

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH ASSEMBLY OF ROECLIFFE AND WESTWICK**  
**PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 15<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2019 AT ROECLIFFE SCHOOL**

**1. Present**

Cllr Boland (Chair), Cllr Newberry, Cllr Reeve, Cllr Varley, Cllr Baird, Cllr Tulip and 20 members of the public.

**2. Apologies**

Mrs VA Forbes (Parish Clerk)

**3. Minutes of Last Meeting (9/04/2018)**

These were agreed as correct once the date of the meeting was changed to 2018 instead of 2017.

**4. Neighbourhood Plan Report** Introducing the Roecliffe and Westwick Village Website.

David Gluck from Plan Ahead Communities, Consultant to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, gave this report. Mr Gluck gave a presentation to explain the Neighbourhood Plan and to show where the village is at present. When complete the Plan is a legal document and will be taken into account for planning decisions and community projects. It has to fit in with the overall Plan for Harrogate Borough (which is itself unfinished).

We are now at the stage of presenting it as a Regulation 14 pre-submission consultation. At this time a summary of the Plan will go to HBC, and be given to each household and all Stakeholders, for them to make their comments, so that they can be considered by the Steering Group and the Plan modified if necessary. This consultation will take 6 weeks, so households were encouraged to make their comments sooner rather than later. So the six weeks started as from today. Copies of the Neighbourhood Plan will be placed in Boroughbridge Library, Roecliffe Telephone Kiosk, and Roecliffe Church for people to view. Once the final Plan has been 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.

The session finished with the new Roecliffe & Westwick Village website being launched. Its URL is [www.roecliffewestwickvillage.co.uk](http://www.roecliffewestwickvillage.co.uk)

Some questions came up, footpaths around the village green etc and whether these were part of the plan. Such things are comments to make in the next 6 weeks.

Scott Green thanked David Gluck for all the help he had given the Steering Group since he came on board.

#### **5. Chairman's Report**

Cllr Bolland gave the Chairman's report. This is incorporated under Appendix 1 of the minutes.

#### **6. Finance Report**

Cllr Bolland gave the Finance report in The Clerk's absence. This is incorporated under Appendix 2 of the minutes.

The accounts will be audited internally on April 24th. There is now no need for an external auditor since we have less than £25,000 precept.

#### **7. Planning Report**

Cllr Newberry gave this report. This is incorporated under Appendix 3 of the minutes.

#### **8. Head teacher's Report**

Lesley Briggs, the new Headteacher from January 2019 gave this report. She reported she was now settling into her new role and enjoying it. The school has been tidied up a lot and the Hall gave proof of this as it now looks more like a Church of England school. New Visions have been put together which stresses the Church of England role. The school continues to do well. Parking was discussed since Lesley is trying to adopt a method of parents driving to the school in the morning and dropping their children off, and then driving off again straight away. For this to happen the school lay-by needs to be kept free.

#### **9. Village Fund report**

There was no Village Fund Report. Carolyn Collin has recently relinquished the role as Chair of this group, and as yet no one has taken over the reins.

#### **10. Parochial Church Council Report**

Jim Bolland gave the PCC Report. This is incorporated under Appendix 4 of the minutes.

#### **11. WI Report**

Helen Davison gave the WI report. This is incorporated under Appendix 5 of the minutes.

#### **12. Neighbourhood Watch Report**

PCSO Phil Wright joined us for this part of the meeting.

Stuart Varley said that the Roecliffe Park Neighbourhood Watch Team had had a very quiet year.

Jim Bolland had prepared a report which was not given since his points were covered in the discussion. The Boroughbridge Police Station has now closed, but they still have a presence in an office at the Boroughbridge Fire Station. This allows the PC and 2x PCSOs to be around more often. Phil warned about rural crime that is on the increase in N. Yorkshire, but they have a Rural Watch constantly on the lookout. He encouraged people to register for the Police Fraud website since fraud is also on the increase. It was suggested to the police that if there were CCTV cameras as one enters Bar Lane from Boroughbridge, and as one leaves Bishop Monkton then this might help catch criminals?

Regarding offenders who still park overnight in roads off Bar Lane , then the police can do little to police this, but Phil said that if regular offenders were reported ie Registration numbers then they will contact them. Foreigners are difficult to trace though.

Crime figure for the past six months are as follows:

Criminal damage 1

Suspicious/Concern 4 (including 1 x Drunk.

Burglary of Business 1 (items recovered same day)

Violence 2 (1 x mental health and 1 x alcohol)

Animal 1 (poaching)

Theft 2

Please see Appendix 6

The Parish Assembly finished at 8.15pm.

## Appendix 1

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

In May 2018 there were new elections to the Parish Council. At that time three previous Cllrs decided not to stand; Scott Green after 25 years' service, Dave Siswick after 10 years and Diane Bishop after two. On behalf of fellow Cllrs I would like to thank all of them for their services to the Parish Council, and above all to the village. Luckily two new Cllrs joined the Parish Council; Clls Janet Tulip and Nick Baird, who are both proving effective in their respective roles. I would like to thank all the Cllrs for their support, and hard work over the past year.

Last year we had major problems with verges to the village green which had been badly damaged by vehicles cutting corners and being impatient. It was not helped by the wet weather during winter, but it did detract quite markedly on the otherwise beautiful village green.

This year the P.C. have taken measures to improve the situation. Cllr Newberry has proved himself a most capable DIY individual, by gaining the approval of Highways to put wooden posts at strategic points around the village green, and then making the posts, including reflectors for around £10 each. We also took advantage of our sign writer along the A168 retiring by purchasing new signs to stop vehicles parking on the road or green on a bus route. Again John has made these more sturdy through putting them on two posts, rather than the one previously. Apart from one major incident when one vehicle managed to wipe out three posts and a sign in one movement, they have done an excellent job. But John showed the versatility of his posts by repairing them all and reinstating them the same day. So all this has resulted in our being able to enjoy the beauty of the village this spring. And whilst talking about the beauty of the village I would like to thank those people in Roecliffe Park, especially our two Roecliffe Park Cllrs, Joyce and Stuart and the Proctor family for building and maintaining the flower baskets as one enters Roecliffe from either end, and beneath the village notice board. Sadly, one of the flower boxes has been stolen, as one enters the village from Boroughbridge.

Sadly we lost another of our Lime trees on the village green during high winds. The damage to the tree was so great that the remainder had to be felled and the roots ground. This tree has been replaced by a walnut tree kindly donated by Tim and Carolyn Collin. All the trees have been trimmed to prevent them overhanging the road, and the crowns lifted so as not to impede the grass cutters. Thanks to Cllrs Varley and Newberry.

Thanks are in order to Scott Green and his continued work with the Open Country Charity and the work they have done on Roecliffe Common. Cllr Tulip is also trying to get Lottery Funding to extend the footpath onto the Common, so it starts closer to the viaage, plus funding to do further work around, and in the pond area.

Maintenance work has been carried out on the drains around Reed Boardall which is hopefully going to prevent the flooding problem on Bar Lane during periods of heavy rain. I have tried several times to get the contractors to come and finish the work off, and removing the temporary fencing, but so far with no success.

As a P.C. we took part in the Nation's Tribute to mark 100 years since the end of WW1 and to commemorate and remember the end of the war and the many millions killed, including three from Roecliffe. After the reading of the Commendation and the sounding of The Last Post, our brazier was one of 1200 lit around the UK at 7.00pm on Nov 11th. Thanks to all those who helped organise this, and it was so good to see so many villagers attend..

HGV signs have now been installed, which are meant to stop HGVs park off Bar Lane at night. Personally I feel they have offered slight improvement, but I am not sure residents of Bar Lane would agree. It is hard to imagine sleeping drivers getting much peace on Brickyard Road with Paynes Dairies lorries constantly to-ing and fro-ing to their new lorry park at the end of Brickyard Road. With no effective policing, and Trading Standards not prepared to help, we will probably have to treat the situation like Boroughbridge Town Council, which is to wait and see if improvements take place. They feel that over time there has been an improvement.

But with these developments bring a really serious issue of human excrement being found at the end of Brickyard Road and towards the disused railway line. HBC refuse to clear up on private land, and District Cllr Nick Brown, and Marcus Boardall are to visit the area to see if it is on private or public land. If on Reed Boardall land then it is their problem.

Reed Boardall continue to be good neighbours. D.Cllr Nick Brown and I visited Marcus Boardall and were able to help them with some major issues they had. As an example, of the help they give us, when Travellers were found on Bar Lane Associates land recently Andrew Baldwin persuaded them to leave the following weekend, and once gone a barrier has been placed across the entrance to the site to prevent them returning.

Thanks to all those who took part in the recent Litter Pick. Special thanks to Brenda Barker who cleared all the rubbish on the hill leading from Bar Lane up the side of the A1M bridge to the motorway!

There is still a problem with speeding traffic on Bar Lane. Many of you might have noticed in Wetherby that there are now several signs showing the actual speed of traffic. That is W.Yorkshire and we are at present finding out if the situation has changed in N.Yorkshire since in the past we have not had help from NYCC Highways in implementing such signs. If there is a change then we hope to do something in Bar Lane.

Sad to say The Crown Inn has gone into Administration. Although it will help with parking issues, it is a sad sight to see no lights on in the evening. It is to be hoped that new people will soon be established there.

Unfortunately there is no update on The Village Fund this year. Carolyn Collin who chaired the committee for 13 years stepped down and so far has not been replaced. As Carolyn reported last year "The P.C. are very keen that The Village Fund continue to arrange social events and gatherings for the village. She continued, "We would still encourage volunteers to help with less arduous maintenance around the

village such as the pond area, pathways, benches, notice boards, telephone box etc” and I would like to say that that is still the wish of the P.C.

I am purposely not saying anything about the Neighbourhood Plan and the new Village website as these have been covered already.

I would like to finish by thanking a few people. Firstly, our Clerk, Vicki Forbes for her hard work. She has almost finished her ILCA Course for Parish Clerks, and this has given her greater confidence which is now showing. Also, our County Cllr Robert Windass and District Cllr Nick Brown for their help during the past year at PC meetings and in the field.

Our next Annual P.C. Meeting will be on Monday, May 13th at 7.00pm here, so please come along.

And with that I end my 10th Report as Chairman of your P.C.

Jim Bolland

Chairman,

Roecliffe and Westwick Parish Council

## Appendix 2

### **Finance**

As of today (9<sup>th</sup> April 2020), the balances in the Parish Council bank accounts are:

Community Account:	£3404.81
Business Money Manager Account:	£1250.91

The precept applied for 2019/2020 was £6381. The first of two instalments of this is due later this month. The second instalment is due late September.

Victoria A Forbes  
Clerk to Roecliffe & Westwick Parish Council

## Appendix 3

### **Planning Report for Roecliffe and Westwick Parish Annual Assembly-April 2019**

During the last year we have examined fourteen planning applications ranging from large agricultural units to minor tree works. To some we have lodged our objections, and to others we have given support. The most popular application appears to be for extensions; dwellings in the village are growing up and out with some interesting architectural features. In addition to acting in accordance with planning regulations our deliberations have been based on how an application will affect the quality of life for the community as a whole and whether or not the appearance will be adverse to the village vernacular. To this end we have used the last Roecliffe and Westwick Conservation Appraisal as a basic guide.

One major consideration in our decisions on every application has been to look at the impact of extra traffic, particularly of large vehicles, through the village. We do have two main times at school dropping off and collecting when the roads around the Green are congested and to that end we did manage to include access prohibition times for HGV's on two applications.

It is however regrettable that all our objections have been overridden or ignored by Harrogate Borough Council. Their planning officers and Planning Committee operate strictly in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework, unless a District or Neighbourhood Plan is in place. As the HBC District Plan has been in draft form and our own Neighbourhood Plan is not yet finalised we are still subject to the national directive which makes no exceptions for small communities. I was also somewhat shocked at a recent HBC planning committee meeting to hear the chairman direct the committee members that they should vote in accordance with the recommendation of the planning officer, which begs the question whether the committee is in fact redundant.



## Appendix 4

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

Last year I led with the story that our then vicar, Diane Westmoreland was taking early retirement and that we were therefore going into a Vacancy. This year I am pleased to report that The Revd Karen Gardiner, currently serving as House Duty Assistant Priest in Escrick, Naburn, Stillingfleet. Skipwith and Bubwith with Aughton in the Diocese of York has been appointed Vicar of our Benefice. The Licensing Service will take place on Monday 9th Sept at 7.00pm at St Andrew's, Aldborough with Bishop Nick officiating. We wish her well.

As a community we appreciate how lucky we are that the Churches Conservation Trust own and look after the fabric of our church.

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. (Last year £107) 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 29 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 214, the highest for a few years. This could be influenced by the variety of people who have taken services during our Vacancy We had Dean John from Ripon Cathedral take our Harvest Festival service, and have also had excellent support from Bishop Clive, The Revd Wilf Going etc etc..

The church is opened at weekend for visitors, since the CCT benefits, the more visitors we have. The CCT reckon one in seven sign the visitor's book. They are also pleased to see that our Primary School use the church for major services, and recently the CCT ran a special day for the school. In the past 12 months there have been no baptisms or weddings, but sadly the funeral of John Leeming.

Financially the church is in good shape. Our various Funds have increased in 2018 by 1.5% on the previous year. We made a small profit of £879 on our Income/Expenditure, and this included us paying our Parish Share of £10615.

During the past year we organised a Safari Supper (thanks to Stephen Jarvis), which was well supported, and enjoyed, and two Quiz nights. Thanks to Dave Siswick for being our Quiz Master and The Crown for their support providing a room and refreshments. The Racket Club had a good year with 116 numbers being sold each month, and a growing party of supporters meet on the first Tuesday of each month to witness the draw, and to see fair play!

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 and David Bellwood make up our representation at UPPC Meetings. 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. Our new flower rota works very well 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 the church would be in a bad way.

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

## Appendix 5

### Annual Report to Parish Assembly April 15th 2019

Roecliffe WI meets monthly, except September, in the School Hall. We currently have 24 members with one dual member and welcomed 2 new members who have moved into the village. The average attendance at meetings was 17, - the same as last year surprisingly. As usual we held our Annual Dinner at The Crown Inn.

The year has been busy, there have been some tricky legal compliance things to negotiate- Equality and Diversity policy, and Data Protection issues, but with a lot of our secretary's time and expertise we overcame all obstacles!

As usual we attended the Annual Spring Council meeting, at Harrogate Pavilions this year, and entered every class at the Great Yorkshire Show. We didn't win but came close against strong opposition. Bertha our scarecrow was lovely- maybe not scary enough. The national AGM was held in Brighton in June, and the resolution which was passed this year was 'Mental Health Matters'. There has been considerable and ongoing progress on the resolutions from 2017, 'Microplastic Soup' and 'Alleviating Loneliness'.

September brought the Federation Quiz again- an annual source of fun and disbelief that it keeps on using the same irritating criteria in the marking!! Maybe it's just sour grapes.

To keep in touch with our community we submitted articles about Roecliffe WI to Federation News, Lower Ure News and the Parish magazine, and Lynda Wigby keeps us (or some of us) up to speed digitally with our Facebook Group. We also plan to be featured on the new Village website. Once more this year we organized the 'Bake-off' competition at the Village Fun Day in July.

Our speakers this year have been varied and very interesting, the programme having been arranged by Jackie Wilson. We have had crafts- brooch-making and soft pots, good causes- The Dog's Trust and Adele Rae's community campaign against poverty, demonstrations- hedgerow floral art and 'trash to pleasure' upcycling, talks- on 30 yrs of B&B, and the history of Ripon Cathedral and outings- to see the silver of Ripon and hear the Hornblower, to visit the new Allerton Waste Plant, and a guided tour of Ripon Cathedral. And of course, there was our Christmas party- a DIY event which we enjoyed so much that we are making it a regular feature.

In 2018 we ran a trial of changing our 'holiday' month from August to September. We had more attending in August than for the last 4 September meetings, so the plan is to continue with that for the future.

Organisations such as ours are dependent on our members, and Roecliffe is very lucky in that respect, but new members are always welcome- we always hope that new residents will join us and enjoy our friendship and activities.

My thanks go to all our members for helping to make this another successful year for Roecliffe WI.

## **Appendix 6**

### **Roecliffe and Westwick Neighbourhood Watch**

Report to the Roecliffe Parish Council Assembly Meeting of Monday,

20th March 2017

Since our last Parish Assembly, North Yorkshire has a new Chief Constable, Lisa Winward.

Her top priority is to improve the quality of life in North Yorkshire through police and communities working together. Although the largest county with 3000 sq miles, it is also the safest place in regard to crime figures. The police budget is being continually squeezed but in spite of this she regards crime prevention, especially in rural areas, to be a top priority. She is also very supportive of community-based officers who are known and dedicated to specific communities.

Boroughbridge Police Station is now closed This is to save money but the plan is to share premises with other "blue light services" Funds for front-line policing must be protected, and more mobile working can make officers more visible and flexible to collaborate with other agencies. Our local team is made up of PC Jan Powell, and PCSOs Phil Wright and Jak Ball.

In North Yorkshire around 15% of crimes are detected and that is good compared with other counties. Rural crime has increased another 7% in 2018 and often perpetrators come armed so individuals should be careful and persevere in reporting crime since there is a Rural Task Force to help combat crime in the countryside..

The 101 system is being overhauled to improve response times. Of 180,000 reported incidents last year about 20% related to crime.

I am hoping that Phil has brought some latest crime figures with him since the latest I have is until August 2018.

So, the message is that, living in the countryside we must be extra vigilant and keep all tools, garden implements etc locked away.

We must also be careful with unsolicited phone calls since there are so many scams doing the rounds, whether it be internet connection that are going to be discontinued in 24 hrs, All are intended to gain personal data from each one of us..

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 police matters.

Jim Bolland 20th March 2017

### **Roecliffe Park Neighbourhood Watch Report**

This year has been mainly quiet and peaceful apart from some activity near the pond and the entrance to Johnson's nursery on a night with cars coming and going.

As most people are aware Turners have been granted planning permission to extend the park with the installation of 14 more Park homes. Initially this will entail a large amount of construction work which could possibly encourage visits by undesirable people looking to pilfer anything lying about so site security will be paramount.

Roecliffe Park is a no cold calling area set up by Trading Standards we are in contact with them hoping to include the new houses in the scheme plus the new homes will be in the Roecliffe Park Neighbourhood Watch scheme.