

MINUTES OF THE PARISH ASSEMBLY OF ROECLIFFE AND WESTWICK
PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 20th MARCH 2017 AT ROECLIFFE SCHOOL

1. Present

Cllr Siswick (Chair), Cllr Newberry, Cllr Bolland, Cllr Reeve, Cllr Green, Cllr Varley, Mrs VA Forbes (Parish Clerk) and 20 members of the public.

2. Apologies

District Cllr Brown

3. Minutes of Last Meeting (20/04/2017)

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

4. Neighbourhood Plan Report

David Gluck from Plan Ahead Communities was appointed as Consultant to the Neighbourhood Plan Committee in November 2017. Mr Gluck gave a presentation to explain the Neighbourhood Plan, show where the Village is at present, the next stages in the process and the advantages of adopting a Neighbourhood Plan.

There are many stages and consultations required to complete the Plan and these are mostly complete. The Plan is currently in the writing stage into the correct format to present to Harrogate Borough Council. The Plan is a legal document and will be taken into account for planning decisions and community projects. It also has to fit in with the overall Plan for the Harrogate Borough. The current Plan does not include housing site allocations but any future Plans can if agreed. It contains visions, objectives and themes for the neighbourhood including

- Preserving and enhancing the built environment
- New housing development
- Village services and assets of community values
- Footpaths, bridleways etc.
- Green spaces and maintaining green space between the village and the industrial estate
- Local economy which includes support to improve broadband provision

Once the Plan is submitted to HBC, it will undergo a 6 week consultation period for parishioners and stakeholders to give their feedback. Once agreed, an external examiner is appointed to examine the Plan and report back to HBC. When the Plan is finally agreed there will be a Community Referendum. A simple 50%+ majority will allow the Plan to come into force as part of the statutory development plan for the area.

5. Chairman's Report

Cllr Siswick gave the Chairman's report. He commenced by thanking the Parish Councillors for their hard work and support during the last year and commented how well the village was looking. He also thanked the village litter pickers and also to Reed Boardall and Payne Diaries for their litter picking efforts.

The issue of damage to the verges in the village needs to be addressed. Roping off areas of the Village Green to preserve play areas has helped. There has been maintenance work carried out on the trees which led to 5 trees being condemned although 1 tree was saved. Discussions are taking place to replace the trees. Several trees have also been pruned to improve visibility for drivers exiting driveways. Further to queries about the quality of the grass cutting, Cllr Varley investigated this extensively and the conclusion was that we currently have the best option. Harrogate Borough Council has withdrawn funding.

During the year, 2 trees have fallen on the common and an ash tree was found dead. The wood from these trees was logged and offered to villagers to burn. The common is looking better but the Pond needs attention. Due to various reasons including aquatic life, this is best left to the end of the year.

Thanks were also given to Cllr Green for his work with the Open Country Charity. The Harrogate based Charity provides people with disabilities access to the countryside and has been providing members with therapeutic work on the common.

The continuing problem of gullies and drains overflowing has not improved although it is obvious some sort of drainage work is taking place beside Reed Boardall.

Two RAF war graves from the 2nd world war have been identified in the cemetery and the War Graves Commission will be providing a plaque. Cllr Newberry is liaising with the commission.

There are plans to celebrate the end of the 1st world war with a Bonfire in November. The venue is to be confirmed.

HGV signs are still not installed and we are waiting for North Yorkshire Council to action this. The motor way services and sugar beet factory seems to have been temporarily halted.

The Crown has been sold and thanks were extended to Karl and Amanda for all their support. Cllr Bolland mentioned that he has met with the new owners who are very keen to keep the good relationship with the village.

6. Finance Report

Cllr Siswick gave the Finance Report as the Clerk was new to the role. Funds are low due to works being done but the Precept is due this month. A new account has been opened with Barclays Bank for the Neighbourhood Plan. A grant of £4818.00 was received for the costs of producing the Plan. The usual signature rules apply to this account.

7. Planning Report

Cllr Siswick gave the Planning Report for the year. He noted that it had been a quiet year, mostly connected with tree work. All trees with a trunk wider than 150 mm need to have planning permission for work to be done as the village is a conservation area.

8. Headteacher's Report

Stephen Jarvis, Chair of the Governors gave the Head Teacher's report.

The school has 4 classes with 100 pupils on role and is financially viable. Staffing remains consistent. Last summer's production, 'The Lion King' was performed in Bishop Monkton Village Hall. Ofsted visited in October with a good outcome for the school and some areas considered outstanding. Class 4 visited Marrick Priory last year and a trip to France is planned for October. Christmas as usual was a very busy time and the carol service in the church was well attended.

The school was considered for inclusion as 'An Asset of Community Value' but was unsuccessful.

On 26th April 2018 there will be a fund raising evening entitled 'An evening of Opera'. This will involve supper and arias! Tickets will be available via Eventbrite and Minskip Farm Shop.

9. Village Fund Report

Carolyn Collin gave the Village Fund Report. Please see Appendix 1 of the minutes.

10. Parochial Church Council Report

Jim Bolland gave the PCC Report. This is incorporated under Appendix 2 of the minutes.

11. WI Report

Helen Davison gave the WI Report. This is attached as Appendix 3 of the minutes

12. 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 4 of the minutes.

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APPENDIX 1

Village Fund Committee

Chair - Carolyn Collin
Treasurer – Lisa Daniels
Secretary – Rachael Say
Scott Green
John Feildhouse
Mary Jane Ogden
Judith Newbury

The Village Fund Committee was responsible for raising money to maintain the 39 trees around the village. This came under review by the Parish Council as four trees were felled this year, at a large cost. At a Parish Council meeting, held on the 18th December, the Village Fund was discussed as part of the future budget planning for Roecliffe.

It was proposed and agreed by the Parish Council that the Precept, which is an annual levy set by the Parish Council to cover anticipated costs within the village, would be increased. This would cover the cost of the tree maintenance and extensive work needed in the common area by the pond. This way everyone in the village contributes to the cost, fairly.

The Parish Council were very keen that the Village Fund continue to arrange social events and gatherings for the village.

We would still encourage volunteers to help with less arduous maintenance around the village such as the pond area, path ways, benches, notice boards, telephone box etc.

Future events we will be organising include:

A Village Fun Day on Sunday 15th July with bring your own picnic, BBQ's will be provided, a baking competition, rounders and a treasure hunt. This is a super opportunity to get to meet other people in the village and make newcomers welcome.

In November we will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the ending of World War 1, with a village gathering and bonfire.

And next year we will be organising a barn dance..

I would like to thank the Village Fund committee members for their continued support and I wish to say a special thank you to the Parish Council for all the dedicated, voluntary work they do to keep Roecliffe unspoilt. I would also like to thank Joyce Reeves and Sue Parnell for their continued generosity in maintaining the three flower tubs in the village.

The Village Fun Day last year raised £202. Currently we have £4154 in our account. We donated £50 to Open Country for help with the recent pond clearing organised by Scott Green. The money in the Village Fund account and any future money raised will be held and used to aid the Parish Council should they have any funding shortfalls for maintenance in the village.

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APPENDIX 2

MEETING OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF ROECLIFFE AND WESTWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Roecliffe Primary School, Monday April 9th, 2018 at 7:00pm.

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

I start this year with the major news that our vicar, the Revd Diane Westmorerland is taking early retirement at the end of June this year and is going to retire in the Thirsk area. She has only been with us two years so has barely had chance to get to know her parishioners but we thank her for her support in Roecliffe.. And so we will enter into Interregnum again.

As a community we appreciate how lucky we are that the Churches Conservation Trust own and look after the fabric of our church. They really do an excellent job. At present because of their lack of funding it is basic work and they don't have money to do other jobs that we would like doing such as cleaning the East and West windows..

We do support the CCT through donations that our Church Council make to the CCT, also half our collections and money from the Donation's Box. Overall we do cover the cost that the CCT put in to maintain the building which is around £800 per year.. We are also one of a small number of CCT churches that pays for its own heating before services.

The Church Council is responsible for maintaining our churchyard. but apart from grass cutting we have had little to do in the past year.

Congregations for the last year have if anything increased slightly to an average of 26 adults and children each service.. However, if one lumps together our Easter Day, Harvest Festival, Christmas Carol Concert and Christmas Day services these have been attended by 195 in 2017 as against 204 in 2016..

Many visitors visit the church at weekends and we try and persuade them to sign the visitor's book since the CCT benefits, the more visitors we have. During the past 12 months there have been no baptisms or weddings, but sadly three funerals; namely, Antony Padden, Margaret Thomas and Mervyn Braithwaite.

Financially the church is in good shape. Our various Funds have increased in 2017 by just under 11% on the previous year. We made a small loss of £500 on our Income/Expenditure but we covered our Parish Share of £9777 for the year.

During 2017 we organised two Quiz nights.. Thanks to Dave Siswick and Laurence Bishop for acting as our Quiz Masters and The Crown for their support providing a room and refreshments. The Racket Club had a good year with 110 numbers being sold each month.

This year we are now looking forward to a Safari Supper in September a coffee morning in July, and a Quiz Night in November..

At last month's Church Council Annual Meeting we said goodbye to Amanda Mainey who has served on the Church Council for several years. We thank her for her service as we do other Committee Members, in particular Lisa Daniell who is our Secretary and John Mitchell our Treasurer. Stephen Jarvis and myself continue as Church Wardens. Thanks to David Bellwood and Elizabeth Jarvis who give us excellent support playing the organ for our services.

As Chairman of the Church Council, I would like to thank all those who arrange flowers in church. We now have a flower rota and several more people have come forward to arrange flowers with some excellent results. Thanks also to Heather who has organised the cleaning rota for the church and encouraged many new cleaners onto the rota. Finally thanks to those who provide coffee and refreshments after services. Without all your help we would be lost.

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

APPENDIX 3

WI Report – Helen Davison

This has been my fourth year as President of Roecliffe WI, and I am still enjoying it- representing such a friendly and supportive group has been a pleasure. We currently have 25 members with one dual member, and welcomed 2 new members this year- Sue Baird and Julie Thompson. Julie has also joined our committee, bringing a younger perspective to our meetings. The average attendance at meetings was 17, - down on last year, we must be having too many holidays!!- and we welcomed 29 guests during the year- mostly at our open meeting in June. There were 25 attendees at the Annual Dinner in March, held as usual at The Crown.

Activities

The year has certainly flown, with the usual shows and meetings, and various courses and entertainments arranged by the North Yorkshire West Federation.

In April there was the Federation Spring Council at Tennant's of Leyburn at which Cynthia was our delegate. In June it was the national AGM, this year held in Liverpool. The delegate from our group was our very own Susan , who thoroughly enjoyed the day, and produced a lively report for all of the WIs in our Boroughbridge group. This year 2 resolutions were passed- 'Alleviating Loneliness' and 'Plastic Soup, keep Microplastics out of our oceans' both issues which have been taken up beyond the WI.

July was the Great Yorkshire Show. Roecliffe WI entered all the individual classes and the collaborative class, and we came 3rd overall against very stiff competition.

September was federation quiz time. We were second in our heat , beaten by the eventual winners Burton Leonard. As usual there were a few heated moments- we WI ladies are a competitive lot!

We have also continued to be involved in village matters such as the Neighbourhood Plan and the village website, and helped to organize a 'bake-off' competition at the Fun day in June. WI members also helped in the organization of Heather Lawson's hugely successful MacMillan coffee morning in September, including making a quilt of knitted squares to raffle.

Speakers

Our speakers this year have been varied and very interesting . We have had **crafts**- hand knitting and upcycling, **history**- Eleanor of Aquitaine, **good causes**- dementia forward and Detection dogs, **demonstrations**- an outing to Cooking fantastic and Avon Cosmetics and **lively talks** by Hotter Shoes and Yorkshire Heart Vineyards(which was our open meeting, very well attended).

There will be a small change to our programme of meetings this year. We have decided to have September as our holiday month instead of August, since so many of us go away in September after the school holidays have finished. Also, from this year we will be claiming Gift Aid on the subscriptions (or at least on our portion of the

money) of those who have signed up. We can claim this retrospectively for up to 4 years.

Organisations such as ours are dependent on our members, and Roecliffe is very lucky in that respect, but new members, and committee members, are always welcome. We continue to be an organization of happy, friendly ladies who enjoy being part of a vibrant national organization.

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APPENDIX 4

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

We are extremely lucky that North Yorkshire is still one of the safest places to live in the UK and little crime is reported in our area.

As secretary of the Safer Neighbourhood Group in Boroughbridge I am well aware as to changes that have come about in the past year. P.C. Neil Waite retired last summer and has been replaced by P.C. Jan Powell. Our new Inspector of Police, Simon Williamson has four top priorities.

- Protecting vulnerable people and keeping them safe.
- Cutting crime and intervention
- Preventing and early intervention
- Improving victim care.

Rural crime is included in the cutting crime priority.

The local crime picture, and this refers to the Boroughbridge area, shows robberies down from 5 to 3. Burglary of dwellings down 30% (in Boroughbridge area 6), sexual offences up 66% (a rise of 6), and here the Internet is the major issue. Bicycle thefts down 37% (8 to 5). Overall crime is down by 11%. The police have good cooperation from the public.

So, although overall crime is under control we must continue to be vigilant and report any suspicious event to the police.

Bogus callers are on the increase and one must always be concerned with so called traders knocking on your door offering to do work at ridiculously low prices, or selling produce that has probably fallen from the back of a truck.

We are all aware of telephone scams especially those to do with our computers, when they tell you that there is a problem and they will help you sort it out by gaining control. What they want to do is get access to passwords and pins for bank accounts etc.

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

Jim Bolland

Roecliffe Park Neighbourhood Watch Report 2018

As Neighbourhood watch coordinator for Roecliffe Park, I have to report it has been a quiet and peaceful year.

We have only had 2 minor issues which were dealt with on the Park. The first incident was an attempted mail scam involving a Roecliffe Park resident receiving a letter from someone in China looking for relatives of a client of the bank in Hong Kong who had deposited 14 million US dollars in January 2005. Unfortunately he was killed in an accident in 2006 in mainland China which means he died intestate. As his surname was the same as his, he could be related. All he had to do was contact the sender and confirm his details. We passed this information on to trading standards and the police who issued a crime number. We presume the China man is still waiting to hear from us.

The second incident involved people cold calling on the Park looking to undertake repair work. Roecliffe Park is a no cold calling zone, set up 2 years ago by trading standards. When this was pointed out to them, they insisted they were not cold calling as they had put a flyer through the letter boxes before knocking. Once we pointed out the no cold calling sign at the site entrance they quickly left and have not been back.

Stuart Varley