

Minutes of Rothbury Parish Annual Assembly held on Wednesday 24th April 2019 at 7pm in the Dovecote Room, Jubilee Institute

Those Present: J Sutton, C Dawson, C Miller (Clerk), two members of the public

1/19 Apologies for Absence

A Arkle, K Tracey, S Bridgett

2/19 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 24th May 2018 were agreed as a true record.

3/19 Matters arising from previous meeting held Thursday 24th May 2018

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting held on Thursday 24th May 2018.

4/19 Chairman's Report

Parish Council Chairman gave a report as follows:

My term as Chairman commenced May 2018. Five Cllrs have left during this time with three being replaced, and there are currently two co-option vacancies, with applications to be discussed at the Annual Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 8th May, the closing date for applications being 3rd May.

The Parish Council continue to discuss concerns regarding roads and parking, with the County Council to produce plans for herringbone car parking on the High Street which would entail deregistering part of the village green. There is no simple solution to parking issues and a large part of the problem appears to be the underuse of the Haugh car park, although signage is in place to indicate free parking in this area

The War Memorial and Armstrong cross railings have been repainted along with varnishing of most seats within the parish. Additional posts and chains will be placed on verges to prevent further damage to the village greens and which are to be painted in due course.

Red and white roses and a tree were planted at the Turks Head triangle area during the year for the World War I commemoration.

Progress is ongoing with the new riverside play area with a joint project between the Parish and County Council with the new equipment expected to be in-situ Spring 2020. The riverside W/C's remain closed and it is anticipated the Parish Council will be passed responsibility for the Bridge Street facilities in the near future.

The new bike park lease on Whitton bank will be in the name of the Parish Council who will be working together with the Bike Park Committee to ensure the ongoing management and maintenance of the park, and it is anticipated the track will be a great asset to the community, and will hopefully be open within the next few months.

The Parish Council continue to have responsibility for part of the village greens and trees which are in the conservation area and are currently having to fell several trees, with most other trees requiring maintenance.

A Structural Engineer has been engaged to carry out a survey on the Haw Hill closed graveyard wall, with concerns there may be repair work required on the structure. Works have also been completed on the wall at All Saints churchyard.

The Parish Council engaged professional services to make an objection to the soundness of the draft Northumberland Local Plan regarding the low number of affordable housing for Coquetdale which had been reduced to 15percent, the outcome of which is awaited.

I wish to thank Cllrs and the Clerk for their ongoing support over the past 12 months, and to the village gardeners and outside contractors who have ensured the maintenance of the parish.

5/19 Public Participation

Parishioner commented on the dangerous speed of traffic travelling through the village and was informed the County Councillor is progressing installation of interactive speed signs within the parish. J Sutton was of the opinion a 20mph speed limit and vehicle weight limits should be enforced. Parishioner felt it essential a zebra crossing be installed within the village due to the volume and speed of vehicles travelling through the parish, and was bemused that Alnwick had numerous road crossings and Rothbury not a single crossing. Speeding traffic on the road to Weldon Bridge also of concern. Parishioners encountering problems with the bus service to Alnwick arriving sporadically, Clerk to contact County Cllr as there had been concerns about this historically.

6/19 Any Other Business

There was no other business and the Annual Assembly closed at 750pm.