

ERYC : Overview & Scrutiny Committee

A copy of the Annual Report had been sent. Cllr Helliwell observed that the Committee is a watchdog : it reviews the work of councillors in the East Riding's Cabinet and the departmental committees that they chair.

Roos Public Footpath No. 4

The ERYC Parish Paths Officer, Trevor Appleton, had sent a copy of a letter addressed to Cllr Grant. It noted that growing crops had obstructed the footpath and required its reinstatement within 14 days of ploughing.

Cllr Grant said that the letter should not have been sent to him. In any case the path had already been reinstated.

Cllr Helliwell asked if the Clerk should let the officer know the correct addressee. Cllr Grant said that he had already written and that this was not a matter for the Parish Council.

Cllr Helliwell observed that the Parish Council had a formal agreement with the East Riding to help maintain parish paths and received an annual grant for work that they recommended. It was only courteous of the officer to inform them of action he had taken within the parish.

SAFE : Self-Defence Action for Equality

SAFE is a not-for-profit company providing free self-defence courses for women aged 14 and over. It was agreed to display the poster supplied.

Joint Structure Plan

A copy had been sent of the Structure Plan agreed jointly by the City of Hull and the East Riding. At the request of Cllr Helliwell, it was agreed that the copy could be loaned to the Parish Plan Committee for the duration of their current work.

Parish Plan Committee

Mr Ken Cross, Secretary, reported that, according to the Committee's Questionnaire, the issues of most concern to residents were dog fouling and litter. Respondents specified the need both for more litter bins and for special "doggie bins". These were problems that people wanted the Parish Council to address.

Dog fouling

It was agreed that owners should remove dog faeces from public places.

Cllr Stead said that suitable plastic bags were available from local Service Centres but that the East Riding did not provide doggie bins. The bags, well secured, could be left in public litter bins (or presumably in household bins).

Signs were also available reminding dog owners of their responsibilities. The Clerk was asked to seek advice about obtaining some signs.

Cllr Helliwell said that the Chairman, Cllr Winter, already had a stencil kit for marking reminders on roads and pavements. So far, the only action taken had been to notify the public of the fact in "The Rooster" : perhaps it was time actually to use the stencils. Some members favoured signs over stencil marks. No decision was taken.

Litter

Members noted that in Roos village the Parish Council had

installed two litter bins : one north of the Roos Store and the other near the Main Street / Pilmar Lane corner. There was also a bin outside the butcher's shop, installed by the previous owner. (Provision in the other settlements in the parish was not discussed.)

A familiar debate followed. Some members stressed the real need for more bins. Others argued either that there was no problem or that the bins would not be used. All agreed that, if there were no bins, people should take their litter home but nobody thought that was likely. The matter was unresolved.

Cllr Helliwell suggested that members should recommend possible sites for further bins as the next meeting – and that the public might be asked where they would like to see additional litter bins.

Aldbrough crossroads

It was noted that at Burton Pidsea the flashing signs were effective in slowing traffic. As Cllr Dodson observed in August, the electronic signs in Roos seemed not to be working.

Cllr Stead reported that, at last, there was a proposal to stagger Rectory Road and Aldbrough Road. Arrangements to purchase the land were in hand. The work might be completed by December.

The news both amazed members and delighted them.

A letter from Mr Colin Wilson of Hilston now seemed superfluous but it was read out since it drew attention to an anomaly : in spite of the present "plethora of warning signs", not one indicates that there is a crossroads ahead. Mr Wilson suggested that a crossroads sign should replace one or more of the existing signs. Until the crossroads disappear, his comment is still relevant.

Holderness Learning & Skills Development Fund

The Fund supports projects to develop skills and improve employment opportunities. It was agreed to display posters about grants available.

E.ON / Community Power : Wind Turbine meeting

Chantal Thomas, who made the presentation for Community Power, thanked the Parish Council for arranging the meeting.

As promised at the meeting, she enclosed details of the energy generated by wind turbines.

She said she was aware that the Parish Council was to carry out a survey of local opinion. She observed that normally an opinion poll would be carried out after her company's exhibition and consultation event and not before it.

She asked who specifically would carry out the poll in Roos parish and how the question(s) would be phrased.

ERYC : Dwellings at risk of coastal erosion

Angela Cowen, Planning Officer, had sent draft criteria for deciding which homes be built further inland "at more sustainable locations". Comments were requested. Because there was a deadline and the issues were straightforward, Cllr Helliwell and the Clerk had responded on behalf of the Parish Council. However, the guidance was said to be provisional and further consultations would follow.

Nuisance motorists on access track to Playing Field

A resident wrote that cars with rowdy exhausts and blaring radios were being raced up and down the track to the annoyance of neighbouring householders.

Two members confirmed the report. All sympathised and agreed that action was needed. They themselves had no powers to intervene but recommended reporting the matter to the police. Cllr Stead said that the police could require the practice to stop and could check on the licence numbers and insurance details of the offenders.

Members agreed that the Playing Field Committee and the East Riding of Yorkshire Council should also be informed and be asked to support the call for police action.

They noted that the track is not a public road and is not a Highways responsibility. However, the playing field is leased from the East Riding of Yorkshire Council, who, as owners, have an interest in stopping any unlawful use of the track.

Cllr Craggs : Dog fouling

In his absence, Cllr Craggs had sent a memorandum supporting the Parish Plan Committee's letter and adding thoughts of his own.

He supported the proposal that dog-owners should use doggie-bags to clear up after their pets but also urged members of the public to challenge owners who did not do so. At Sand-Le-Mere he had found it possible to speak to dog-owners firmly but politely and with some success.

Since residents had wanted action on dog fouling as well as litter there should be regular reminders of the public's disapproval, perhaps by frequent notices in "The Rooster". Other members agreed.

Sustainable Communities Bill

A responsible lobby group asked the Parish Council to write to the local M.P. to seek his support for the Bill, which aims to prevent rural settlements from losing amenities and becoming "ghost towns". Members felt that the legislation was probably worthwhile but seemed to replicate steps that many local authorities were already taking. No action was taken.

Down Memory Lane

It was agreed to display in Roos a poster advertising a programme of songs of the 40s and 50s at the Northfield, Withernsea, on 11th November.

Local Councils Association

A forum for parish clerks was notified. Our own Clerk was unable to attend.

Humber & Wolds Rural Community Council

A copy was received of "East Riding Leader", a newsletter about the activities of local groups and publicising grants available to support them.

The Local Channel

A letter offered a free website for local councils. The Clerk undertook to seek further information.

Wybone : litter bins, etc.

Members were puzzled by a letter from a firm dealing in street furniture that none could remember. It asked for details to be updated. The Clerk was asked to investigate.

Vandalism at Hodgson Lane Surgery

The practice manager (Withernsea) had written to PC Ainley about malicious vandalism : broken bottles in the grounds, shredded waste paper thrown about from the bins, security lights damaged, ... Drugs are held in the building, of course, but no break-in had occurred.

A copy of the letter had been sent to the Parish Council for their information. Members were concerned and approved the action taken. Cllr Grant thought sturdy gates would limit opportunist mischief.

Planning

Approved by Planning Committee

Beecholme, 1 Elm Garth, Roos (Mr & Mrs P.Howden)
Dormer windows to front. Conservatory to side.

Horseshoe Cottage, Rectory Road (Mr & Mrs Priest)
Demolition and replacement of single-story extension.
North of The Willows, South End (Mr & Mrs Pittock)
Outline consent for detached dwelling.

4 Becksid Manor (Mr & Mrs M.R.Marriott)
Extensions : single-storey at rear; two-storey at front.

Refused by Planning Committee

Cedar House, Main Street, Roos (Mr T.Uscroft)

The application had been refused because it contravened planning criteria : e.g. the design was not in keeping with existing outbuildings and the street scene.

Notice of Appeal

Church Farm, Tunstall (Mr M.Smales)

Erection of four log cabins; conversion of barn to three self-contained holiday units. The Committee had refused consent to protect the landscape : the two-storey cabins would be alien to the village character and their layout was cramped. (*Reasons very lengthy – paraphrased here.*)
The applicant had taken the case to appeal.

Accounts

Payments approved

Turbine meeting : Gazette advertisement	£25.62
Hire of Village Hall for five meetings:	£37.50

ERYC Consultation on Compact

Deferred from August meeting. Aims of the Compact :

"To strengthen the relationship between public sector bodies and voluntary and community organisations and groups so that together we will improve the quality of people's lives within the East Riding."

Members saw no objection to the draft.

Meeting to plan a Wind Turbine survey

A motion was proposed to hold a special meeting (when more members were present) to decide how to conduct an early survey of parish opinion. It was proposed by Cllr Kirk and seconded by Cllr Cheeseman.

Cllr Helliwell argued that, like the recent public meeting, a survey before a full presentation by Community Power would be premature and meaningless. He voted against.

Cllrs Cook and Grant abstained.

The motion was carried by 2 votes to 1.

A date was agreed. All members would be informed.

The Rooster

Recent donations – Thank you

Anon-13 (Eastfield)	Mrs C.Grantham
Anon-14 (Ann, Roos; Store)	Green, Mr & Mrs M.A.
Bevan, Mr & Mrs J.	Green, Mr & Mrs M.R.
Mrs K.E.Brocklesby	Mr S.Kirkwood
Mr & Mrs R.Cook	Mrs L.Long
Miss J.L.Carruthers	Mrs M.A.Monkman
Mr & Mrs F.Foster	

"The Rooster" is supplied to 522 addresses, including some to donors living outside the parish. At present 174 households have contributed for 2005 – 33.33%, exactly one third of those who receive copies.

Donations from households currently total £848.00, almost enough to fund costs per month of £70 - 75.

If you intend to support the newsletter but have not yet done so, please make an early donation.

The suggested donation per household is a minimum of £3.00 and a maximum of £5.00. Since there is a healthy bank balance, no household needs to contribute more than this (unless adding postage).

The bank requires cheques to be payable to "L.Helliwell".

Please pass / post your donation (in an envelope marked "The Rooster") to L.Helliwell at the address below or leave it at The Roos Store. Enclose a note giving details : your name, address, phone number and the amount.

ROOSTER DEADLINE

News, reports, notices, letters, photographs, complaints, ... should be provided by

Friday 7th October

to Leslie Helliwell, Canwick, Lamb Lane, Roos :

01964 - 670291

or to Gavin Eastman at the Roos Store.

FOOT HEALTH CARE

Heather Baker

Dip. C.F.H.P. M.P.S. Pract.

- Corn removal
- Callus reduction
- Nail curtailment
- Ingrown toenails
- Verruca treatment
- Footcare for diabetics

Pedicures and feet treats

Local practitioner offers home visiting service

Tel : 01964 - 670011

C.Fewster & Son Ltd

Independent Funeral Services

Church Lane, Patrington, HU12 0RJ.

Phone : Ken Fewster (Patrington) 01964 - 630228

Janet Eastman (Roos) 01964 - 670225

**Day or Night.
A Caring & Personal
Service.**



**Tradition of Trust.
Serving our Local
Community**

Operation Lifestyle

(promoted by Humberside Police)

Two groups of local youngsters have provided reports.

Three is the Magic Number

Lacie Anderson, Emily Goodwin, and Sabrina Simmonds wish to thank all who supported their efforts, which raised £350.

The money will be passed to Mrs Ann Coupe of the Roos Children's Playground Association to swell the fund aiming to provide facilities for older youngsters.

Unclaimed raffle prizes

31	An iron	(Mr Devon)
235	A John Smith T-shirt	(Torgood)
189	A scarecrow	(J.Srothard)

Prizes may be claimed by ringing Sabrina :

01964 - 671070.

Any prize not claimed by 30th September will be passed for sale at the Saturday Charity Shop in the Institute.

The Famous Five

Hanna Crouch, Jake Fraser-Burns, Tamsin Patching, Luke Peart, and Lacey Uscroft thank all those who helped them raise £535 in support of the work being done at St Anne's School at Welton, a school for children with learning disabilities.

The Summer Scorchers

According to *The Holderness Gazette* these youngsters not only collected at least 200 aluminium cans to raise funds for the RSPCA but also over 1,000 signatures on a petition to improve safety at Aldbrough crossroads. Well done, the Scorchers!



Back, L to R : Faran Hodgins, Keeley SImpton, Harrison Gill and Connor Hodgins present the petition.

Front : Jaime-Lee Pipes presents it to Cllr Symon Fraser.

Photo & details, Holderness Gazette

Coun Stead said: "This is the result of a long campaign by myself and Coun Fraser. It has taken 18 months to get this. I am pleased with the tremendous help that these young people have given us and how they have campaigned for this."

Traffic incidents continue

Incidents at Aldbrough crossroads

Correction : Not three but four in a month

The August newsletter reported three accidents between 10th July and 9th August. There were actually four.

At 9.10 pm on 29th July, driving past North End Villas towards the crossroads, Mrs Kath Wells heard a loud noise. Round the bend, she stopped another car that had halted owing to an accident. A red Volkswagen from Aldbrough Road had failed to give way and crashed into a green car going to Burton Pidsea. The VW driver, aged about 55-60, was shaken but unhurt. He said, "I overshot the line." His passenger, a girl of about 9, was almost hysterical but apparently not physically injured. Nor was the other driver, aged about 30 and travelling alone.

Near-misses and other incidents

About 7th August. Coming from Burton Pidsea, Carol Brewer slowed as she approached the junction. Irritated, a motorist behind beeped his horn. She was annoyed and stopped to tell him why she had slowed. He apologised.

17th August. At about 6.10 p.m. Carol approached the crossroads on her way to Burton Pidsea. Suddenly, a car shot across at speed from Aldbrough Road. She braked violently. The car missed her bonnet by about a foot, leaving her very shaken.

22nd August. At about 10.00 a.m. Mr C.B.Dixon of Hull, an experienced HGV driver, was on his way to visit relatives in Roos. In pouring rain he had followed a pick-up for some miles. As they approached the crossroads at about 35 mph Mr Dixon saw a white car being driven at speed from the Aldbrough direction. It did not slow down. The pick-up driver braked hard and blew his horn. Mr Dixon braked and waited for the crash. It was, "within a cat's whisker of being a serious accident... It was so close my wife was shaking." On an earlier occasion he had witnessed an accident that blocked the road at the junction. *(Mr Dixon took the trouble to write at length. Thank you. There was no space to print his dramatic letter in full.)*

Dangerous mind-set on a straight road

These three incidents illustrate the familiar mind-set of offending drivers. The sight of a clear road ahead blots out any awareness of the warning signs. Signs don't work. The remedy is to offset Aldbrough Rd and Rectory Rd and make it impossible to cross from one to the other at speed.

It is reported that the Highways Department have – at last – decided to offset the two roads. See next page.

Incidents elsewhere

Now something (almost) completely different

A fortnight or so ago the rider of a motor cycle or scooter is reported to have come off his bike on Rectory Road. Probably no other vehicle involved. No details known.

Main Street, Roos

At 3.05 pm on Thursday 18th August, a car speeding along Pilmar Lane towards Main Street, failed to take the right turn and ran into a 4WD vehicle parked off the road. The 4WD was pushed into the house of its owner, Mrs Pat



Ribee, 4 Coltman Row, smashing a window and damaging the brickwork.

The car driver, young and slightly built, seemed very shaken. The police attended.

It was later reported that the young driver had been over the alcohol limit.

Log of known incidents 2004 - 2005

Incidents often occur on Sundays - in bold type below.

2004

- Jul 29 Kevin Smith was hit by a car from Aldbrough Road.
- Sep 5** A car sped across the Aldbrough junction, missing the car of Mr & Mrs Tim Newton by only a few feet.
- Sep 12** Raymond Hindley of Withernsea was hit by a car from Aldbrough Road.
- Sep 14 Unconfirmed report of another collision at the junction.
- Sep 19** Death of Mr Fred Burn six days after a collision near the Aldbrough crossroads.

2005

- Feb 15 A white van (P152 XYG) almost drove Mrs Diane Cook off the road at the Aldbrough junction.
- Feb 22 Ian Tennison saw a car cross at speed from Aldbrough Road to Rectory Road.
- March A young Roos driver lost control of his vehicle on the straight stretch from Burton Pidsea.
- May 8** Mrs Sandra Fisher was lucky to escape collision when a car from Rectory Rd shot across towards Aldbrough
- June 10** Marisa Turner narrowly escaped being hit by a van that shot across from Rectory Rd to Aldbrough Rd.
- July 10 A car from the Aldbrough direction hit Mark Grassby's vehicle at the Aldbrough crossroads and was badly damaged. Its driver suffered injuries.
- July 17** 10.35 a.m. Collision between a car and a pick-up towing a horse box at Aldbrough crossroads. The two women in the car were injured. One was taken to HRI with severe internal injuries. The other suffered ankle and pelvis injuries. The pick-up driver injured his shoulder but did not go to hospital.
- 29 A car from Aldbrough failed to give way and collided with a car making for Burton Pidsea. No injuries?
- Aug 9 Collision at Aldbrough crossroads. Two women airlifted to hospital with serious injuries. Man injured.
- 17 A car speeding from Aldbrough Road missed Carol Brewer's vehicle by a foot. (Ten days earlier, coming from Burton Pidsea, she slowed near the junction. A motorist behind beeped his horn. She stopped and told him why she had slowed – and had an apology.)
- 18 A driver speeding along Pilmar Lane failed to take the corner into Main Street and drove a parked vehicle into the cottage at 4 Pilmar Lane.
- 22 In heavy rain a car speeding from Aldbrough Rd came within a whisker of serious collision at the crossroads.

Aldbrough crossroads – Action at last!

On 15th September, under the headline "Lifestylers Get Action on Crossroads", *The Holderness Gazette* praised the Summer Scorchers for their petition to County Hall.

In the same article Cllr Richard Stead claims that he and Cllr Fraser achieved the change. Cllr Stead regularly attends Parish Council meetings. Its members know how much time he devotes to our parish and many others.

When the junction has been remade Roos people will be delighted – and grateful to anyone who helped bring it about. Let's not begrudge the praise!

Let it be said, however, that pressure has been exerted by several agencies over a period of time :

- Roos Parish Council has persistently requested this change and made the case for it at special site meetings with Highways officers.
- The Committee working on the Roos Design Statement identified Aldbrough crossroads as a serious "danger point" and advocated offsetting. (The Chief Highways officer said there were no danger points in Roos!)
- The group working on the Roos Parish Plan shared the concern, massively supported in the Questionnaire.
- *The Holderness Gazette* has reported very fully several recent accidents and quoted the Parish Council opinion that the only solution was offsetting.
- Not least, *The Rooster* has reported every life-threatening incident and built up a log of them.

However...

Highways wanted to erect an illuminated bollard and needed land to widen the road for it. It is being alleged that the farmer concerned would sell the land at an acceptable price only if the bollard scheme was scrapped and an offset junction was made instead.

This story has not been checked. It may not be true.

But if it is true, whom should we thank?

Parish Taxi Service

Telephone (01964) 671170

Mobile 07778 106 940

Airport and Courier Service

More Litter Bins : Advice to Parish Council

If you are one of the many who want more bins, please :

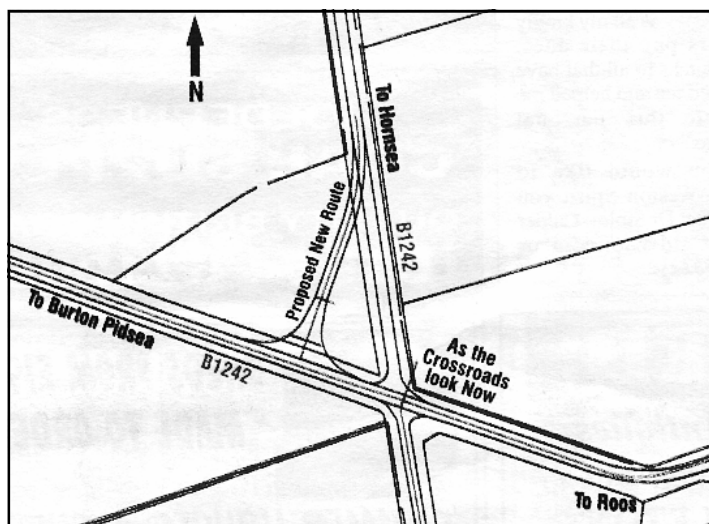
- Leave a note labelled "Rooster" at the Roos Store;
- Write "Litter bins : Yes";
- Add your name and phone number;
- Say where you think bins are needed.

Roos Parish Council Meeting

Monday 10th October

7.30 p.m. in The Memorial Institute

Members of the public always welcome



Minimise the signs

In successive attempts to change driver behaviour the Highways Department has made the junction an eyesore. Never mind the "rumbles", there is a disproportionate number of signs and road markings.

Offsetting Aldbrough Road and Rectory Road will remove the illusion of a continuous open stretch from one to the other. Then most of the signs will be superfluous. There need be only two on each approach : one for the speed restriction; the other advising of the junction.

We hope the danger will soon have been removed. Can we also get rid of the clutter?

Coming events

October

- 2 All Saints`, Roos. 10.30 a.m. Anglican-Methodist service.
- 5 Roos WI. Memorial Institute. 7.30. Jill Quarmby :
Children of Chenobyl.
- 7 All Saints`, Tunstall. 7.30 p.m. Harvest Festival.
- 7 Deadline : material for "The Rooster".
- 8 Parish Plan Exhibition. Memorial Inst. 10.00 - 4.00.
- 10 Roos Parish Council. Memorial Institute. 7.30.
- 15 Harvest Supper. Northfield. 8.00. (For Alzheimer`s Soc.)
- 14 All Saints`, Roos. 7.30 p.m. Harvest Festival.
- 25 All Saints`, Tunstall. 9.0 a.m. Holy Communion (CW).
All Saints`, Roos. 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion (CW).

November

- 2 Roos WI. Memorial Institute. 7.30. Annual Meeting.
- 14 Roos Parish Council. Memorial Institute. 7.30.

December

- 7 Roos WI. Memorial Institute. Sheila Meadly :
Christmas Cookery.

Secretaries please supply details of your events

Request from Roos Parish Council

PLEASE CLEAN UP!

Don` t drop litter.

Stop dog fouling.

We all want a clean environment. Do your bit.

Tunstall News : Village Hall Group

Table-top cash

On Sunday 13th August the Group held a table-top sale. Although the attendance was a little disappointing, just over £100 was raised – to be added to the maintenance fund.

On the road

On Sunday 4th September the Group took part in its annual sponsored Bike Ride. The circular route, completed by ten members of the group, took them out to Hilston, on to Roos and finally back to Tunstall. Expended energy was soon replenished by the intake of warm soup and bread rolls, followed by a generous portion of blackberry and apple pie covered in fresh cream. The not-so-light snack was rounded off with a glass of homemade wine.

Home-grown emblem

In spite of every effort to find some form of coat-of-arms, crest or emblem for the village of Tunstall, nothing has been found. It was hoped that reference could be found in some archaic document to a Knight of the Realm who had sat at the Round Table of King Arthur, or travelled to the Holy Land with King Richard's crusade. Sir Charles of Tunstall had a nice ring about it. But alas, nothing.

The Village Hall Group therefore decided to design its own emblem. The circular emblem is divided into three equal sections - recognising the historic link between the village and sea fishing, the historic and current links with

agriculture, and the link with the holiday industry, where for many years the village has provided for the leisure needs of many families from the industrial West Riding of Yorkshire, as well as other areas.



Wanted : one flagpost

Has anyone a flagpost to spare or suggestions as to what might serve as one? When erected it should stand 15 - 20 feet above ground level. Ring David Craggs : 01964 - 671580.

Roos Parish Plan Committee

PUBLIC CONSULTATION DAY & EXHIBITION

Saturday 8th October : 10.00 - 4.00

Roos Memorial Institute

**You are cordially invited to see the display,
question the Committee and air your views
on the future of the Parish.**

Light refreshments will be provided

All Saints`, Roos

Harvest Festival

The next big event in church will be the Harvest Festival at 7.30 p.m. on 14th October.

In a rural community harvest is an important time and we ask for your support with gifts, either to the charity shop beforehand or at the service itself. Wouldn't it be nice to have the same support for Harvest as we have for the Christingle service at Christmas?

If you have ideas on how to decorate and present the church for harvest, please contact us. This is a village event in a village church and we need your help.

Your gifts will go later to Dove House Hospice and be sold to raise money to help people with terminal illness.

Joint Christmas Shop

Christmas will soon be with us! Tim Newton and Dorothy Robinson have worked all year in the Saturday Charity Shop in the Memorial Institute and have enjoyed the support of many regular visitors and while they come they will continue the work.

We hope to repeat last year's very successful joint Christmas Shop in support of the church, the institute and the school.

If you are making something – baking a cake or knitting a sweater – consider making an extra one for the shop. The cost of materials can be reimbursed from the sale price.

Please ring 671659 if you can help in the organisation.

Baptism

On 28th August we celebrated the christening of Lottie Pinder in a church full of family and friends. We welcome Lottie into the church and wish her a long and happy life.

Wedding

On 29th October Darren Bone and Zoe Winter are to be married. We hope the day goes well for them both.

Services within the United Benefice (Sunday dates printed bold)

September

- 4** 9.00 a.m. St Michael's, Garton. Holy Communion (BCP).
10.30. a.m. Roos Mem. Inst. Anglican-Methodist service.
- 7** 11.00 a.m. Eastfield Centre, Roos. Holy Communion.
- 11** 9.00 a.m. All Saints`, Tunstall,. Holy Communion (BCP).
10.30 a.m. All Saints`, Roos. Holy Communion. (CW).
6.30 p.m. St Michael's, Garton. Evensong (BCP).
(15 7.30 p.m. Friends of Roos Church. The Bailey, South End)
- 18** 9.00 a.m. St Michael's Garton. Morning Prayer (BCP).
10.30 a.m. All Saints`, Roos. Morning Service.
3.00 p.m. St Margaret's, Hilston. Holy Communion (BCP).
- 25** 9.00 a.m. All Saints`, Tunstall. Holy Communion (CW).
10.30. A.m. All Saints`, Roos. Holy Communion (CW).
6.30 p.m. St Michael's Garton. Evensong (BCP).

October

- 2** 10.30 a.m. All Saints`, Roos. Anglican-Methodist service.
- 7** 7.30 p.m. All Saints`, Tunstall. Harvest Festival.
- 14** 7.30 p.m. All Saints`, Roos. Harvest Festival.
- 21** 7.30 p.m. St Michael's, Garton. Harvest Festival.

Packed hall at wind turbine meeting

Objectors out in force



Roos Memorial Institute was crowded on 18th August as residents from Roos and Rimswell gathered to hear – and many to criticise – what Community Power had to say.

The Parish Council had twice decided that a public meeting now would be premature since the company would have no firm proposals to discuss. For the same reason Community Power initially declined to attend but pressure from some residents in June and

July led eventually to the August meeting.

Preamble

Mr John McWatt of Rimswell Parish Council first took the chair. He said that, after a presentation about wind energy at County Hall he had reported back to his council. A Rimswell farmer had contacted Community Power to learn more about the suitability of his land as a turbine site. At all times he had kept Mr McWatt informed.

Community Power contacted parish councils at Halsham, Roos and Rimswell to advise that a site between Roos and Rimswell was being considered. On 7th April a presentation briefed councillors on initial assumptions about the Tedder Hill site.

Residents of all three parishes had been invited to the public meeting but Halsham people seemed uninterested.

Mr McWatt introduced Chantal Thomas and Catherine Owen from Community Power. Chantal Thomas gave the presentation and answered questions. Catherine Owen (who gave virtually the same presentation in April) made notes on the questions and on residents' observations.

The Presentation

(Leaflets were available outlining the main points.)

Company structure

E.ON UK is the company running Powergen. Its Community Power business explores the feasibility of

small-scale renewable energy schemes and, where possible, develops them after consultation with local communities.

Communities benefit from an annual income for several years, energy efficiency advice and products and educational support to local schools.

Preliminary consideration of the Tedder Hill site

The project being considered at Tedder Hill between Roos and Rimswell is for three wind turbines up to 111 metres high from ground to blade tip.

The cluster could supply enough electricity for 3,800 homes, enough to serve all the households in Roos, Rimswell Halsham, Withernsea and Burton Pidsea.

In the summer of 2004 Community Power consulted with environmental bodies and East Riding planners to ascertain what criteria must be satisfied.

There was also the first site visit. Bird studies had been undertaken.

Environmental consultants will assess any possible nuisance from noise and the impact on the landscape. Further studies will determine specific turbine sites.

Time-scale

The earliest possible date for submission of a planning application will be December. A decision could then take between two months and a year. If planning consent is given, construction could take between 15 and 18 months.

Question time

David Winter, Roos Parish Council, took the chair.

Copies of a booklet were available : "Wind power : Your questions answered", published by the Sustainable Development Commission (www.sd-commission.org.uk).

All the questioners were critical and many were well-informed – they had done their homework, as some showed by using technical jargon.

A summary of the main topics and of Chantal Thomas's replies is given below.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What about noise?

Q The questioner quoted a person living close to a turbine cluster who complained of noise when the wind was strong and especially when braking was applied to slow the speed of the blades.

A It would be interesting to investigate the complaint at first hand. The person's experience was untypical. It was possible to have a normal conversation at the foot of a wind turbine without raising one's voice.

Q What about blade flicker?

The same informant had been distressed when the turbine blades caught the sun's rays.

A Most residents near the site in question had been positive in their comments. Again, it would be useful to interview the informant.

Q What about the visual impact?

People feared that turbines would be visually intrusive and spoil an open rural landscape.

A Experienced consultants would assess environmental impact and suggest ways of meeting concerns.

Q Are the efficiency and output figures accurate?

It was alleged that published figures did not add up.

A The figures were from reliable government sources.

Q Why not site the turbines offshore?

A. Sustainable energy targets need both land-based and offshore turbines. Offshore turbines are more costly to build and maintain.

Q What happens when turbines are decommissioned?

A A turbine is designed to last for 20 years and will then be removed. To minimise surface disturbance, the concrete base is left in the ground. (Some residents thought this would be environmentally unsound.)

Q How are sites selected?

A Any site offered is investigated. There are then many other criteria. Wind availability is crucial.

Q How can access difficulties be overcome?

The questioner thought our narrow roads and awkward bends would be a problem during construction.

A Access problems will be addressed in the preliminary assessment.

Q Will property values and house sales be affected?

A Sales slow while a scheme is under consideration. Once turbines are built and have been running for a little while the effect disappears.

Q Doesn't one turbine cluster encourage more?

Many people feared that Holderness could be covered by innumerable small clusters.

A Every planning application must be considered on its merits in the light of environmental policy. The planning system should prevent excess.

Q What about the Monte Carlo scenario?

A (*Chantal had not heard of the expression and the questioner did not explain it.*)

Q What about the hazard to birds?

A Bodies such as the RSPB are consulted. There is no significant threat to birds.

Q What will be the carbon footprint?

A This is addressed in the preliminary assessment. (*"Carbon footprint" was not explained.*)

Q Have any sites been closed owing to problems or inefficiency?

A A site at Great Heppleton was closed because the old technology was inefficient.

Q In a rural area why not use biomass energy?

Questioners opposed to wind turbines did not object to the generation of energy from, for example, straw.

A The company is developing all forms of renewable energy technology, including biomass. But on a well-chosen site wind is free whereas biomass involves further cost : for the material and for transport.

Q In what ways will the community benefit?

A In addition to energy-saving advice and educational materials for local schools, the community will have between £5,000 and £10,000 a year for local projects. Local people will decide how to spend the money.

Q Are actual sites for the turbines already known?

A No. The map supplied shows the area within which they will be placed. Their precise location will be decided by technical and environmental criteria.

Once firm proposals are decided, the company will hold a public presentation making clear all aspects of the scheme, including the visual impact.

John McWatt thanked Chantal and Catherine for coming. Before they left, Leslie Helliwell asked leave to comment. He said that Roos Parish Council had thought a public meeting at this stage would be premature, as had Community Power, and the presentation had added little to what councillors heard in April. Chantal had been asked for details that were not yet known. Community Power was being suspected of hiding data it did not yet possess.

Subsequent public discussion

The voice of the people

Mr McWatt resumed the chair. He said that public opinion on the wind turbine issue should be canvassed in all three parishes. Parish councillors needed to be aware of people's views when faced with an eventual planning application. How to elicit public opinion should be an urgent agenda item at their next meetings. He observed that all who had spoken at the meeting opposed wind turbines and he shared that view. However, he would abide by the democratic wish of the people of Rimswell.

Mrs Cherie Blenkin said that on a previous occasion a survey of residents had shown that the vast majority opposed any turbines in the vicinity of Roos. Unless there was a further survey that record of opinion should stand.

Urgency v full information

Many speakers were concerned at the shortage of time to enlist opposition and wanted to start a campaign at once.

Leslie Helliwell objected that the meeting had not been called to start a campaign. The arguments for and against

renewable energy should have been discussed properly. A decision could not sensibly be made until after Community Power's further presentation when full information would be provided, including photo simulations and technical answers that were not yet available. This view was not popular. The campaign mood persisted.

Procedures and tactics

Many were concerned at ways and means : How should opposition to the wind turbines be organised?

Cllr Hunter, one of the three East Riding councillors for South-East Holderness, spoke as Chairman of the Planning Committee and could not express an opinion at this stage. However, he advised that it was essential, when writing to the authority about the eventual planning application, to quote the correct application number.

One speaker alleged that bogus letters – i.e. not from bona-fide electors – might be sent in support of the application. Campaigners should be vigilant, ready to expose any sharp practice.

Timing and Procedures

The situation we're in

The meeting

The recent meeting about wind turbines was premature. But a sufficient number of electors demanded one and the Parish Council had to arrange it.

Predictably Chantal Thomas could give no answers to many questions since the details were not yet known. Opponents were able to imply that she was refusing to disclose a hidden agenda.

The meeting became what opponents of the turbines had always hoped, the launch-pad for a campaign to drum up public support for the "fight" to come.

Planning criteria

There was no serious debate about the global need for alternative energy on the one hand and the environmental impact on the other. Yet the criteria for making these judgements are central to planning policies and will be the basis on which the Planning Committee will have to make its decision if a turbine application is submitted.

Beyond that, even if the Committee were to bow to local pressure and refuse planning consent, Community Power would almost certainly go to appeal. In that event, the planning criteria would be brought to bear even more rigorously.

Will the procedure stand up?

Before an inspector, in an atmosphere like that of a court, a skilled barrister would make mincemeat of the means by which the voice of the people had allegedly been heard.

- Did the people speak with full knowledge of the detailed proposals? No. They insisted on a meeting before the detailed presentation.
- Were all residents of the parish present? No. Only a self-selected minority.
- Were the issues discussed? – i.e. the arguments for using clean energy to reduce global warming balanced against those for protecting the local environment? No.
- Were those present reasonably aware of national and local authority policies on the matter? Were the policies explained? No.
- Did they demand a survey of opinion in the whole community immediately? Yes.
- Did they not consider that to others it might seem foolish to have a survey before all the facts are known?
- What would such a survey prove? Would a reasonable person be persuaded by its outcome?

And so on.

The Parish Council Survey

The public meeting demanded that the Roos Parish Council should carry out a survey of residents' views. On 12th September the Parish Council accepted the task.

However, because barely half the members were present, it was agreed to call a special meeting within a fortnight to consider how to organise the survey. Even in this

preliminary discussion it became clear that members might disagree about the survey method.

The assumption was that ballot forms might be distributed. It was not clear whether all residents should be balloted or only persons of electoral age. Nor was it clear how the question should be put.

How to ask the question?

One member thought the question should simply be : "Are you in favour of wind turbines in Roos – YES or NO?"

An objection to this was that, in one sense, no one wants the wind turbines. Without the context of pros and cons such a question would be too simplistic.

On the other hand, a more sophisticated question might be accused of being loaded, attempting to influence the answers. Both of the following would be unacceptable :

Do you approve of wind turbines to help reduce global warming and the disastrous consequences for all life on the planet?

Do you think that our rural landscape is special and should be protected from unsightly modern technology?

It remains to be seen whether the Parish Council can decide appropriately who is to be consulted and how to ask the question.

(One resident suggests that a reputable firm of professional pollsters could be employed. "It's not a job for amateurs.")

The Planning System

On the next page an attempt is made to summarise relevant material from the recently-published Joint Structure Plan.

Personal disclaimer

In spite of appearances, I'm not in the pay of Community Power and genuinely don't know how I will answer in the survey. I'd prefer to wait for more details. I like to do things right. Perhaps I'll not vote.

News item, "Hull Daily Mail", 16th September

"You can still fish here"

HOLDERNESS : Fishermen have been told they will not be permanently excluded from an offshore windfarm site.

E.ON UK, the firm behind energy giant Powergen, is building a 30 sq km windfarm five miles off Spurn Point.

Fishermen are worried the company could put an exclusion zone in place around the site, preventing people from fishing in one of the coast's most productive shellfish areas.

But the firm has said that no such exclusion zone would be put in place, although it is likely a temporary ban could be set up while work is in progress.

David McCandless, chief fisheries officer for the North Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee, said the site may even help the fishing industry and act as a conservation area for lobsters.

The windfarm will cost between £200m-£400m and work is expected to start on it in 2008.

An E.ON UK spokesman was unavailable for comment.

The Hull & East Riding Joint Structure Plan (adopted June 2005)

Renewable energy

The Structure Plan deals with this topic in Chapter 11, which is concerned with natural processes and resources.

The paragraph numbers are from the Plan but the sub-titles have been added. Full quotations from the Plan are printed in inverted commas.

11.45 Climate change / reducing harmful emissions

"Renewable energy sources, particularly from the sun, wind, and water offer the potential to increase diversity and security of supply and reduce harmful emissions to the environment.

"The Government's White Paper *Our energy future - Creating a low carbon economy* identifies the need to address both climate change and the implications of reduced oil, gas and coal produced power by 2020 and has set a target to generate 10% of U.K. electricity from renewable sources by 2010 and 20% by 2020.

"PPS22 *Renewable Energy* (2004) ... encourages planning authorities to develop criteria to help identify broad areas where development of particular types of renewable energy may be appropriate."

The potential contributions of Hull and the East Riding will be assessed and each will be set targets.

11.46 Targets : onshore and offshore sources

It has been established that Yorkshire & the Humber Region could increase its supply of electricity from renewable resources to 9.4% by 2010 and 22.5% by 2020.

For the Humber sub-region the proposed target is 146MW of electricity by 2010 (including 26MW of existing capacity) – 22% of the total regional target.

In addition, it is proposed that 160MW of power will be generated from offshore sources.

The combined onshore and offshore targets amount to just over 45% of the regional target.

There is no power-generation target for Hull and the East Riding beyond 2010 but further renewable energy development will be encouraged in order to help meet regional and national targets.

11.47 Offshore possibilities

"The target quoted within Policy NAT11 (*See box to R*) relates to onshore capacity as offshore facilities are normally outside the control of the local planning authorities.

"Offshore energy capacity is however very significant in this area and servicing and transmission facilities onshore will be required to support such development. Any such development should normally be focussed on the existing developed parts of the coastline having due regard to other policies within this and other chapters of the JSP."

11.48 Good sites : parts of Holderness; the Wolds

Within the Structure Plan area the greatest potential for wind power has been identified, "along the estuarial and coastal locations of Holderness with its reliable and high

wind speeds and in The Wolds. These areas also tend to have significant ecological value and landscape character.

"Because these areas are generally attractive in landscape terms and in the case of the coast fairly flat, there may be concerns about the potential for new structures to be visually intrusive (Policies ENV4 and SP4 deal with these issues respectively).

"... consideration should also be given to the potential for generating power from tidal processes although, over the plan period, it is likely that the contribution from this source will be limited.

Other sources for renewable energy generation (e.g. biomass or solar energy) may also have a part to play, especially in the future.

11.49 Support for renewable energy in principle

"Proposals for renewable energy development will generally be supported... However, the benefits ... will always have to be weighed against other environmental, economic and social effects."

The Local Development Framework will have an important role in establishing criteria-based policies to assess the impact of such development.

"Suitable locations will clearly need to satisfy the operational requirements of renewable energy development but will also be based on the appropriateness of the area to accommodate such development."

Policy NAT 11

- (a) **Development involving the generation of energy from renewable resources will be supported where this contributes towards meeting the sub-regional target of 148 MW of additional on-shore capacity by 2010 (and to meeting national and regional targets beyond this date) where this does not result in a significant adverse environmental or social impact.**

- (b) **Wind energy development will be encouraged except in areas covered by international and national environmental designations.**

Servicing and transmission facilities serving off-shore wind energy development will also be supported with preference being given to locations within existing developed parts of the coastline (in accordance with policy NAT 6 *).

Local Development Frameworks will establish criteria based policies for use in the assessment of the impact of proposed developments.

* NAT 6 concerns coastal management and flood prevention.