

MINUTES OF THE PARISH ASSEMBLY OF ROECLIFFE AND WESTWICK
PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 4th APRIL 2022 in Roecliffe School Hall

1. Present

Cllr Bolland (Chair), Cllr Baird, Cllr Newberry, Cllr Reeve, Cllr Varley, Cllr Tulip, Cllr N Brown, Parish Clerk and 14 members of the public.

2. Apologies

Mrs Lesley Briggs, Headmistress Roecliffe Primary School

3. Minutes of Last Meeting (12/04/2021)

These were agreed as correct and were signed by the Chairman.

4. Chairman's Report

Cllr Bolland gave the opening report; this is attached as **Appendix 1**

5. Neighbourhood Plan Report

Cllr Bolland gave the Neighbourhood Plan Report. This is attached as **Appendix 2**

6. Finance Report

The Parish Clerk gave the Finance Report. This is attached as **Appendix 3.**

7. Planning Report

Cllr Newberry gave the Planning Report. This is attached as **Appendix 4.**

8. Headteacher's Report

No Report.

5. Parochial Church Council Report

Jim Bolland gave the PCC Report. This is incorporated under **Appendix 5** of the minutes.

6. WI Report

Helen Davison gave the WI Report. This is attached as **Appendix 6** of the minutes

7. Neighbourhood Watch Report

Cllr Bolland gave the neighbourhood Watch Report for Roecliffe and Stuart Varley gave the report for Roecliffe Park. These are attached under **Appendix 7** of the minutes.

The meeting closed at 7.55 pm.

APPENDIX 1

MEETING OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF ROECLIFFE AND WESTWICK PARISH COUNCIL

THE PARISH COUNCIL REPORT FOR 2022

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

The Unitary Council for North Yorkshire will come into effect in April 2023. For the next year it will be one of transition. The Local Elections for Parish Councils and District Councils will take place on Thursday, May 5th and will last for five years, so the next elections won't be until 2027. There will be 90 District Cllrs serving the Unitary Council, and each one will have a population twice the size that they have at present. Our District Cllr Nick Brown is standing again but, if elected, will now have Bishop Monkton as his largest population with Wathdale, Sharow, Copt Hewick and Roecliffe also included.

This year the village green has continued in much better shape. The posts and signs displayed around the green have done their job exceedingly well and recently Cllr Newberry has made more and added them where needed to protect the village green. They are quite unobtrusive but so effective. However it was necessary to include some larger white posts where obviously some vehicles decided to ride roughshod over the smaller ones. The village green has looked very pretty this spring, and I must thank those in Roecliffe Park who maintain the flower boxes as one enters the village, and also the plants under the village notice board.

The bus stop area still gets very torn up and the PC are trying to get the tarmac section enlarged. HBC has agreed this is necessary if hearses use it so mourners will not step out into mud from the hearse. The plan is that once the Ogden development has tarmac laid, then we might be able to get the contractors to tarmac this area, otherwise the cost is prohibitive.

The canopies of trees on the village green have been raised to allow grass cutting to take place. Luckily no major damage was done to the trees during the storms we have experienced. A full examination of all the trees on the village green is envisaged for 2022.

We are hoping to get a grant from Boroughbridge Lions to improve Roecliffe Common through purchase of more bark for the paths, wild flowers for around the pond, more bird boxes and generally making the area more attractive. One aim is to encourage the school to use the area for nature rambles. Our hope was that we might be able to extend our pathway from its present exit onto the main road to extend as far as the Crown Inn, but it does not seem to be possible without some traffic calming on the main road that might include a chicane close to The Crown to allow a footpath to be laid.

I would like to thank Cllr Newberry, who has once again been involved in replacing damaged planks on the broad walk and the decking in the pond area.

The main issue this year has been speeding traffic on Bar Lane. Gary McCaffrey, who works for Highways, has kindly placed speed bands in the road to check speeds. Not surprisingly very few vehicles keep to the speed limit, with the majority going more than 30mph in a 30mph area.

The Parish Council have therefore been considering VAS signs telling drivers to slow down. Initially we considered two VAS signs on Bar Lane, which in reality would protect only a few houses, whereas speeding vehicles entering Roecliffe from Bishop Monkton is just as big an issue especially as there is no footpath.

So a two pronged approach is in place. As VAS signs are so expensive it has been decided to install just one VAS sign in Bar Lane, and at the Bishop Monkton end of the village to try to persuade Highways to take the 30mph sign back to the other side of Sheaflands Lane, so that another VAS sign could be positioned to slow vehicles entering the village.

With the generous contributions from Robert Windass, our County Cllr, Reed Boardall and Paynes Dairies, we have managed to purchase the one VAS sign without using any precept. This was promised to be in place by the end of February, but is being held up because North Yorkshire haven't been able to find the time to position the post to house the VAS sign!

Visits have been made to Reed Boardall and Paynes Dairies. Our District Cllr and I went to see Marcus Boardall. They have experienced bad times during the Pandemic, have lost drivers, but are now training bus drivers, who get a better deal. Their new store is in full use now. However prices have been depressed and profits well down.

A visit was also made to Paynes Dairies with our District Cllr, Cllr Nick Baird and Constance Pillar. Noise issues were taken up with Charlie Payne that had been reported by villagers, the litter issue, as well as the mess of his parking area in Brickyard Road, and speeding vehicles. All issues were discussed fully, but whether there have been improvement is hard to say, as recently other villagers complain about the noise issue as well. These appear to come from refrigerated vehicles serving as extra cooling storage, running overnight. He will check the number of vehicles using refrigerated units and also check other vehicles for noise pollution. Charlie also promised to have a meeting with his drivers as it was related to him that we had evidence to show that his vehicles constantly break the speed limit on Bar Lane.

Talking of litter, a big thank you to the twelve litter pickers who took part in a litter pick recently and collected 21 bags of rubbish. Two enthusiastic litter pickers went as far as the lay by on the A168 and were incited to write to Highways with the so called rubbish they had found there. Whilst giving thanks to residents, a special mention to John Ind who cleared the footpath from the village to Alexanders., something the P.C. had been trying to get done for two or three years! The situation had got so bad that parents had to push prams in the main road. Another two areas where the PC can't make progress is the replacement of the bollard under the A1M bridge, and stopping HGVs parking overnight in Becklands Close and Brickyard Road.

Photographs of number plates of vehicles have been taken and forwarded to police but the situation remains.

The Parish Council holds money from the defunct Village Fund, and some of this is being used to fund a party on the village green to celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee on Sunday, June 5th. Heather Lawson has kindly taken on the responsibility to organise this and a meeting has just taken place to find volunteers to help take on some of the organisation.. Another project is to plant some trees in Bar Lane as part of the Queen's Green Canopy, but this will not take place until the autumn.

It just remains for me to thank all the Cllrs, and our Clerk, for the work they have done in the past year, and in fact during this election cycle In particular I would like to thank our Vice Chairman, Cllr Newberry who has done an excellent job with Planning Applications, and helped with his handiwork to keep the village tidy and safe. Also special thanks to our Clerk Vicki, who has been a big help to me especially with updating our website with all the details for the Neighbourhood Plan, and chasing organisations for action. I would also like to thank our District Cllr Nick Brown and our County Councillor Robert Windass for all their support at meetings and in the field. Four of our Cllrs are stepping down now for different reasons. I have been a Cllr for the past 20 years, more or less since I retired. I have also been Chairman for the past 14 years! I have found the work interesting and frustrating in almost equal measure and have learnt a lot about how Local Government works, having known little when I came to Roecliffe to retire from Brussels in 2000. The time as a Cllr has helped me during the retirement process. Now I would like to see what true retirement is like!

Jim Bolland

Chairman,

Roecliffe and Westwick Parish Council

Appendix 2

Roecliffe and Westwick Neighbourhood Plan

- Report to the Roecliffe Parish Council Assembly Meeting April 4th 2022

On the 27th July 2021, Councillor Myatt, Cabinet Member for Planning at Harrogate Borough Council, resolved to accept the Examiner's recommendations on our Roecliffe & Westwick Neighbourhood Plan, and proceed to referendum.

This was a major step forward since the Examiner had made several suggestions for modification to our Neighbourhood Plan, which were agreed to by the Steering Committee, and updated by HBC.

A Referendum relating to the Roecliffe and Westwick Neighbourhood Plan will now be held on Thursday, 5th May 2022, at the same time as the Local Elections in The Coach House at The Crown Inn.

The question which will be asked in the Referendum is "Do you want Harrogate Borough Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Roecliffe and Westwick to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?"

Obviously it would help stop major planning in our villages if this were the case.

A person is entitled to vote in the Referendum if:

He or she is entitled to vote in any election of any Cllr of HBC whose area is in the Referendum area; and

His or her qualifying address for the election is in the Referendum area. I.e Roecliffe & Westwick.

Our Neighbourhood Plan can be viewed by going to our website: <https://www.roecliffewestwickvillage.co.uk> Once in there go to the section covering the Neighbourhood Plan. There you will see an icon which if you click on it will reveal the Plan which you can scroll down and read. Under the icon is a section titled "Information statement and Neighbourhood Plan Map". This will give you details of what I am outlining here.

All the information is also included on the Harrogate Borough Council website under the heading Neighbourhood Plans.

For those without email a copy of our Neighbourhood Plan with all relevant documents can be found, and inspected at

Harrogate Borough Council Offices,

and at :

The Crown Inn, Roecliffe

The Telephone Kiosk, Roecliffe,

The Church of St. Mary, Roecliffe

Boroughbridge Library, Boroughbridge.

So at last we are hopefully almost there! So long as people go out on Thursday, May 5th, to vote for it. A simple majority is all that is needed for our Neighbourhood Plan to be approved, and for it to be accepted by HBC as part of their Local Development Plan.

It would be wrong of me to finish without thanking the following people who have worked on the Steering Committee for all, or periods of time during the eight years it has taken to complete. The Members were a mix of Parish Councillors and Local residents. It also included the MD of Reed Boardall. The members were Andrew Baldwin, Jim Bolland, Richard Booth, Kerry Dalton, Scott Green, Jo Mitchell, John Newberry, Keith Pettitt, Joyce Reeve, Paul Say, Dave Siswick, Stuart Varley and Adrian Webster. We also had considerable help and input from our Consultant, David Gluck, and our Clerk, Vicki Forbes, who has helped greatly by creating our website and keeping it updated.

My final plea therefore is for everyone eligible to vote for our Neighbourhood Plan to do so on May 5th. It would be a pity to lose eight years hard work!

Jim Bolland 2022

Appendix 3

Finance Report for the Annual Parish Meeting – 4th April 2022

As of 15th March 2021, the balances in the Parish Council bank accounts are:

Community Account:	£15656.41
Business Money Manager Account:	£1254.24

The Community Account includes the receipt of £4104.22 from the Village Fund in January 2020 and £4000 funding for the VAS.

The precept applied for 2022/2023 was £7235.00. The first of two instalments is due later this month. The second instalment is due late September.

Victoria A Forbes
Clerk and RFO to Roecliffe & Westwick Parish Council

Appendix 4

Planning Report for Roecliffe and Westwick Parish Council for the year 2021/2022

Once again, the cloud of Covid has led to a situation of planning applications relating to matters within the Parish being considered individually and remotely by the members of the Parish Council, and the Clerk collating the responses and notifying Harrogate Borough Council of the consensus opinion. Equally I suspect that many of the staff at the Planning Department may have been working from home, judging by the delays in returning emails and acting on requests. Hopefully, this situation will resolve itself within the next twelve months, and normal service can be resumed.

It is fortunate, then, that we have had only ten applications during this last year. Four related to tree work, which always require a planning application as the village itself is within a Conservation Area, and it was interesting that one of these applications related to a tree where the trunk was full of concrete and so we were not certain whether we should approve felling or demolition. Three applications related to one extension/modification of a building, one to a construction of a combined heat and power plant within the Reed Boardall complex, and one to a previously approved extension. There was one application from Northern Power to re-route an overhead power line from close proximity to a house, and an interesting application for some advertising signage at a local business. Despite the signage having been erected by the applicant, this particular application has been rejected twice by HBC and is now subject to an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate and awaiting a decision.

Following the referendum on the election day on May 5th of our own Roecliffe and Westwick Neighbourhood Plan, we will have a greater influence on the outcome of any planning application in our parish. Up to the recent approval of the Harrogate District Plan, the planners were constrained solely by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which was a fairly loosely worded document which gave developers an almost free hand to build what they wanted, where they wanted. The District Plan gave some control over the HBC area, and our own Neighbourhood Plan once approved will further protect our own locality. This of course depends on central government not moving the goalposts in order to cover yet more flood plains with the concrete of massive developments.

It is thus essential that as many parishioners as possible vote at the referendum on Thursday 5th May 2022 to approve the Roecliffe and Westwick Neighbourhood Plan.

Finally, my thanks to all my fellow Parish Councillors, and the Clerk who have helped with planning matters and all the parishioners who have reported broken bridges, blocked footpaths, and drains, and all the sundry matters which make up the infrastructure of our village.

JN 3rd April 2022

Appendix 5

MEETING OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF ROECLIFFE AND WESTWICK PARISH COUNCIL APRIL 4, 2022`

CHURCH OF ST.MARY, ROECLIFFE – REPORT FOR 2021

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – Church of St. Mary, Roecliffe.

For much of the year our Church Services were held by Zoom, and it was not until September that we could hold services back in our church. Therefore another very busy year for our vicar, Karen, having to prepare services for Zoom or U-Tube. But yet again we have been thankful as a church for the effort that she has put into these services.

Karen has also put in place with the UPCC, a Service Plan for the churches which enables her to spend time after a service with the congregation, rather than having to rush off to take another service. She now has the help of two Readers, John Moss, who has now recovered from illness, and Paul Bartle, who has joined us and lives in Roecliffe Park. He will be officially licensed to work with us shortly, but has already started taking services. Paul has been a Reader at two churches in Bradford, but he has now finished there, and we are very lucky to have him living in Roecliffe with Maxine, his wife.

Since September we have been having our regular services in church every month, plus our Harvest Festival, and Carol Concert. Numbers attending have been lower than previously, but naturally some people have been more cautious, since the Coronavirus has not gone away, and presently is as bad as ever, although the vaccine programme has made it far less serious in most cases.

Many of our services have been enhanced through the singing and playing of Jess and Immi especially on those occasions where we have had the vicar playing the organ, and the children helping out during the Communion etc. A major new document that Karen has put together, and each church has considered, is a document called “Somewhere to belong”. It covers growing inclusive churches and covers Welcoming, accepting and involving people, Being accessible to people. Being a safe place, and Celebrating Differences..It features on the Boroughbridge Churches website and it has already attracted new people to our churches! We are also very lucky to have two regular organists living in Roecliffe who play at most of our services, David Bellwood and Elizabeth Jarvis. Thank you very much!

We have had several visits over the year from Mark Sproat of the CCT. He enjoys visiting our church, it is always clean and tidy and he is pleased to see it used, since several of the other churches that Mark cares for are closed to services. He is keen to help us get the East window cleaned, but says the lead has softened and will need replacing. A major job, where he can help to get Lottery support to do the work.

Financially the church is in good shape. Our various Funds have held up well in 2021. We have been able to support the CCT even when we have not been able to hold services in church. The Racket Club has done remarkably well and we have sold 142 numbers to rank with the best ever. Thank you to everyone who supports it.

The Parish Link is now a professional church Parish Magazine and since the price increase to £10 for the year has attracted many more advertisers. Publishing costs are way down since the days when we printed it ourselves.

I would like to thank those who serve on the Roecliffe Church Council, in particular Lisa Daniell who is our Secretary and John Mitchell our Treasurer. Stephen Jarvis and myself remain as Church Wardens, and John Mitchell, David Bellwood and Lisa make up our representation at UPPC Meetings. Lisa is the Safeguarding Officer and is responsible for Safeguarding in all the Boroughbridge Churches. Thanks are also in order for all those who clean the church every month, those who do flower arranging, those who provide refreshments and finally those who look after the Sanctuary items and altar cloths.

Let us now hope that with Covid regulations completely relaxed that we can now get back to some normality.

Jim Bolland: Chairman, Roecliffe P.C.C.

Appendix 6

WI Report to the Parish Council, April 4th 2022

It hardly seems a year since my last report of an unusual year, but 2021 has also been challenging and unpredictable. We started it in the heart of lockdown, not knowing how events would unfold.

We had 25 members, with 1 dual member, but it would be a while before we could all meet. The first 4 meetings all took place courtesy of Zoom, with not everyone being able or willing to participate. We learned about the story of Minskip Farm Shop, about a wilding project set up by an ex-surgeon, had a very competitive quiz and a games evening as a substitute for our usual annual dinner in March (albeit with cocktails and snacks to hand).

We planned an outdoor meeting for May, to plant a tree near the village pond, but sadly we had to cancel this due to the weather- but the tree was still planted, near the pond, and is now thriving. In June we had a most enjoyable dinner at the newly-opened Crown, then a garden party in July. In August we had a visit to the Aldborough Roman Town and afternoon tea afterwards, gradually getting used to meeting up again.

By September we were back into the school for meetings, with line dancing and then a talk by a local author in October. We ended the year with our AGM in November and a Christmas party in December.

The National WI AGM did take place this year, albeit mainly on Zoom, and the resolution voted in was 'To Highlight Awareness of the Signs of Ovarian Cancer. This was the resolution which we had voted for from the shortlist in January. Our North Yorkshire West Federation has gone through a worrying time over the last 2 years, with Alma House closed, staff on furlough or redundant and events cancelled. Happily, Alma House is open again (with reduced hours) and events are once more being planned. There was no WI involvement in the Great Yorkshire Show in 2021, but that will resume for 2022.

We have continued to support the Ripon Food Bank with contributions of non-perishable food, and this has been warmly welcomed. This year has been a difficult one for many families.

Our Book Club has recently come to an amicable end, but we hope the Craft and Sewing Club will continue as before. Later in 2022 we will be trialling a

move to Monday evenings for our meetings, with the aim of widening our membership. Friday is not a good evening for many people.

My sincere hope is that in 2022 we can return fully to our programme, both at home and with wider events and enjoy once more the friendship, interests and community involvement which the WI stands for. Thank you all for sticking with us.

Appendix 7

Roecliffe and Westwick Neighbourhood Watch

Report to the Roecliffe Parish Council Assembly Meeting April 4th 2022

We are once again having Safer Neighbourhood Group Meetings, which cover the Boroughbridge and Knaresborough areas. The last one was in February with the new Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, Cllr Zoe Metcalfe, who lives in Aldborough. She stated that her chief role is to represent the public and to hold the Chief Constable of the Police and the Chief Fire Officer to account. A new Victims Service hub is starting in York shortly to improve the support given to victims of crime.

We probably have all criticized the 101 service, which is the number to ring to report crimes. The Commissioner stated that the 101 service is a priority issue. A new system was put in place recently in the force control room, for which staff are currently being recruited. The 101 and 999 calls are answered by the same service control team, with 999 calls taking precedence. This had added to the delays in 101 call response times. The Commissioner agreed that response times were an issue and thought greater resourcing should improve the service.

The most recent Police and Crime report for the Boroughbridge and Knaresborough geographical area show that reported crime has increased, but the Police Commissioner said this was due to more crimes now being reported.

The police stressed that incidents of crime in the area are low. ASB crimes have reduced because of the impact of partnership working practices. Incidences of fraud crime has risen in the area. It is reinforced that all people are vulnerable to fraud. There is now a designated Fraud Ambassador in the PCSO staff team.

The Rural Task Force was mentioned as a resource that has influenced the report statistics through their partnership working with the area's officers.

Current figures over the last 12 months for Boroughbridge, and comparison to the last data set – 01/02/2021 to 31/01/2022:-

2.2 ASB incidents reported each month, which is the same as the last assessment period.

5.9 reported crimes each month which equates to 2.0% of the total Harrogate Area. This is 0.1 average incidents per month down from the last assessment period.

9.6 Public Safety and Welfare incidents per month, which equate to 2% of the total Harrogate demand. This is down 0.3 PSW incidents average per month from the last data set.

The Neighbourhood Watch organisation now no longer exists nationally. Messages once given by Neighbourhood Watch are now given by various other organisations using social media and internet based systems.

Whereas at these meetings it is always said that we live in the safest part of the country, we must not be complacent. We must be extra vigilant and keep all tools, garden implements etc locked away. With the cost of fuel increasing so fast, we must look after any stocks of diesel etc that we might have and where possible keep cars in garages.

Neighbourhood Watch works by us all protecting our own, and keeping a vigilant eye on other's property. If there are problems, call the 101 police number or 999 for urgent police matters.

I would strongly urge the new Parish Council that they appoint someone to attend this meeting in the future, as there is some very useful information that is shared.

Jim Bolland 2022

Roecliffe Park – Cllr Varley

I am pleased to report there were no problems on the park last year as the neighbourhood watch coordinator i monitor neighbourhood watch reports and warnings and I pass on any relevant ones to people on the park.

Also Turners who own the park are about to commence work to provide 14 new homes in the top field this will cause site access problems through the village and as construction sites attract undesirable attention we will be more vigilant as to what is happening on the park.