

Annual Parish Meetings Chairman's Report 2018

General Comment

Firstly I would like to thank Jonathan Cooper for a great many years of service to the village and the Parish Council. He set a very high standard as Chairman for which we are all very grateful. He resigned in August and I moved from Treasurer to Chairman. Councillor Thompson has become Treasurer. During the year Councillors Danjoux and Helm resigned and I would like to thank them both for all the work they have done for the Parish Council, especially Councillor Danjoux who served for many years and put a significant amount of time in representing the Parish Council on the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. They have been replaced by Councillors Foden, Voke and Collingwood. It is good to see some new people on the Parish Council who I am sure will bring new ideas and enthusiasm.

On behalf of myself and all the councillors I would like to express our appreciation for the work carried out by our Clerk Ann Pyle in providing the Council with a very professional and efficient service again during the year. I would also like to thank our District and County Councillors who regularly attend our meetings. They provide us with a vital link to the next level of local government.

I would like to thank all the councillors for the time and work they have given voluntarily. There is a great deal of time and effort expended behind the scenes to deal with all the meetings, sub-committee meeting, external meetings, planning issues, financial reports and correspondence that is received during the course of the year. As well as producing the various events listed below for the village. Well done to you all, the work you do is often unseen and essential to the communities we represent.

A key activity during the course of the year was work on the **Neighbourhood Plan**. Whilst it is formally the responsibility of the Parish Council a vast amount of work has been done by Allan Mortimer and the members of the **Steering Group**. Thank you to everyone involved for the significant amount of time that has been spent on this. This is a complex and very emotive project that a large number of people from around the village have engaged in. Work on this will continue during the coming year.

The **Finance Committee** reviewed the budget set by the council against the anticipated spend and recommended retaining the precept at £43,000. This was approved by the full Parish Council and covered the predicted expenses including the loan repayments to the Public Works Loan Board. The Parish Council has healthy reserves at present, however, there is significant expenditure ahead on getting the land purchased for the extension of the burial ground into a condition that is fit for its purpose. The remains of the wall at the Old Mill at Church Bridge also requires some significant remedial works to maintain it for the future.

The Parish Council has reviewed and commented to the **Planning** Authority on many planning applications received during the course of the year. The views of the Parish Council are not always followed by the Planning Authority but I am pleased to say that in the majority of cases they are.

The **Footpaths Committee** report on any problems they become aware of relating to footpaths within the parish. During the year work was completed on the riverside footpath (upstream of Church bridge) by Tees Rivers Trust. This work was a solution using largely local materials and is intended to stabilise the bank by the regrowth of natural vegetation. Time will tell how successful this approach has been. Dog waste is still being reported as a problem and efforts are being made to try to change the behaviour of a few – dog wardens are on patrol.

The Parish Council is responsible for organising a number of events during the course of the year, all done by volunteers. Thank you to everyone who helped.

The **Village Event** was well attended but slightly marred by anti-social behaviour by a minority of people. After consultation with the village it was decided to go ahead with the event this coming year on 30th June 2018. There will be security on the green and around the village on the day to deal with any issues that might arise. Prestons of Potto supply the stage which is key feature of the event, so many thanks to them for their generosity.

Bonfire Night was again very well attended and is funded to a large extent by the donations received on the night. Donations are not compulsory but the more that is collected the bigger the fireworks we can let off the following year, so please give generously!

The village **Christmas Tree** is erected and lit up by Parish Councillors with the generous help of Dawson Farms providing a loader, then felled and cleared away again by the Parish Councillors. This year the lighting of the Christmas tree is going to be on Sunday 9th December 2018. Please look out for more details nearer the time.

The Parish Council kept the **Sports Area** well maintained throughout the year. The Trim Trail Circuit and BMX track are in good condition and proving to be excellent facilities for the village.

The **Village Green** has been maintained throughout the year with regular grass cutting, tree inspections (and tree work by professionals where appropriate), and the monitoring and repair of any damage. I would like to thank the **Care for our Village Association** for their voluntary work around the village and on the green for planting and maintaining the tubs.

The Parish Council also own and maintain the **Village Allotments** which are monitored by Councillors throughout the year and their work is appreciated.

Parking on the green is being monitored and appears to be under control at the moment. There were some large stones on the edge of the green near where the Spar used to be to stop lorries from driving on the green. Some of these have now been moved to the bottom of the green to prevent parking there and so far appear to be working. Anti-social parking round the village is not within the Parish Council's control but we will continue to lobby the authorities for improvements. If any is witnessed then a photo of the vehicle and the registration number can be emailed to North Yorkshire Police on generalenquiries@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk. Details are on the Parish Council website.

Web Site

The Parish Council web site is kept up to date(www.rudbyparishcouncil.org.uk) and holds a record of Parish Council Minutes, events, links and notices.

Other Parish Council Areas of Work

- Defibrillators are located at the Village Hall and Church House operated by the First Responders.
- Teams of litter pickers organised by RPC have been clearing litter from roadsides and footpaths round the village

The Village Hall Management Committee. Two parish councillors sit on the VHMC and report back to the Parish Council after the quarterly meetings.

A PC member sits on **The Bathurst Trust** which provides educational grants to local children who fulfil the trust's criteria.

The Tarran legacy has been gifted to RPC to provide money to use on the green for maintaining trees and seats.

Thank you and well done to you all once again for your contributions to a particularly busy year for Rudby Parish Council.

Mark Jones, Chair RPC