



BURTON JOYCE
PARISH COUNCIL *Serving the
Community*



ANNUAL REPORT 2023-4

Chair's Report

The past year proved particularly challenging and busy for the Parish Council, a body that exists for you as the first tier of local government.

The provision of our great range of facilities in Burton Joyce, such as the Poplars Sports Ground, Roberts Recreation Ground, The Grove, the Allotments and Cemetery, along with the furnishing of amenities, events and support service to the community at large, remain at the forefront of its work.

This has been alongside the long-held aims to develop the Old School Building site and improve the village centre as a whole, as well as pursuing other improvements on behalf of the community beyond the direct remit of the Parish Council such as better train services, undertaken with the BJ Train Action Group and Trent Valley Councillors.

As the world changes around us, we look to promote and develop a village that retains a friendly, caring and vibrant community where businesses can also thrive. We welcomed initiatives such as the 'Pop-Up Food Fayre' as well as the continuing success of the Community Market, The Magazine, the Village Hall and its events, and our own Beacons and Fireworks Display and Christmas Lights switch-on fayre. And crucially, we continue to actively encourage volunteering in all its forms within the village for the tremendous contribution it makes to all our lives.

My thanks must go to the incredibly small team of fantastic staff of the Parish Council, and of particular note, the Parish Clerk Jessica Sherrin and Grounds & Amenities Manager David List. We are fortunate to have them and their incredible hard work in delivering the services, amenities and facilities we all enjoy. Thanks also to the dedicated effort of my fellow parish councillors and to all those in our village who put in voluntary time and effort to benefit their community and individual residents, such contribution is amazing and invaluable.

Last year we welcomed Cllr Richard Rolls to the team who, amongst other skills, brings valuable experience in governance, accounting, risk management and strategy setting, all of which are of significant benefit to the Parish Council. We are grateful to him for filling this important voluntary role. We were sad to hear of the passing of Cllr Susan Cohen in April following a brief period of illness and send our sincere condolences to her family. Susan was a committed individual who worked tirelessly for their community and 'team Burton Joyce' during her time as a Parish Councillor. She will be greatly missed.

We look forward to welcoming new volunteers who come forward as councillors for this interesting and highly rewarding role for our community.



Cllr Laurence King
Chair of the Parish Council

Finance & General Purpose Committee

Chair – Cllr Paul Hyde

Our finances continue to look strong as we have steadily built reserves over the past 7 years, allowing for the much-needed financial stability, particularly in times of crisis. We have been in receipt of both Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 monies from Gedling Borough Council which will help us invest in the community. The £70k received from Section 106 for ‘open space provision’ is being utilised for the Community Garden and we are applying for funds from a variety of other sources, to enable this exciting project to be completed in a number of phases. The review of and investment in all our facilities continues and we were pleased to complete renovations of the Old School Building kitchen in the summer and plan to extend this renovation to improve other public parts of the building using CIL funds.

In June 2023 we held a Public Meeting to brief residents and seek answers from Burton Joyce Old School Trust regarding funds held and its plans for the future. This was followed by a meeting with both parties and their legal representatives in September 2023. It was ascertained that the funds, which slightly exceed £225k (from the lease premium paid for the Old School Building) are held in accounts with financial institutions protected under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSC). What was crucially established was that the money was placed in such a way that accounting rules require for the lease premium to be recognised as income over the lease term of 125 years at a rate of £1,800 per year. This clarified that it is not available as a lump sum to re-invest in the Old School Building site. A broad summary of how funds were allocated in the year ended October 2022 were also provided. Discussions to transfer the Trust to another body to improve its governance and accountability were underway last year and the Trust will share further information with the Parish Council. In the meantime, in order to protect the Carnarvon Room and Old School Building as village amenities, the Parish Council has successfully applied to register both as “Assets of Community Value”.

We were delighted to launch our new website in March, a significant piece of work created with the technical expertise of Giles Martin (Jigster). We would particularly like to thank Anne Tate photography for spending her valuable time at the Poplars Sports Ground updating photographs of all the clubs that regularly use the facilities (some of which are in this report) and for capturing fantastic shots of our amenities all around the village. Also to Nicola Harwood for giving permission to use 2 of her scenic photos on our home page.



New website launched this year

Old School Building Phase II Committee – COMMUNITY GARDEN

Chair – Cllr Laurence King

The Old School Building (OSB) and its adjoining site are a uniquely valuable village asset being at the 'heart' of the village. The site presents a rare opportunity to define our village centre, now and for future generations. The Parish Council recognised this some years ago, particularly when it started a process to protect and develop the site for the community by purchasing a 125-year lease in 2017. Following a two-year study and definition of need by the Council and village experts, a community space containing a partially covered community garden with adaptable ground space for events and community gathering was a clear requirement. This would give a permanent, pleasing environment to encourage people to linger and enjoy during the day, benefitting community groups, local businesses and people of all ages and at the same time being adaptable for community events.



The Old School Building Garden Currently

The Parish Council has just completed a community consultation exercise on design ideas produced for us, and we will meet shortly with the design firm called 'Influence' to refine the design, and then commission contractors to begin a phased approach to developing the site. At the same time we will seek additional funding to add other phases.



Consultation for the Community Garden in March 2024

Additionally, the Council continues to seek routes to now bring about the long-held requirement to develop the village centre for the benefit of the whole community. It has been more than two years since the Parish Council gave a presentation to Nottinghamshire County Council and received an immediate and very positive response from the Service Director of Transformation & Change and Place & Communities and the Head of Highways and Transport to propose development of the village centre outside of the OSB site.

We received initial designs for “Burton Joyce Village Centre Improvements”, a significant milestone after over a decade of pursuing something better. There has been a substantial unexplained delay and we await a briefing from our County Councillor following the initial support from NCC on this hugely important project.

By improving the village centre (subject to appropriate funding), the site of the Old School Building, and by having a holistic and interconnected vision for the whole village and seeking improvements to public transport, the Council’s aim is to mitigate downside effects of some of the change taking place from nearby residential, road and industrial development.

Planning Committee

Chair – Cllr Hazel Chadbourne-Doyle

As a representative of the local community, the Parish Council is a statutory consultee for all planning applications submitted to Gedling Borough Council. In the last year the Planning Committee has considered a total of 47 planning applications and during this time has expressed its concerns, comments and objections, using the ‘material considerations’ guidelines set by the local authority.

Within the applications commented upon by the committee, 2 in which ‘objections’ were raised were subsequently approved by Gedling Borough Council (GBC) and 3 in which ‘no objections’ were raised were subsequently ‘refused’ by GBC.

Following the recent floods and concerns raised regarding the process for planning application approval and enforcement by GBC, the Parish Council met with our Borough Council representative Cllr Sam Smith and Senior Managers from GBC’s Planning Department in March. This was to ascertain the degree to which objections raised by the Parish Council were considered by the Planning Department. The meeting was productive in discussing the various issues of concern to the Parish Council and residents of Burton Joyce, along with the impact of planning decisions on the village and served to provide hopefully a better understanding for both parties. The summary of meeting actions was agreed and will be reviewed in 6 months’ time.

We were all distressed to see the damage caused to homes and property at the beginning of January from the floods and hear the public concern. The Council sought to facilitate a conversation for those effected by the floods and on 3rd April, an ‘invitation only’ meeting set up by Cllrs Smith and Adams was held to discuss the recent and increasing flooding issues in Burton Joyce. This meeting was facilitated by BPJC (held in our Main Hall). It was well attended and highlighted the flooding issues which concerned many residents of Burton Joyce. Relevant agencies were represented at the meeting with residents invited to discuss their concerns, Tom Randall MP was also present.

There will shortly be a “Section 19 Report” on the Nottinghamshire County Council’s website which will detail what happened in the flood and whether the relevant Risk Management Authorities have exercised or will exercise their responsibilities.

Poplars Sports Ground Committee

Chair – Cllr Terry Hazard

It has been another very successful year at our amazing facility ‘The Poplars’. There can’t be many Parish Councils that involve themselves with so many sports and activities for all ages and abilities, which must make it a hugely attractive addition to village life.

It is worth noting that The Poplars became the setting for a movie production company to film a football story with the title – “She Will Play On”, to be shown on all major cinemas (well perhaps not!) but that might put the Poplars on the map!

We have made improvements to the clubhouse with external and internal lighting, a new security front door, and we should soon see a refurbishment of the bar area and look forward to re-opening the alcohol bar for Friday nights during the summer.

Our annual fireworks display was a huge success - we were so lucky to have a window of dry weather to enable it to go ahead! Our new system of issuing pre-paid tickets worked well and helped the queues move quickly and efficiently on the night. A big THANK YOU to The Post Office, Nola and Rhubarbs for selling them on our behalf; we couldn’t have done it without you! We are also incredibly grateful to our dedicated team of staff and all the councillors and volunteers for helping us get the 1200+ spectators through the gates, also to the great concessions who kept everyone fed and watered, and of course to First Galaxy Fireworks for the fantastic display!



Fireworks Night at The Poplars Sports Ground

Football

Another very successful year for the clubs, despite the great volumes of rainwater preventing access to the ground on occasion. Walking Football is the latest addition to the many activities, and the Council is delighted to have agreed on a Partnership and Service Level Agreement with Burton Joyce Football Club, which should provide long term benefits

to both parties. We found it very reassuring that the 3G pitch passed its 3-year review “test” thanks to the hard work put in by the grounds team, and its future looks secure. A new club has now joined and have booked a Monday night slot and we’ve had numerous requests from external clubs to use the pitch during the summer months.



Burton Joyce Football Club Play at Home

Cricket

Following its recent merger with Carlton Cricket Club the Burton Joyce Cricket Club is thriving once again; the joint venture has assisted in ensuring that the Club continues to play competitively. It will also be re-starting its Sunday XI team in the forthcoming season after a 5-year break. This change was much welcomed by the Poplars Committee and served to allay previous concerns regarding the Club’s continuation.



Burton Joyce Cricket Club

Archery

Burton Joyce Archery Club remains a thriving and well attended Club at the site. Unfortunately, the portacabin used to store equipment was vandalised on more than one

occasion this year and as a result discussion has taken place with Network Rail to improve the level of security and prevent access from the station.



Burton Joyce Archery Club

Pétanque

The Pétanque group also continues to thrive and expand, and numbers have grown to the point where we have provided a new piste and improved access to the site.

Walking Netball

The Walking Netball team plays regularly on a Monday morning on the 3G pitch and continue to enjoy their weekly meet ups.



Walking Netball

Bowls Club

The Bowls Club season starts in April each year and are always pleased to welcome new members to join the existing team of regulars. At the end of last season in September Cllr Laurence King was delighted to be asked to attend the Bowls Club's Presentation Day to present trophies to winning players. Thanks were extended by the Club to Laurence and the rest of the Parish Council for their help and support over the year, particularly to grounds team for their excellent maintenance of the bowls green.



Burton Joyce Bowls Club, Presentation Day

Amenities Committee

Chair – Cllr Paul Hyde

The Amenities Committee oversees the running of The Old School Building, The Grove, Roberts Recreation Ground, the cemetery, the allotments, the war memorial and the millennium sundial area.

The Grove is a tranquil park at the top of Willow Wong and provides a space for casual play for children in the village and an ideal place to picnic. It is also where we hold the annual 'Picnic in the Park' event, in conjunction with the BJ Community Brass Band.



The Grove

The allotments continue to be popular with a long waiting list of people requesting plots. Our thanks to Deputy Clerk, Jayne Savage who plays an important role in liaising with plot holders and the Garden Holder's Association for managing the allocation of the plots plus work in cemetery plot bookings.



Trent Lane Allotments



The Cemetery, Church Road

The cemetery is a place of contemplation and reflection and staff were delighted to receive positive comments recently regarding its high quality maintenance. We were pleased to receive notification from Balfour Beatty and their subcontractor Hanson in December who were able to complete the retarmacking of the pathways. This was part of their 'social values' commitment to the village following their involvement in the construction of the Gedline Access Road (Colliery Way) and was provided to the Parish Council free of charge.



Hanson, sub-contractor for Balfour Beatty Retarmac the Cemetery Paths this winter

Roberts Recreation Ground has become even more popular since its re-vamp in 2022. It is delightful to see so many families enjoying this facility in the centre of the village. This year we installed a new low-level self-closing gate in response to the request from park users.



Roberts Recreation Ground

Community Engagement Committee

Cllr Yvonne Greenfield

The Community Engagement Committee works collaboratively with local groups and societies as well as outside organisations such as Network Rail and Severn Trent Water. It also organises many of the community events which take place in the village. During the last year, the BJ Climate Action Group, Village Hall Committee, Community Market and Open Gardens have interacted with the Parish Council through this committee. The Parish Council's Environmental Plan has been reviewed and updated with the Climate Action Group and wildflowers and pollinator friendly plants have been introduced in locations around the village. We will be participating in another meeting with Network Rail to discuss rail crossing safety and assist in planning possible safety days to be hosted by NR. There remains considerable concern regarding safe crossing behaviours. However, the necessity to keep all our rail crossings open is consistently emphasised, but the need to work together with all village groups and stakeholders remains. The Village Hall has been working on their 5 year plan for refurbishment and organising fund-raising activities and look forward to celebrating their centenary year in 2025. The Parish Council regularly attend the Community Market, organised by Karen Taylor to provide the opportunity for you to engage with your Parish Councillors, and to support the Community Market and the benefit it brings to the village each month.

In July the Burton Joyce Open Gardens event was held in the village. The sun shone and some incredibly beautiful gardens were opened to the public through the generous support of members of our community. We were pleased to be able to assist with this event at the Old School Building and our thanks go out to Roxanne and Steve Hickling and all the volunteers for the tremendous effort they put into organising such a successful event. We are very grateful that 50% of the proceeds were donated to the Parish Council to invest in the Old School Building's community garden.



Burton Joyce Open Gardens

October 2023 saw the launch and trial run of the first 'Pop-Up Food Fayre' in the grounds of the Old School Building. This initiative was run and organised by local entrepreneur and owner of Paddington's Waffle Station, Jane Jephson, who recognised a need in the village for people to casually meet on a Sunday and grab a drink or bite to eat "*meet, eat, chat*". The Parish Council offered support to Jane in the first few months in getting this exciting new initiative off the ground and following its success and support will run it jointly every last Sunday of the month for the rest of the calendar year.



Launch of the Pop-Up Food Fayre

The 2023 Christmas Fair and Lights Switch-On was once again a fabulous occasion, bringing the community together. We were delighted to support businesses in the expanded selection of stalls this year, both at the Old School Building and in the Cross Keys car park. We were pleased to use the Old School Building grounds to their full potential and extend the space available for the stalls. Coordinating the event was a real team effort, from installing the lights display, to organising the stalls, entertainment and logistics. A huge thank you to our

dedicated team of staff for making it such a success as well as to the wonderful contributors; The Trent Valley Singers, BJ Choral Society, BJ Community Brass, BJ Primary School, the Sherwood Chapter Harley Davidson bikers and all the stall holders.



Christmas Fair and Lights Switch-On

Picnic in the Park

It was wonderful to see so many people attend this annual event in which Burton Joyce Brass played a fantastic selection of music to the audience for a restful and entertaining afternoon. We look forward hosting the next one on Saturday 7th September 2024.



Picnic in the Park 2023



BURTON JOYCE PARISH COUNCIL

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