

# **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF BREASTON PARISH, HELD AT 7.00PM ON MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2021 VIA ZOOM ONLINE CONFERENCING.**

## **Present:**

Councillors Mounsey, Miller, McCaig, Elliott, Wrigglesworth, Luke, Rowlinson, Beeching, Mills, Stenson, Parkinson & Fisher  
Councillor Mounsey in the Chair  
11 members of the Public as per attached sheet.

## **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies for absence received from Mr & Mrs Lupton (BDVN & BGNS), Mr Yellop (Firfield Primary) & PCSO Pykett.

## **2. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 11<sup>th</sup> April 2019.**

It was RESOLVED to CONFIRM the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 11th April 2019.

## **3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR GEORGE MOUNSEY**

Who would have thought that what we assumed was just a bad case of Flu would turn out to be so devastating?

2020 will be remembered for generations and people will ask how we coped.

Well, we did rather well considering. Using new technologies, we were able to continue with business, meeting every month via Zoom. Councillors soon became familiar with the new concept and embraced it.

Unfortunately, the downside was that all of the events planned for the year were cancelled. This was disappointing as plans for a VE Day to commemorate the war were well in hand. It is hoped that we will be able to hold this event in the future.

Likewise, the Summer Band Concert and the Christmas Carol Service suffered the same fate. We were unable to hold Remembrance Day Service. However, we still laid wreaths on behalf of the council and other organisations.

Holocaust day was also remembered, and the Flag was lowered.

As stated, we carried on with other matters using the various committees. Parts of the village were subjected to flooding and we have been working with all the agencies to prevent any further problems. The roads have been damaged with numerous potholes and their repairs are ongoing. We have seen many planning applications that needed close study.

Parking remains a problem and we continue to look for solutions. The new Headmaster is working with the council to educate parents who park their cars irresponsibly.

Climate change is now high on the agenda and we are looking at ways that the village can reduce our Carbon Footprint.

We are all aware of how devastating dementia can be to families and the council are investigating how we can help those that are looking for respite.

I must mention the Breaston in Bloom members who have done their best during lockdown to keep the village looking wonderful with all the flowers etc.

Despite Lockdown we were able to produce a Calendar for this year and we able to use the profits towards the Food Bank.

Antisocial Behaviour is still a problem with drug use now a concern. We are working with the police to prevent this.

Perks Park which is over 85 years old is now showing signs of age and a committee has been formed to investigate what can be done to improve this much-loved facility. We have been fortunate to have three new councillors join us. They are working well, and I look forward to their contribution.

It goes without saying that I am indebted to Mrs O'Leary the Parish Clerk for her continuous help and support during these unprecedented times. It has not been easy working alone for the most part. That together with the mass of regulations that the Pandemic has brought.

The Caretaker has continued to keep the village looking its best and like the clerk has been subjected to all the Covid-19 rules. So, a big thank you.

Finally, I would like to thank all my fellow councillors for their hard work during this difficult year. Together they have done an excellent job.

**George Mounsey**

**Chairman of the Parish Council**

#### **4.REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

##### **4.1 ENVIRONMENT REPORT GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR GRAHAM ELLIOTT**

The BPC Environment Committee comprises of myself as Chairman, Councillors Luke (Vice Chairman), Parkinson, Miller, and Fisher, also Councillors Mounsey, Wrigglesworth and Cockle during 2019.

We meet every second Monday morning of each month, with the aim of preserving, maintaining and wherever possible, improving the village environment.

Our recommendations are presented for endorsement at the full Parish Council meeting that evening.

##### **SUMMARY OF THE MAIN BUSINESS OF THE COMMITTEE DURING APRIL 2019 TO MARCH 2021 -**

2019 was generally straight forward however in contrast 2020 was extremely challenging with the Covid19 virus lockdowns curtailing many activities; however, through the powers of the internet we have continued to function and make significant progress.

##### **PLANNING APPLICATIONS –**

One of the key roles of the committee is to review Planning Applications.

Our local planning authorities Erewash Borough Council & Derbyshire County Council consult us for our local knowledge on applications affecting the village. Each one is considered by the Committee, endorsed by the full council and an appropriate response is supplied within 21 days.

Whilst our judgments and comments are generally based on the Government's 'Material Planning Considerations' guidelines, we also consider the broader picture in preserving the character of the village, particularly in protecting the Conservation Area and our Green Belt.

During the period we have considered 121 EBC Planning Applications, objecting to 20, approving 26 in principle with caveats and 75 with no objections, there were no Applications via DCC.

Whilst EBC carefully consider our representations they can choose to take our comments on board or overrule them. As a result, a significant number of plans were revised and re-submitted or refused.

Disappointingly, two controversial applications that were rejected by both BPC & EBC were subsequently approved on appeal by the Government's Planning Inspectorate.

All pending, approved and rejected planning applications can be viewed using the EBC website.

If you are planning any significant alterations and are unsure of the Planning legislation, we recommend you take advantage of the free advice service that is available from EBC Planning Dept.

### **FLOWER BEDS, TREES, STRUCTURES & SPONSORSHIP SIGNS**

On a few occasions we have had to remind some enthusiastic residents that it was prudent to agree the siting and design of flower beds, trees, structures, sponsorship signs, etc. with the relevant landowner and local authority, generally DCC, EBC or BPC, before construction.

### **VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME –**

Building on the success of the previous years, the Committee have continued to identify further untidy or neglected areas of the village and requested those responsible to tidy things up.

Over this period a further 23 items were raised, of which 12 were closed off, bringing the total raised over the last 4 years to 70, with 53 closed off, with the remaining 17 still being pursued.

### **CLIMATE CHANGE –**

In June last year, Councillor Wrigglesworth volunteered to be our 'Climate Change' Champion to liaise with other Derbyshire Parish Councils exchanging data, attending workshops, etc.

As part of this initiative the Parish Council have planted a significant number of trees around the village and have been looking at ways of making the parish buildings more carbon neutral.

Furthermore, a meeting has been arranged with a Climate Action Support Agency to identify any future initiatives and how we can engage the community to reduce their carbon footprints.

### **FLOODING –**

If Covid19 wasn't bad enough, February 2020 saw the most UK rainfall in a calendar month since records began, courtesy of Storms Ciara, Dennis, and Jorge.

With Breaston being situated in the Trent Valley, surface rainwater flows from the higher ground from the north through the village's brooks, ditches, culverts and drains to ultimately West Park or the River Trent.

This exceptional rainfall exposed every slight blockage in its path flooding roads, gardens, and some houses generally along the northern border of the village and the Sustrans path to Draycott.

When I was a boy, there was a canal that protected us from any flooding.

Hopefully, one day it will be restored, however until then, what is clear is that everyone with riparian responsibilities need to work together to keep the water courses clear and keep rainwater flowing through the village.

The Parish Council have spent the last year coordinating these activities and with the support of the Environment Agency, DCC, Westerman, Sustrans, farmers and

residents; appear to have made significant progress. There are however plans to carry out further work once the water levels have reduced.

#### **PARISH PLAN –**

The original Parish Plan of 2003, which identified community driven policies and action plans, was refreshed in 2016, however with an ever-changing society and priorities, the Council felt that it should be updated and re-styled to make it more contemporary and user friendly.

Our thanks go to Councillor Rowlinson for championing this task.

Finally, I would like to thank the committee members for their help and support, also our clerk Nicala, for her patience, advice, and tireless work both at and between meetings.

**Graham Elliott**

**Chairman Environment Committee.**

#### **4.2 PARKS & CEMETERIES REPORT GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR MARGARET MCCAIG**

Two years have passed since our last Annual Parish Meeting, and so much has happened.

Much has been achieved, and more is planned, thanks to our hardworking committee, ever helpful Clerk, Nicala, and Lyn our caretaker who carries out indescribable services without complaint.

Covid has impacted on our activities, and we have been unable to meet “face to face” as we would have liked in many instances.

#### **PERKS PARK**

Our main area of outdoor activity is of course Perks Park, which is well used in many areas, but regrettably not by the Football Clubs, due to the virus, so the pitch and pavilion have lain more or less dormant over the last year. A Defibrillator has recently been attached to the pavilion wall. Our unique windmill still looms large over the Park, and big plans are being made to enhance the future. Various ideas have been put forward including gravel pathed walks around the edge, trees, benches, flowerbeds, exercise equipment etc, subject to finance, but the final plan will be what the residents would like. A questionnaire is being sent out and we hope for a comprehensive reply.

#### **CEMETERY**

The cemetery and St Michael’s churchyard are kept well-tended, mown and tree work is carried out regularly. Several problems have arisen unfortunately in the cemetery. The Chapel is suffering from damp, due to the flooding, and necessary work is being investigated to make it safe and usable for many more years. Continued problems have ensued with the headstones in the “Old” Cemetery, and we are now at the point where the remaining unsafe ones have to be laid flat for safety reasons. This is not undertaken lightly, and professional advice is always sought.

#### **JOHNSON’S MEADOW**

This is a lovely, rural area, very peaceful and enjoyed by many walkers and dogs. Great efforts are made to maintain the brook, the trees and the grass cutting. However, big problems have arisen with flooding and much work has been carried out to try and rectify the problem.

## **JUBILEE, CENTENARY & MEMORIAL GARDENS**

Three beautiful green relaxing areas with seats and lovely flowerbeds, thanks to the work of the "Bloomers", whose efforts are so appreciated by our residents and visitors. Huge congratulations are due to them on the winning of a Gold Award in the Breaston in Bloom competition.

The 1<sup>st</sup> World War Soldier is in pride of place in the Memorial Garden, and greatly admired. A new large, stunning sculpture has been commissioned and will soon be installed in the Jubilee Garden.

## **DUFFIELD CLOSE**

The important centre of our village, where many activities take place. Unfortunately, due to Covid, none of them have been able to happen, and the Gala, Band Concert, Carol Concert etc have been sadly missed. We can only hope that better times lie ahead.

The close itself continues to look beautiful and is very special. The Sensory Garden is immaculate due to the untiring efforts of Mrs Harvey, Jean Davis, and Lyn our caretaker, and we are very appreciative of their efforts.

The new floral garden at the north end enhances that area, thanks again to the "Bloomers".

Duffield Close is maintained to a very high standard, moving, tree work, seats, paths etc and contributes to a Village of which we are very proud.

Our thanks again to so many people who have contributed in so many ways.

**Margaret McCaig**  
**Chairman Parks & Cemeteries Committee**

## **4.3 HIGHWAYS & LIGHTING REPORT GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR JULIE ROWLINSON**

The Highways & Lighting committee consists of:

Myself, Cllr Julie Rowlinson as Chair, Cllr Graham Fisher as Vice Chair and Cllrs Parkinson & Elliott.

Despite the changes to our lives brought on by the Covid 19 pandemic, the problems dealt with by the Committee this year have been much the same as previous years - potholes, lighting and overhanging vegetation being always on the agenda, as are school run issues.

Reporting of road issues on the DCC 'Do it now' page has definitely made reporting easier, but unfortunately some jobs still need chasing up by the Clerk. One job that still causes us a problem is the poor standard of work around Bourne square when yellow lines were very badly applied, and a private hedge was damaged. Delays were also caused by the lack of workforce in the early days of the pandemic.

Last year we had the noise and traffic problems associated with the M1 change to a Smart motorway in our area. We still await their end of project report.

Breaston in Bloom applied to plant trees on Longmoor lane last year, but the plan was rejected by DCC who said they had a policy of no trees on verges. Thankfully after a lot of lobbying they have changed their decision and we have once more made a Cultivation licence application on behalf of BiB.

Flooding issues also came to the fore several times over the last year, mainly due to overgrown or blocked ditches and culverts. The combination of higher-than-average

rainfall and less work carried out by maintenance staff due to the pandemic also added to the problem. The Clerk and Lyn, the village caretaker both did much work over and above their job descriptions to help residents cope with the water and deserve our thanks. Since then, much groundwork has been undertaken to alleviate future problems.

Traffic on Sawley road continues to increase and be a concern but unfortunately despite our enquiries we have no hopes of any resolution in the foreseeable future. During the pandemic many more people having been walking and riding around the village. This has led to increase litter in our streets, especially as many more people are using takeaways. We already had some very valued regular litter picking helpers in the village but a group from Breaston in Bloom have also recently taken up the baton with the aim of covering every street. Horse riders seem to have been trying to find new routes around the village but unfortunately many of the routes are not bridleways and so we have recently needed to display No access for horses notices at certain points.

Parking issues have been less of a problem this year, but to help some bottlenecks around the Green we have had some bays altered. No doubt when life returns to normal parking will once more be an issue.

Finally, I must thank Nicala our Clerk and Lyn our caretaker for their sterling work at keeping the village up to its usual standard over an extremely difficult year. They are both invaluable.

**Cllr Julie Rowlinson**  
**Chairman Highways & Lighting committee.**

### **3.4 FINANCE REPORT GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR JOHN LUKE**

The Finance Committee consists of the Parish Council Chairman, Vice Chairman, Chairmen of the various Committees, the Chairman of the Finance Committee, Councillor J Luke, and Councillor Parkinson.

The Committee has met regularly during the past year; having to learn how to meet remotely following the pandemic in March! During December and January, the current year's budgets were reviewed, and we were able to forecast spend for the remaining 3 months of the 2020/2021 financial year. I am pleased to report the Council forecast a balanced budget at year end.

As has been reported previously the Concurrent functions budget which is the fund provided by Erewash Borough Council for work carried out in the Parish, has decreased over the past 5 years or so and the Parish has seen a drop of over 30% in the concurrent functions budget since 2010. We were warned that there may be a further decrease of 5% again this year and so budgeted accordingly. However, we have now been advised that the Concurrent budget will remain at £45,976. I am pleased to report that we were able to keep the precept at the same level as last year: £51,840.

The Clerk was able to apply for grant funding from the Government relating to issues caused by the Coronavirus pandemic and we have received two grants totalling £18,907 which helped when setting the budget for the new financial year, £10,000 from the Business Rates Grant fund and £8,907 from the Local Restrictions Support

Grant fund. These welcome grants have enabled the Council to allocate these funds to:

- The Chapel £5,000 and the MUGA £5,000 both from the business rates grant.
- The Perks Park Improvements fund £8,907 from the Local Restrictions Support Grant.

Obviously, the restrictions and lockdowns curtailed activity somewhat this year and many events and projects had to be postponed and some cancelled which was extremely disappointing. We were thankfully able to get back to a new kind of normality and managed to get some works undertaken which was pleasing. Happily, we were able to maintain the open spaces as normal but unfortunately the football teams were unable to return to their normal activities on Perks Recreation Ground the Council resolved to waive the rental costs for both teams for the financial years 2020/21 and 2021/22

We have ring fenced a number of budgets to be carried forward into the new financial year with the approval of full council.

Chapel Flood Repairs & Alleviation (Business Rates Grant)	5,000.00
Goal Posts	890.00
Tree Planting	5,000.00
Perks Park Improvements (Local Area Restrictions Grant £8907)	14,000.00
Flood Work Johnson's Meadow	2,200.00
Johnsons Bridge Repairs	1,000.00
Memory Café Start Up	1,000.00
MUGA Repairs (Business Rates Grant £5,000)	7,000.00
Provision of new Soil Pile structure	2,390.00

Works that we are in the process of undertaking at the moment include:

Provision of a new Website	1,500.00
Memorial Safety programme	4,850.00

We have ensured within the budgeting process that the Village Improvement Fund and General Reserve have been maintained at an annual budgeted level.

As you have heard from my colleagues the Parish Council has carried out further improvements across the parish throughout the year despite the unprecedented restraints faced by us all. Some of the improvements undertaken during the 2020-21 financial year are:

Improvements to the store doors at the Chapel  
New Parish Computer and Laptop  
Road lining and roof repairs at the Parish Council Meeting Rooms  
Installation of a defibrillator at the pavilion with assistance from Cllr Parkinson's  
Community Leadership grant  
Assisted the Covid Support Group/Breaston Good Neighbours and Churches together with printing costs etc.

Carried out flood alleviation work (with more planned) at Johnson's Meadow.  
Tree planting on Wilsthorpe Road with more planned for the Sustrans Path.

The Parish Council continues to operate a strict budgetary control with monthly reports from the Clerk and analyses of all spend.

To conclude, I should like to thank my Committee Members for their support and good prudence with regards to spending. I thank our Clerk Nicala O'Leary for her work throughout the year as Responsible Financial Officer.

**Cllr John Luke**  
**Chairman Finance Committee**

#### **4.5 GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR HEATHER WRIGGLESWORTH**

The General-Purpose Committee's aim is to cover any items or topics that are not part of the other Committee meetings and it is held on the second Monday of the month within the Ordinary Meeting, which commences at 7.15pm

Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic there was no Annual Parish Meeting in 2020, hence this report covers the period of 2019, as well as 2020.

Over the past 2 years various issues/topics have been brought to the committee's attention for debate/discussion and on many occasions required a decision and recommendation.

##### **Events and projects:**

The **Christmas Carol Concert 2019** again proved to be a successful and enjoyable evening with mulled wine and mince pies proving as popular as ever. Lily Taylor Ward and the Ilkeston Brass Band came along to enhance the event along with Reverend Arnold Dixon from the Methodist Church and the Brownies. Due to the restrictions in 2020, we were unable to hold the Carol Concert but resolved to support and work with the Churches and were able to "host" the wonderful nativity and artwork displays in the Memorial and Sensory Garden, we also helped with printing of carol sheets for the doorstep carol singing which was a great success. The Christmas Lights again looked impressive and were complemented by the Pins Hooks & Pom Poms wonderful Christmas trees outside the Co-op store.

The **Summer Brass Band Concert 2019** performed by the Rolls Royce Band was another successful event enjoyed by many. The Breaston Belles assisted magnificently with the refreshments. The Brass Band Concerts were cancelled in 2020 but we have a date for 2021 of August the 8<sup>th</sup> and hope to see you all there.

**Remembrance Sunday** was held on 10 November 2019 and was very well attended. Whilst we were unable to hold the usual service in 2020, we invited residents to get knitting and the resulting giant wreath was a wonderful addition to the Memorial Garden display for Armistice Day.

Our **May Day Gala 2019** again proved popular, although the weather was not as warm as the previous year and finished up being rather wet for those clearing up after the crowd had gone. We were extremely disappointed when we had to cancel the event for 2020 which was a special event planned to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day – it is hoped that we can revisit the plans for this event once the Covid19 restrictions are lifted.

The **Breaston Calendar**. This has always been a self-funding enterprise, with a different theme each year, and continues to invite interest from residents of all age groups. A prize giving for the winners was possible in 2019. There were two different style of calendar produced and after all expenses were paid, the Parish Council was able to present a cheque for £259.50, which was split between the Girl Guides and Scout Groups in the village. The Breaston Calendar for 2021 was again a success, although virtually and the theme was trees. We had some difficulties selling the calendars due to the restrictions but happily were able to donate the surplus calendars to the residents at the Firs a profit of £73.00 was increased with a donation of £100 from the Chair's Allowance which was donated to the Covid Support Group who intend to use it for further work for local food banks. It is hoped that the calendar for 2022 will be as popular, with a theme of photographs of flowers both cultivated and wild in Breaston.

**School Holiday Climbing Wall** on Duffield Close. The 2 days designated in August 2019 saw the climbing wall a great success and it was free! The first day saw 200 children climb and the following week a further 110 attended the session. Sadly, we were unable to hold the event in 2020 due to the lockdown. We continue to monitor the regulations in the hope that we can hold another climbing wall event in 2021.

### **Projects**

A replacement notice board was erected at Hills Road, and we were also able to reinstate a board at the Severn Trent Substation on Wilsthorpe Road.

A further defibrillator was installed on the Perks Park Pavilion.

New office computers were requisitioned and have proved a worthy expense for our Clerk whom, for part of the year worked from home, visiting the office once a week to collect mail, carry out any banking and check the phone messages. Thankfully getting back into the office in the summer although the office remains closed to the public at this time, we hope that service will resume in some form soon.

During this Pandemic, the Parish Council has been supporting the Covid 19 Response group within the village, which recruited volunteers to cover every street in Breaston to ensure no one was left without help and support where required. It also held two food collections for Canaan Trust; one of the collections also included toys to give as Christmas gifts to Families struggling to make ends meet within the Derby area.

At the end of 2019, and into 2020 the Parish Council saw 3 vacancies occurring, and due to the restrictions in place it took many months before they were filled.

Fortunately, we are now back up to a full council and hopefully 2021 will see the end of the restrictions and we can get back together with face-to-face meetings.

Throughout 2020 the Parish Council General Purposes Committee has continued to meet and make decisions when required to do so and will continue to do so via Zoom for as long as it may take before we can get back to some semblance of normality. Once again, my thanks go out to all members of the Council for their commitment and diligence, and especially to our clerk Nicala for all her sterling work; commitment, guidance, advice and probably most of all, her patience given to us.

**Cllr Heather Wrigglesworth**

**Chairman General Purposes Committee**

## **5. REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR PARKINSON**

### **Coronavirus (Covid-19)**

Obviously, coronavirus/Covid-19 has dominated everything! Full updates on DCC services are on the Council's website:

<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk>.

### **Council Tax and Budget 2020-2021**

DCC has agreed a budget for the year ahead, with a Council Tax increase of 2.5% which is just half that permitted by central government.

The meeting of the Council on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 set a net budget for 2021-22 at £572.4m, revealing a robust financial position due to careful budgeting and sufficient additional funding from Government to support extra spending due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Although more government funding is expected by the end of the financial year and further into 2021, likely to total over £100m since the beginning of the pandemic, significant pressures will continue in some areas, particularly adults' and children's social care.

This year the Government has allowed local authorities with responsibility for adult social care, like Derbyshire, to raise Council Tax by a maximum of 5%, made up of an adult social care precept of 3% (which must be spent solely on adult social care) and 2% for general council expenditure.

At the meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> February the Council agreed to the 2.5% increase, made up of 1% for adult social care (which will raise just over £3.4m) and 1.5% for general council expenditure, which will help to support other council areas under pressure, mainly children's services. Here remains option of levying the remaining 2% adult social care precept in the financial year if required.

The council tax increase will mean, for a Band "D" household, an increase of £33.73 per year, or £2.81 per month or 65p per week.

### **COVID-19 – get the COVID facts not the COVID fiction.**

Because there is much misleading information circulating about COVID-19, leading people to wonder what is true and what is not, DCC has worked in partnership with other health care organisations in the county to launch a campaign aimed at setting the record straight.

This new campaign 'COVID-19. Get the Facts' provides trusted, professionally sourced information about some of the main issues about which people may have questions. This includes the COVID vaccinations, the importance of preventative measures such as wearing a face covering and social distancing, as well as information about a wide range of other COVID-related topics.

There is said to be an alarming rise in 'fake news' and disinformation being circulated. People are receiving leaflets through their doors and being bombarded with misleading messaging and other misinformation via social media. This could have very real impacts on the take up of the vaccination and its overall efficacy, so DCC is trying to ensure that people get the correct information.

Healthcare professionals from organisations, including Derbyshire Community Health Services and Derby and Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group, will also be providing short information films about some of the main questions people might have.

All the information used in the campaign has been quality checked and is drawn from reliable sources including Public Health England, Joined Up Care Derbyshire, and the NHS. Click to [read up on all COVID-19 facts](#).

## **Elvaston Castle**

Plans have been announced for a £35 million restoration of Elvaston Castle Estate and Gardens. The whole site will remain a country park, free at the point of entry with more visitors to help contribute to the running costs.

A key element of the plan is to reduce traffic through local villages and improve visitor access to the site which attracts 240,000 visitors each year. To divert traffic away from local villages, a new entrance and access drive will be located closer to the A6 and take visitors more quickly into the heart of the estate.

Following a comprehensive public consultation and many months of work with the National Trust, Elvaston Castle and Garden Trust (ECGT) and DCC are putting the final touches to detailed plans which will reverse decades of underinvestment and secure the estate's future.

Subject to planning permission, proposed developments under the masterplan will include:

- repair and renovation of historic buildings to bring them back into use – for example, as retail, office, and workshop space or as holiday cottages and, where possible, reflecting their former uses
- upgrading catering facilities including a new main café, which would be a key feature of the courtyard, and providing smaller catering facilities around the site.
- a new access drive closer to the A6, taking visitors to the heart of the estate.
- a new adventure playground close to the main café
- offering camping and glamping on the estate's former campsite with facilities for touring caravans, motorhomes, and tents
- an improved and varied events programme to attract a wider audience.
- converting the upper floor of the castle into suites which could be available to let out for weddings and other events.

Regeneration of the estate is expected to create more than 170 new, local jobs and increase the number of visitors from 240,000. There are no plans to build new residential housing on the estate.

The £35 million regeneration cost will come from a mix of public and private investment including bids to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership, and substantial investment from DCC. The long-term plan is to hand the day-to-day running of the estate to the charity, Elvaston Castle and Gardens Trust (ECGT).

This major investment will put Elvaston on a sustainable footing, relieving DCC of significant ongoing annual maintenance and running costs, resolving the major backlog of repairs and other work, and maintaining public access to the estate.

Find out more about what's planned from [Future Elvaston](#)

## DCC Members' Community Fund

I have secured the following Breaston-related grants during 2020-2021:

CamTad	£100	
Canaan Trust	£1,000	+ 3 other Cty Cllrs Total £4,000
Defibrillator Perks Park	£1,000	
Erewash Valley Gymnastics Club	£400	+ 7 other Cty Cllrs £3,200 total
Breaston Community Forum (Foodbank)	£530	

## Appreciation

Finally, but by no means least, I would like to extend my grateful thanks to the Clerk and Members of Breaston Parish Council for their continued help and support in my work as your County Councillor.

**Councillor Robert Parkinson**  
**Derbyshire County Council**

## 6. REPORT OF THE BOROUGH COUNCILLORS GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR KEVIN MILLER

- Brown bins are back from March 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Town hall receptions remain closed.
- Town toilets remain closed.
- Long Eaton Carnival will take place in September.
- Covid wardens are visiting business premises in Erewash to check they are complying with covid rules, fines and advice will be given.
- EBC council tax to rise x 2.61%.
- Proposed new house build on navigation car park rejected by planning committee, six for six against one abstention, chairman's casting vote for refusal.
- Six new waste disposal Lorries have been ordered at a cost of £175k each, electric ones are available, but they cost 400k, plus the infrastructure to keep them charged up.
- A new road sweeper has been purchased at a cost of £169k.
- The old bin lorries will be sold at auction,
- EBC returned a balanced budget, unlike a lot of councils who have severe problems.
- All EBC services have been maintained, all essential services.
- Councillors have grants to be awarded to worthy causes in the past it was a case of use it or lose it, now it can be carried over to the following year. I have never had a problem finding a home for the grant.
- The elections will take place on May 6<sup>th</sup> for DCC and Police and Crime commissioner.
- Covid testing is taking place at West Park Leisure centre.

- The ten-year census is underway and must be submitted by March 21<sup>st</sup>, failure to comply can result in a fine of one thousand pounds.
- I would advise you to do it, as if the nation submits on the 21<sup>st</sup>, you may have a problem.
- EBC continue to meet via Teams.

**Cllr Kevin Miller**  
**Erewash Borough Council**

## **7. REPORTS OF THE CHARITABLE TRUSTS GIVEN BY MRS O'LEARY CLERK TO THE COUNCIL**

Mrs O'Leary presented the audited accounts for the Matilda and George Abbott Charity, and the Charlton and Jerram Charity, the trustees of both are Mr K Smedley, Mrs C Penny and Mrs R Wallace. The accounts are detailed on separate pages.

## **8. REPORTS OF PARISH ORGANISATIONS**

### **a) BREASTON WI ANNUAL PARISH MEETING REPORT GIVEN BY MRS SUSAN MARLEE**

Breaston WI has over the last few months managed to keep in contact with all our 80 members by monthly newsletters, quizzes and prior to lockdown we had jigsaw swaps, walk suggestions and our teddy bear trail around the village. Of particular benefit were the monthly telephone calls to every member, especially those living alone.

With a different Christmas for us all, we entered the world of Zoom!!

The committee organised a party meeting with poems, a quiz, and a raffle draw, followed by our version of Would I lie to you?

We managed a secret Santa drop prior to this meeting where every member received a Christmas card, raffle ticket for the draw and a bookmark.

We proudly handed over a donation of £1500 to our charity of the year Derbyshire Blood Bikes.

We continue with our monthly zoom meetings now but look forward to the time when we can all meet again.

### **b) BREASTON & DRAYCOTT VILLAGE NEWS GIVEN BY THE CLERK**

The Breaston and Draycott Village News is a monthly magazine covering both villages. Although run by St. Michael's church, the magazine aims to provide news of both a secular and spiritual nature, as well as articles and poems of general interest. We have 350 copies printed each month, some of which are delivered to subscribers, others are sold in shops in the two villages. The magazine is financed by the sale of advertising as well as the cover price.

The editors welcome contributions from members of the public and village organisations.

**Editor: Jonathan Lupton [magazine@wdbchurches.org.uk](mailto:magazine@wdbchurches.org.uk)**  
**07824 785 287**

### **c) BREASTON GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME GIVEN BY THE CLERK**

In 2008 Jean Lupton heard on the BBC's One Show about a place in Suffolk where there had been a scheme started which had a group of volunteers to provide help for others in their community. She felt it would be great to see if people in Breaston would be up for starting such a scheme. So, we leafleted the village and amazingly over 40 people said they would be happy to volunteer. The Breaston Good Neighbour Scheme was launched in 2009.

Since then, 30 different volunteers have performed over 800 tasks for well over 100 clients, averaging at about 2 tasks per week. 80% of the tasks have been transporting clients to appointments – some as far as the Royal Derby Hospital. The remaining tasks have been shopping, minor household repairs, one-off garden tidying and various other small jobs.

One of the marks of the success of the scheme is that relationships have been created between neighbours that have continued outside the formal boundaries of the BGNS. Indeed, our aim has been to get to a point where the BGNS is no longer needed because people are looking out for their neighbours.

And we believe that that point has now been reached. Since the start of the pandemic, the phone has hardly rung at all. It's also a fact that over 95% have been done by volunteers over 60.

The good news is that the Covid 19 team was set up in the Spring of 2020, so that there is a Street Leader for almost every one of the 80 roads and streets in Breaston. This is so wonderful as many of our volunteers are getting older and we believe now is the time to pass on this neighbourly support to younger people.

As the scheme comes to a close, there are not words enough to thank all those volunteers who have helped the BGNS over the years. They have done an amazing job of going the extra mile for others in their community.

Finally, it just goes to show that good can come from bad situations when we pray and let God take charge! "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (*John 1:5*)

*(Adapted from the January 2021 edition of Breaston and Draycott Village News)*

**Jean Lupton**  
**Breaston Good Neighbours Scheme**

### **d) BREASTON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR KEVIN MILLER**

- Kevin Miller decided to resurrect NHW for the whole of Breaston.
- A growing number of core members have been signed up.
- A grant from the Police and Crime commissioner was applied for.
- The grant was successful, £300,
- To avoid complications with bank accounts, the money is in Derbyshire NHW account ring fenced for Breaston NHW.
- Kevin attended the AGM of Derbyshire NHW, the board was short of members, Kevin was voted on. Via Zoom.
- A zoom meeting was held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, attended by the new members, the PCSO / chairman of Derbyshire NHW / various speakers and the Chairman of Risley NHW and Chairman of the Parish council.

- It was a successful meeting and was a good launch pad.
- Recruiting adverts have gone in Inside 72 and on face book etc.
- A survey is to take place of existing NHW signs in streets of Breaston.
- NHW wheelie bin stickers are to be given to residents who are prepared to have one.
- When the Gala is resurrected NHW will have a stall.
- Breaston has had in the past thriving NHW, the main people involved that I can find were Pat Adcock and Martin Fox, both who did a good job.
- With the aid of the PCSO / Parish Council and residents, I am sure it will be a success.

**Kevin Miller**  
**Breaston NHW**

#### **e) COVID-19 SUPPORT NETWORK GIVEN BY MRS SARAH WARBURTON**

The Covid-19 Support Network was set up in March 2020 at the start of the coronavirus pandemic.

A leaflet was sent to every house in the village informing them about the support network and with the relevant contact details. A Street Leader was assigned to every street in the village to assist vulnerable neighbours or those required to self-isolate with shopping, pharmacy collections and posting mail etc.

The response from the Breaston Community was overwhelming with over 130 volunteers coming forward to offer help. The email and mobile phone were incredibly busy during the first couple of weeks however this calmed down once people established their own support networks.

The local shops, pubs, restaurants, and cafes in the village went above and beyond during this time to offer additional help. The Covid-19 Support Network issued each Street Leader with a badge which allowed them to shop at the Co-Op before store opening times and excluded them from any quantity restrictions. The Farm Shop in the village provided a delivery service allowing those who were shielding or vulnerable to phone up and place an order over the phone, this would then be delivered by pushbike. Evans Pharmacy ensured prescriptions could be collected and delivered to those self-isolating.

The Street Leaders network is still up and running however The Covid-19 Support Network are finding that those still in need of support have established their own support networks. The Covid-19 Support Network is no longer getting any calls on the dedicated mobile so decided to 'retire' the PAYG mobile in February 2021. The Covid-19 Support Network have issued Evans Pharmacy and the Co-Op with the personal contact details of those involved behind the scenes in the event that someone contacts them requiring help.

#### **f) CANAAN TRUST AND LONG EATON & SAWLEY FOOD COLLECTION GIVEN BY MRS SARAH WARBURTON**

It became apparent that there was an increased demand at Foodbanks in the

surrounding areas during the pandemic. In response to this, The Covid-19 Support Network made an appeal through its network for donations of food and other essentials to help support the Canaan Trust and Long Eaton & Sawley Foodbank.

The Navigation Inn, Grange Roofing and Firfield School have all been incredibly helpful and have allowed the food collections to take place on their premises. There have now been 4 collections organised and at Christmas a toy collection was incorporated.

Going forward all future Food and Toy Collections will be under the umbrella of St Michael's Church. This is due to insurance purposes and the fact that many of the volunteers were from St Michael's Church.

Due to the National lockdown entered on 4<sup>th</sup> January, it's been incredibly difficult to organise an Easter Collection. With the vaccine roll out now underway, those involved with the Food Collection feel the safest option is to hold off a few more weeks to protect those involved and to wait until restrictions start to ease.

#### **g) CHRISTMAS IN BREASTON GIVEN BY MRS SARAH WARBURTON**

Due to the Coronavirus, it became quite apparent that Christmas 2020 was going to be quite different for many of us in the village. In November (before entering Tier 3 restrictions), a group of four Mums from Breaston met outside around a chimenea to come up with some innovative ways to lift moral in the village over the festive period.

With support from the Covid-19 Support Network, Community Forum and Breaston Churches Together a wide range of events and activities took place with the aim to help lift moral and encourage people to venture outside during the colder months. This included a nativity scene on the Memorial Gardens, a virtual adult and children's community choir, handing out over 100 Christingle packs to coincide with St Michael's Christingle Service, doorstep carols with Santa on a motorbike, an art exhibition in the Sensory Garden and a snowman trail around the village.

Julie Rowlinson helped secure a £500 grant from local councillors to help support the cost of the Christmas in Breaston Booklet – this was distributed to every house in the Village via the distribution network the Community Forum has in place. Additional funds were received from Erewash Community Action and Breaston Churches Together.

Going forward those involved with the Christmas in Breaston activities plan on joining the Breaston Community Forum and look forward to organising more events in the village soon.

A special thank you to everyone who helped with all the various activities and for helping us make all the above possible. Nicala O'Leary (Breaston Parish Council) and Jill Bradley (St Michael's Church) were fundamental in the success of many of these events and we would like to thank them for all their admin support.

#### **h) BREASTON BELLES WI GIVEN BY MRS HELEN PERCIVAL**

**Prior to 2020-21** – a thriving active WI of about 65 Members, with monthly talks, competitions, trips, helping in the community, (knitting for displays, lunch club help, litter picking, donation of the seat in Perks Park etc), social activities, craft club to name but a few.

**2020-21 Summary:** - 65 Members with 3 new Members since Lockdown; waiting list. Active and vibrant WI who has responded to the Pandemic in a variety of ways to support the WI Members locally and Nationally. Achieved by: -

**Virtual Committee Meetings** via Skype and Zoom since March 2020.

**Newsletters** - with ideas, quizzes etc. on how to remain connected, fit mentally and physically, challenges and how to look after yourselves. Information giving – DFWI and NFWI events

**Member's Meetings /Talks** via Zoom: -

Sex and scandal and the Church Court

The Silver Thread (about Filigree Silver)

Gardening for design and impact

Basic Sign Language

Christmas party

Médecins San Frontieres

Spoon playing

Honey

**Several Craft sessions** via Zoom

**Tea and talk/ coffee and chat** on many occasions via Zoom / gardens.

**Book club** (online and in gardens) since March 2020 approximately monthly

**Book and jigsaw exchanges** weekly.

**Walking** with Members, when allowed

**Meeting in groups of 6** at Member's gardens, when allowed.

**WhatsApp group** - a source of support to several Members with a "Where am I challenge?" then various other mentally stimulating challenges set by Members – we have learnt so much from these and stayed connected/ developed some strong friendship bonds which helped people enormously during the particularly hard times some have suffered.

**"Pamper Evening"** via Zoom

**"Escape Rooms"** via Zoom – raising money for MacMillan.

**"Acts of Kindness"** –

**Making scrubs** for hospital and **knitting** items of clothing for prem babies and for the knitted Christmas trees displayed in Breaston.

**opening** our Member's Meetings to other WI's across the Country. These were regularly attended by incredibly grateful WI Members and as a result we have 3 new active Members – welcome.

provided a **Christmas Goodie bag** to enjoy with our Christmas meeting so that we could have a cuppa, quiz, and recipes all together with quiz, recipes etc.

we gave a **birthday card** to each Member on the 4<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Breaston Belles WI in January 2021. This had a filigree silver flower which, when removed from the card became a silver pendant / decoration. The card itself was hand made by the SaPune charity in Kosovo supporting women to work and getting street children into school so that they could improve their futures.

the Committee made **telephone calls** to Members periodically throughout the pandemic.  
we offered **help** with shopping and tasks for those shielding and isolating as needed.  
**personal messages** to Members who were unwell,  
distributed the **spare Link magazines** in a rota,  
We have tried hard to be **inclusive** remembering those who did not want to engage with Zoom or those without internet, offering phone access to the latter and talking to Members when we met up in the Village or on the phone.

**Future** -online meetings currently but flexible and consider hybrid meetings if need be.

Murder Mystery evening

ongoing Zoom get togethers, talks and craft events.

Return to outings and face to face meetings, hopefully as allowed?

**Mrs Helen Percival**  
**Breaston Belles WI**

#### **i) BREASTON FLOWER CIRCLE ANNUAL REPORT 2020 – 2021 GIVEN BY MISS LINDA SMITH**

With some 80 members from a catchment area that includes Breaston, Borrowash; Long Eaton; Beeston; Kimberley; Sawley; Long Eaton and other local towns the Flower Club has continued to thrive in the past difficult 12 months.

We were able to hold our meetings at the beginning of 2020. and since then, have kept in touch with members via email (and post where a member doesn't have internet access). We have instigated a monthly newsletter which is published on the date when we would normally meet. The Newsletter provides members with information on programme cancellations; floral designs to create at home complete with instructions; quizzes or recipes and information related to flowers and gardens.

The Committee has kept in regular telephone contact with all members.

Zoom has facilitated monthly Committee meetings; the AGM and occasional general meetings for members to participate in quizzes or enjoy a small floral demonstration.

The Committee would like to extend thanks to the Parish Council for allowing us to meet in the park on Duffield Close during the Summer. We adhered to all government guidelines on numbers, social distancing and track and trace in force on the dates. A total of £100 was raised from members at one of these meetings in aid of MacMillan Nurses.

We certainly feel that we have stayed connected with all of our members during 2020 -21 and we look forward to better times ahead.

**Mrs Linda Smith**  
**Breaston Flower Circle**

## **j) BREASTON IN BLOOM REPORT GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR JULIE ROWLINSON**

Following our success at achieving a Gold award in the East Midlands in Bloom competition 2019 the committee decided not to enter the competition in 2020. Helen, our Chair had stepped down, several people left the group and Julie wanted to cut down on time spent on Bloom. This turned out to be a very wise decision when the Covid 19 pandemic hit, and we were unable to work together. We managed to do the planting in May and October, but plants were in short supply and much more expensive, so we planted much more sparsely. We also avoided any new projects or extra areas to work on. The pandemic also meant that we couldn't fund raise and our planned pub quiz had to be cancelled so money is tight.

Our beautiful canal boat sadly suffered badly over the Winter and we decided to strip it back to the frame and rebuild with a composite material which will be much longer lasting and weatherproof. Repairs are now all done, and the boat will be repainted and planted up, hopefully in time for the Summer.

The planned sculpture on Jubilee garden finally received planning permission so FC Laser was commissioned to produce the sculpture. It is now ready, and installation should happen soon.

After many misleading emails and much lobbying from the council, DCC have finally agreed in principle to the planting of trees in the verges along Longmoor lane so a new application is being sent for permission.

Our group has always picked litter, but this year a subgroup has been formed -BiB Litter Seekers – who have tried to cover the whole village and plan to allocate streets to volunteers in the future so that the village is always at its best.

We are hoping that this year BiB will be able to return to its former glory!

**Julie Rowlinson**  
**Breaston in Bloom**

## **k) BREASTON COMMUNITY FORUM REPORT GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR JULIE ROWLINSON**

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic the Forum has this year only been working in the background. Our usual events like the Pumpkin party had to be cancelled and we were unable to do fundraising. Our quarterly newsletter was also cancelled as there was nothing to report and we had no income.

We did however become a major part of the villages' Covid 19 support team. At the beginning of the pandemic, we met with the church and other local groups to help coordinate the villages response to the problem and our secretary Sarah devoted her time to the new group. We jointly produced a Christmas newsletter/activity booklet and posted ideas for activities on our Facebook page. I helped with the rota for the support groups mobile phone and collected prescriptions for people in the village. We are planning a Spring newsletter and hope to get back to our normal activities in the near future.

**Julie Rowlinson**  
**Breaston Community Forum**

## **9.ANY OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST TO PARISHIONERS**

### **a) 2021 Census**

Census Engagement Officer Stephen Walkley gave a brief overview of the Census process and answered questions from residents and Councillors. Mr Walkley can be contacted at 07452942702 & [stephen.walkley08@field.census.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.walkley08@field.census.gov.uk) if anyone has any queries.

**Stephen Walkley**  
**Erewash Borough Council**

### Charlton & Jerram Charity

This Charity was left to the poor of Breaston in the year 1712 by John Charlton and Mary Jerram.

The Capital Sum is now invested in the Charities Official Investment Fund (COIF) via Trustees Savings Bank. This is a unit trust specially designed for long term investment of charity funds. The value of investments at 31/12/2020 was £9,690.13

From the annual dividends accrued, the Trustees give a small sum to needy parishioners at Christmas time.

#### Statement of Account for the year ended 31 December 2020

<u>Receipts</u>	£	<u>Payments</u>	
B/f in Trustees Savings Bank 31/12/19	30.42	Distribute to needy parishioners	£275.00
1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr Dividend COIF	67.14		
2 <sup>nd</sup> " " "	70.96	Cash in hand (paid into bank January)	0.00
3 <sup>rd</sup> " " "	70.96		
4 <sup>th</sup> " " "	69.89		
		Bank balance at 31/12/20	34.37
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£ 309.37</u></b>	<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£309.37</u></b>

Mrs R Wallace    )  
Mr K Smedley    ) Trustees  
Mrs C Penny     )

I have examined the books relating to the above accounts and certify these to be correct.

Mrs N A O'Leary  
Clerk to Breaston Parish Council  
5<sup>th</sup> March 2021

### MATILDA AND GEORGE ABBOTT CHARITY

***This Charity was left for the benefit of poor residents in the Parish of Breaston in the years 1909 and 1912 by Matilda and George Abbott.***

The Capital sum is now invested in the Charities Official Investment Fund (COIF). This is a Unit Trust specially designed for the long term investments of charity funds. The value of investments at 31/12/2020 was £6,448.08

### **Statement of Account for the year ended 31 December 2020**

<i>Receipts</i>		<i>Payments</i>	
	£		
Balance in NatWest b/f 31/12/2019	19.67		
1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr dividend	44.77	Drawn to distribute to needy parishioners	£ 175.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr “	47.26	(£25.00 in hand to be paid back into the bank)	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr “	47.24	Bank bal @ 31/12/20	£ 30.44
4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr “	<u>46.50</u>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>£205.44</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£ 205.44</u></b>

Mrs R Wallace )  
Mr K Smedley ) Trustees  
Mrs C Penny )

I have examined the books relating to the above accounts and certify these to be correct.

Mrs N A O'Leary  
Clerk to Breaston Parish Council  
5<sup>th</sup> March 2021