life as possible. The survey of residents identified that there are activities that local people would like which are not able to be provided at our current facilities.

Many of our buildings have been loved and cherished over a long period of time but both St. Peter's Rooms and Village Hall are showing signs of age. The Village Hall in particular lacks some of the modern facilities expected by existing and potential hirers.

As a result of the County Council decision to close the Youth Club and Community Centre in Ruddington from September 2014 an opportunity may arise which enables the Parish Council, potentially together with other partners from the community, to have use of this site when it becomes vacant. This may enable the existing users to remain and the site could become, over time, the main Community Centre in the village providing an increased range of facilities for Ruddington.

It is important that our village has facilities that are fit for purpose and of which we are proud. This will require vision by the community as a whole. It may be a once in a lifetime opportunity and we believe it would be foolish not to provide facilities fit for the foreseeable future.

It is emphasised that, as things stand at present, no Parish Council facilities would be withdrawn until a replacement was available. We will keep you informed as any news is available.

## Report from Ruddington Colts

### “1. Introduction.

Apologies I cannot make the meeting due to a long standing family commitment. I hope this written report will meet your needs and update the meeting on how the Parish Council has supported the Club in the last year.

### 2. Specifics on Support in the Last Year.

#### Annual Support:

- **Marking out of six a side pitches** to allow us to fund raise for the club each June (vital to help us meet league / insurance fees etc.);
- Use of pitch and faculties to stage an **annual Boxing Day charity football match**. Allowed us to donate £1,027.88 to the Air Ambulance service;
- **We continue to help the Parish Council by providing funding to help maintain the facilities** and pay for use by us for training and volunteer coach development; and
- **The Parish Council own and sustain the Jubilee Clubhouse** – there is no way in truth a group of volunteers like us could cope with all the costs and demands running such a facility brings. The club representatives meet with parish councillors formally twice a year to ensure the facility runs well.

#### Weekly:

- **High quality pitches** - preparation and maintenance; and
- **Provision of goals and nets** to meet the various league standards we are in. Currently we have 16 squads of players from under 7 to adults to cater for. All need to be supported by having the right playing surfaces and equipment.

#### Problem Solving:

- **We continue to work together to sustain and develop the Jubilee Clubhouse** – not just leaving the Parish to pick up the bill alone. New signage now on the clubhouse provided by the club at no cost to the Parish may help improve hire;
- **Dog fouling playing areas**. A serious issue for the health and welfare of players. Nationally there have been instances where children playing have encountered dog mess and lost their sight as a result of contamination / infection arising. The Parish policy of all dogs left on leash makes it better for us as it is not so easy for an owner to skulk off and leave dog mess. In addition advertising hoardings at the Jubilee Field will remind dog walkers they are on football pitches – not just a grassy field; and

- **Elms Park Kitchen.** Has been renovated by the club and Parish as a partnership project. The club providing the labour and expertise to strip out and refurbish the kitchen using equipment provided by the Parish. This is an excellent example of partnership working that allows a project to be done cost effectively for the benefit of the community.

### 3. Summary.

- **In short we have a proper partnership with the Parish.** Our club does not simply demand the Parish buy this that or the other. We work together to try and find ways forward as equal partners to bring about realistic community improvements. We also stand with the Parish post project to ensure they work and are maximised; and
- **Finally, we would be a poorer club without Parish Council support.** We really appreciate the help provided by Parish Council staff and councillors. The community and the village would be a poorer place if we could not run the 16 teams for kids, adults, male and females - without the Parish Council I feel we would really struggle.”