

MINUTES OF ROTHBURY PARISH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11TH MAY 2022 COMMENCING AT 7PM IN THE DOVECOTE ROOM, JUBILEE INSTITUTE

Those Present: J Sutton (Chairman), C Dawson, J Devlin, A Hooks, M Milne, P Colquitt, A Arkle, S Bridgett, A Milne, C Miller (Clerk)

1/22 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2/22 Minutes of Previous Meeting held Wednesday 12th May 2021

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous Annual Assembly held on Wednesday 12th May 2021 be accepted as a true record.

3/22 Matters arising from previous meeting held Wednesday 12th May 2021

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting held Wednesday 12th May 2021.

4/22 Parish Council Chairman Report

Welcome to the 2022 Annual Assembly of Rothbury Parish.

My term as Chairman commenced May 2018 and a new Chair is to be elected at the Parish Council meeting following the Assembly.

The Parish Council continue to discuss concerns regarding roads and parking. 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.

Rothbury has been included in The Borderlands Place Programme that will target investment to help boost economic activity, recognising the importance of smaller rural market and coastal towns to the local economy, with the programme providing £50million of funding across the Borderlands area, with UK Government committing up to £30million in Cumbria and Northumberland, and Rothbury being allocated £3million. A management board has been created which includes two Parish Cllr's.

The new bike park at Whitton bank has been opened and the Parish Council will be working together with the Bike Park Committee to ensure the ongoing management and maintenance of the park. A massive thanks to all those who had worked for many years on the project.

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 following Storm Arwen, with some other trees requiring maintenance. Major ground clearance works have been carried out at Whitton Bank Cemetery, and proposals to extend the burial ground are ongoing.

Following Storm Arwen, a Parish Council Crises Management Working Group has been set up, working closely with the County Council, Upper Coquetdale Community Transport, G.P. Surgery, Mountain Rescue/Local Resilience Forum, Thropton community group and Hesleyhurst Parish Council, with the aim for the community to be better equipped to deal with future crises.

A Veterans Working Group was set up 4 months ago, working closely with the British Legion and Northumberland County Council, to assist local Veteran's.

Local community group, Climate & Action approached the Parish Council regarding a piece of waste land near to the First School. Following investigation, the landowner could not be ascertained and the Parish Council have supported the group in transforming the overgrown land into an attractive landscape.

The Parish Council continue to receive Planning Applications from Northumberland County Council, with a major contentious application being the re-location of the CO-OP Store to Townfoot. The Council objected to the proposals due to anticipated major traffic problems, particularly school start and opening times, and will be monitoring the development and liaising with the developer on matters of concern.

W/C facilities continue to be a contentious issue, with the Parish Council having contacted Northumberland Estates regarding the possibility of erecting a new W/C block on their land, however this would entail significant funding and ongoing maintenance.

The Parish Council web-site has been upgraded. A regular newsletter is planned to keep residents up-to-date, and the possibility of a Parish Council App is being researched.

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

Chairman thanked for his contribution over the past 12 months.

5/22 Public Participation

There was no public participation.

6/22 Any Other Business

There was no other business and the Annual Parish Assembly closed at 710pm.

Claire Miller, Clerk
Rothbury Parish Council