

The Rooster

Roos Parish Newsletter

No. 136

August 2006

Affordable housing plan for Roos

Mr Roger Jones of Humber & Wolds Rural Community Council spoke at the recent parish council meeting. He works closely with the East Riding of Yorkshire Council on affordable housing issues.

He said that both the Parish Plan Questionnaire and local authority research had established that Roos needs some genuinely affordable housing.

At the Parish Plan Exhibition residents were asked to indicate on a map where such housing could be sited.

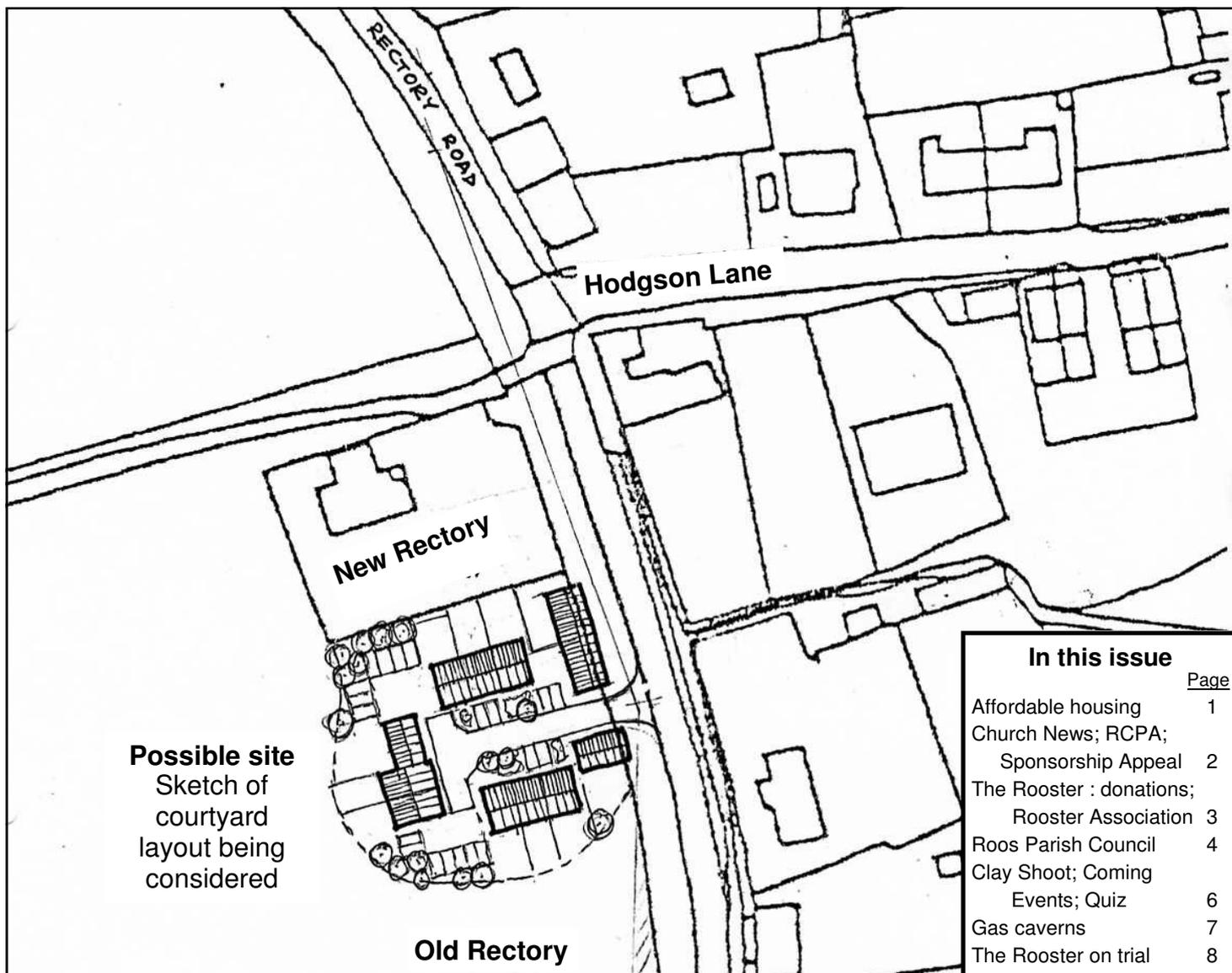
Mr Jones said that the most suitable of the sites is on church land south of the New Rectory. The York Diocese is willing to sell sufficient land for the purpose.

A representative of The Yorkshire Housing Association has already visited the site.

The Planning Department envisages an eventual cluster of 12 properties arranged like a farm courtyard and designed to suit the rural character of the environment. Once an architect's drawings are available a display will be mounted in Roos.

Mr Jones said that half of the dwellings might be offered for rent and the other half for shared ownership.

Although preliminary discussions had evidently gone well, Mr Jones stressed that the project was still in its early stages – nothing has yet been definitely agreed.



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Church News and Views

Anglican : Roos United Benefice

Garton-with-Grimston, St Michael. Hilston, St Margaret.
Roos, All Saints. Tunstall, All Saints.

From Rev Gordon Smethurst, Roos Rectory

Special thanks to Ben Pawson and the South Holderness Singers for presenting *Music for a Summer Evening* on 28th July and to Helen Audley, the clarinet soloist, and to my wife Susan for accompanying my songs on the piano.

Thanks also to Jane Richardson and her friends for the Coffee Morning on 22nd July in support of the church roof fund. It was a thunder-and-lightning occasion. About £350 was raised in three-quarters of an hour and then the storm fell. (Men were anxious to spend the metal change in their pockets!)

Services in this Benefice return to what they were before last October when my temporary responsibilities for the Withernsea parishes began. I have agreed to assist some understaffed North Hull parishes from September onwards but my Sunday services here should not be affected.

What is a Christian? Promises again unfulfilled through lack of space. The article *will* eventually appear. Editor.



Editors wanted

"The Rooster" needs an Editor and an Assistant Editor. (Unpaid! - but expenses reimbursed.)

One of them should be willing to provide reports of Parish Council meetings.

Volunteers please contact Tim Newton at The Old School, Roos.

Ring 671659.

Anglican Services, etc.

Key : HC = Holy Communion. MP = Morning Prayer.
BCP = Book of Common Prayer (Old Prayer Book)
CW = Common Worship (New Prayer Book)

August

27 Sun 10.30 Roos. HC. CW
3.00 Hilston. HC. BCP.
6.30 Garton. Evening Prayer. BCP.

September

2 Sat 2.00 All Saints`, Roos. Marriage of Steven Alistair Taylor and Hannah Elizabeth Earle.
3 Sun 9.00 Garton. HC. BCP.
10.30 With Methodists. Roos Memorial Institute.
9 Sat 11.00 All Saints`, Tunstall. Marriage of Michael Dunn and Ann-Marie Cawkwell.
10 Sun 9.00 Roos. HC. CW.
11.00 Tunstall. Horse Blessing.
6.30 Garton. Evening Prayer. BCP.
17 Sun 9.00 Garton. Mattins. BCP.
10.30 Roos. Morning Prayer. CW.
3.00 Hilston. HC. BCP.
24 Sun 9.00 Tunstall. HC. BCP.
10.30 Roos. HC. CW.

Methodist Services

August

20 Sun ----- No service at Roos
27 Sun 10.30 Roos Memorial Institute Mr M.Cox

September

3 Sun 10.30 United Service. Mem.Inst. Mrs M.Thornton.
10 Sun 10.30 Roos Memorial Institute Rev S.Brown
17 Sun ----- No service at Roos
24 Sun 10.30 Roos Memorial Institute Mr R.Brown

October

1 Sun 10.30 United Service. All Saints` Rev G.Smethurst
8 Sun ----- No service at Roos
15 Sun 10.30 Roos Memorial Institute Mr T.Butcher
22 Sun ----- No service at Roos
29 Sun 10.30 Roos Memorial Institute Ms E.Coombe

Cancer Research Sponsorship Appeal

A few weeks ago some so-called friends of mine thought it would be fun to enter me in a 10 km run. It is over 20 years since I tackled anything near that distance. In fact, my exercise for the last 20 years has been a sedentary stroll around the football pitch telling others to chase the ball or the odd jog from the door of the pub when it was raining.

My first response was to tell them to put it somewhere. However, they told me that the run was to raise funds for Cancer Research UK, something close to my heart, having lost my wife Julia just over a year ago after a five-year battle with the disease. So I have decided to give it a go. The run will take place on Sunday 8th October at Castle Howard and I hope to try to raise in the region of £2,000. If anyone from the village would like to support this cause and sponsor me their donation will be gratefully received.

The sponsor forms are available at Melbourne Butchers and Roos Village Stores (my thanks to Gemma and Karen for their kind assistance) – or you can contact me directly.

Any encouragement you can give me as you see me struggling around the village on my so-called training runs would be appreciated.

Mike Green

Linden Lea,
Lamb Lane, Roos.

Roos Children`s Playground Association

To all Mums, Dads and Grandparents

Funds still in the RCPA bank account are being spent on further equipment for the playground.

Children at Roos School and the High School were consulted. On their advice the new equipment will consist of Junior Swings and an Aerial Runway and will cost £12,070.70p.

The equipment is to be installed in the week commencing 4th September. The work will take 3 - 4 days.

PLEASE EMPHASISE TO YOUR CHILDREN THAT THEY WILL PLAY ON THE EQUIPMENT AT THEIR OWN RISK.

If more income becomes available further equipment will be added.

Ann Coupe

Children`s howlers (allegedly) - 1

Bach died from 1750 to the present. He was the most famous composer in the world and so was Handel.

Handle was half German, half Italian and half English. He was very large.

The Rooster

Donations

Many thanks to the following for donations from June to August, some of which should have been acknowledged earlier :

Anon - 7 (Owstwick)	Mr M.R.Green
Anon - 8 (per Roos Store)	Mr S.G.Hague
Mr & Mrs M.Bradley	Mrs L.Hampton
Mr & Mrs T.K.Cook	Mr & Mrs D.W.Hulme
Mr & Mrs R.F.Dry	Mr & Mrs T.Stone
Mr & Mrs K.G.Grant	

137 households have now donated £627.00 for 2006 and there is a healthy bank balance.

Nevertheless, an eight-page newsletter costs overall about £100 to produce and more donations will be welcome to match income to likely expenses in 2006.

If you intend to contribute but have not yet done so, please place your donation in an envelope marked "Rooster" and either leave it at the Roos Store or deliver / post to me at :
Canwick, Lamb Lane, Roos, HU12 0LB.

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

ROOSTER DEADLINE

Please supply news, photographs, reports, letters, notices, grumbles, etc., by

Friday 8th September

to Leslie Helliwell, Canwick, Lamb Lane, Roos

01964 - 670291

or to the Roos Store

The Rooster Association

Sufficient supporters to launch the Association met on 20th July at The Black Horse, Roos. A constitution was adopted and a committee was elected, to which others were later co-opted.

Committee

Willis Ainley	Bob Feetom
Alan Bowden	Leslie Helliwell (Sec.)
Ann Coupe (Vice-Chair)	Kay Newton
Jackie Cracknell	Tim Newton (Chair)
David Craggs	Colin Wilson.
Ken Cross (Treasurer)	

The Treasurer was authorised to open a current account with the four officers as signatories, any two to sign.

Other roles

At a meeting on 27th July other roles were discussed.

Editing

Leslie Helliwell was willing to continue as editor until a replacement could be found. It was agreed to advertise for an editor (unpaid) and an assistant editor, possibly a young person. An essential commitment would be to produce a report on parish council business.

A graphic designer had offered help but it was difficult at present to see when his expertise could be drawn upon.

Committee members and residents in general should suggest items to include and the names of contacts, some of whom might become regular reporters.

Regular features might be introduced, such as *Pub Gossip* or *Gardeners` Corner*.

"The Rooster" should stress that it was a community publication, not an organ of the Parish Council.

Printing

Seven members offered when needed to drive to Hull to have the copies printed.

A fixed petrol allowance was agreed :

To Hull & back (about 38 miles round trip) £15.00

Taking batches to deliverers (about 4.5 miles) £2.50

Batching the copies

Six members offered to help in the five stages : collating the pages; stapling them; folding the copies; counting them into batches; and sticking named wrappers round the batches.

Tim Newton offered to act as team convenor and offered The Old School as a venue for the work.

Distribution

Batches are supplied locally to 15 deliverers (some via Roos Store) and 4 copies to other local addresses. 14 copies are currently posted to donors outside the village.

No firm arrangements were made for this work but it was implied that the batching team might take on some of it.

Operation and review

It was agreed that the arrangements would operate for two months and be reviewed at a meeting on 21st September.

A resident had been identified who would act as voluntary auditor if required.



Mrs Helen Audley

BA (Hons) ALCM

Music Tuition

Clarinet – Piano – Theory

Beginners welcome Ring 01964 - 670895

C.Fewster & Son Ltd
Independent Funeral Services

Church Lane, Patrington, HU12 0RJ.

Phone : Ken Fewster (Patrington) 01964 - 630228

Day or Night.
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Serving our Local
Community

Roos Parish Council

Attendance

The meeting on 14th August was attended by Cllrs Cheeseman, Cook, Craggs, Dodson, Grant, Helliwell, Kirk and Winter (Chair).

An apology for her absence was received from Cllr Smales.

Members of the public (including :)

Mr W.E.Ainley, Mr M.Blanchard, Mrs C.Blanchard, Mr A.J.Brumhead, Mrs T.C.Blenkin, Mrs P.Cheeseman, Mrs A.Coupe, Mr K.Cross, Mr D.Kirk, Mrs Lawson, Mr K.J.Salt and Mr D.Simpkin.

Declarations of interest

No new interests were declared. Cllr Grant said that owing to his interest in the matter he would withdraw when wind turbines were to be discussed.

Minutes

The Minutes of the July meeting were approved. The following topics arose from the Minutes

Bridleway at Tunstall

Correction : It was Cllr Dodson, not Cllr Craggs, who had reported that ERYC were considering closing the entire bridleway owing to coastal erosion. Cllr Dodson said that ERYC were searching their records.

Closure of Pasture Lane, Tunstall

ERYC were studying the access predicament of Messrs A & J Smales, Pasture Farm, Tunstall. The Parish Council would be kept informed.

Parish Plan

The final Plan had not yet been published. In response to his request a copy of the most recent draft had been sent to Mr Pete Ashcroft.

Passing places on Seaside Road, Tunstall

Cllrs Craggs reported that 7 signs had been erected : 2 on Southfield Rd and 5 on the Roos-Tunstall road.

Beach at Sand-le-Mere

Cllr Craggs said that the damaged sign had not yet been replaced. There had been a change of ERYC officer. The new officer responsible would need to deal with the matter.

The cliff-top waste bins had been emptied. Regular emptying was needed. The matter would be pursued.

Passing place on New Road, Owstwick

Cllr Cook said that no passing place had yet been made, though it had been requested. The Clerk had consulted Mr Mike Peak (Highways Department). Mr Peak doubted whether his budget could afford the work. The Clerk commented that the need could be addressed during the Streetscene survey.

Streetscene

Highways officers were due to visit to discuss work needed on roads in the the parish. The following said they wished to attend : Cllrs Craggs, Helliwell and Winter.

If Cllr Helliwell could not attend it was agreed that a Parish Plan colleague could attend in his place.

Correspondence

ERYC : Ethnic Minorities Code of Practice

The Clerk would circulate the documents to members.

Parish Paths Partnership

The Parish Paths Officer, Simon Parker, requested details of unspent funds for 2005-6 and of the budget for 2006-7. New way-marking signs were available for installation after all paths had been walked.

Cllr Craggs had been in touch with Dr Hersom, Parish Paths volunteer contact for the parish. Owing to work commitments Dr Hersom had been unable to respond, though he was willing to continue in the role.

Members recalled that Mr Andy Coyne had offered to assist Dr Hersom, though he might be unable to walk the paths. A member of the public, Mr Andy Brumhead, offered to walk the paths.

It was agreed that Dr Hersom should be informed that the workload might be shared : Mr Coyne to handle financial matters, Mr Brumhead to monitor the condition of the paths.

Electoral Register

Two deletions were noted.

ERYC Area Forum

Cllr Craggs was congratulated on his election to the Forum, a consultative body representing town and parish council interests.

Wind Turbines

A letter from Mr J.McWatt was considered with other turbine matters later in the meeting.

Letters from two residents about the way "The Rooster" had handled turbine matters was deferred to the Public Session.

Purchase of a bench (*Item from earlier in the year*)

ERYC had provided a list of recommended contractors. The Clerk undertook to seek three quotations for the work.

Parish Council website

Nick Warnett, ERYC`s ICT Project Officer (01482-394521), offered to help provide a Roos website. It was agreed that the Clerk should request an application form.

Planning

Decisions

Sand-le-Mere Caravan Park Ltd

Change of use of agricultural land to caravan park and vehicular access NE of Cliff Farm, Kiln House Lane, Tunstall. Approved subject to several conditions.

Melbourne Butchers, Main Street, Roos

First-floor extension and change of store to first-floor flat. Consent refused : the extension would dominate the neighbouring Black Horse premises.

The Old Rectory, Roos

Two storey extension to south. Consent refused : the land was identified as a green area in the Parish Plan.

New applications

Elm Tree Farm, Hilston Road, Roos (Mr Crouch)

Retention of an agricultural building replacing a slurry-based piggery. Members recommended approval.

5 Beckside Manor, Roos (Mr Priestley)

Permission sought to prune two lower branches of a protected tree. The branches overhang Mr Priestley's garden within a metre of the ground, blocking his plants. Approval recommended.

Wind Turbines at Sunderland Farm, Roos (RES UK Ltd)

Full planning consent sought for the erection of 11 wind turbines and associated structures (some for use during the construction phase).

The application was discussed with other turbine matters later in the meeting. In accordance with the agreed policy of the parish council it was agreed to recommend refusal. Notification : proposed sites for tree planting

There was funding to plant trees from the company responsible for the existing gas caverns near Aldbrough. It was proposed to plant trees in two settlements within the qualifying distance :

Hilston At the entrance to the village and on the bends approaching the church.

Owstwick Between Owstwick and The Elms and between The Grange and Fox Covert.

Report by the Treasurer, Cllr Winter

Parish Accounts

The Audit Commission had approved the accounts – at a fee of £58.75.

Parish Plan Committee : request for further grant

The Committee requested a further grant since the quotation for printing had increased since the budget was prepared on the basis of estimates given in early 2004. To reduce the shortfall of £772 including VAT it had been decided to order 1,000 printed copies instead of 2,000.

VAT had been reclaimed for Parish Plan work already paid for and was being held for the Committee in the Parish Council account. When VAT was also reclaimed for the printing bill the overall net cost to the Parish Council would be £172.

Members approved payment of the amounts stated to the Audit Commission and the Parish Plan Committee respectively .

Any other business

Rectory Road

Cllr Grant drew attention to the problems caused by the narrowness of the road near North Farm and down to the church. The bollards near North Farm had been placed at the road edge instead of farther back, narrowing the road even more. Two large vehicles could pass each other only by running on to the grass verge. The dyke near North Farm had been badly damaged. Members assumed that the problem would be raised during the forthcoming Streetscene visit.

BT Broadband in Tunstall

Cllr Craggs said that Tunstall residents could not access

Broadband. The Clerk undertook to ask BT whether access was to be provided.

Lifestylers tackle dog fouling

Cllr Dodson reported that a group of youngsters were stencilling pavements with a reminder to owners to remove their dogs' faeces and keep the village clean. Members warmly approved.

Open Meeting

The annual meeting for residents to raise issues with the Parish Council was arranged for 12th September at 7.30 in The Memorial Institute.

Roos Beck blocked

Cllr Cook reported that blockage had caused flooding at Dimples Cottage, South End, Roos. There was doubt about where the blockage was. Some members referred to the need for regular clearing of the grille near the church. The Clerk undertook to report the blockage and request that it be cleared.

PUBLIC SESSION

Affordable housing

The Chairman introduced Mr Roger Jones of Humber & Wolds Rural Community Council who spoke about a project to provide affordable housing in Roos. (*Details on front page.*)

Roos Children's Playground Association

Mrs Ann Coupe reported that the Association had been disbanded owing to lack of active support. However, the remaining funds were being spent on two additional features costing £12,078.78 : swings and an aerial runway with a 30-metre cable. The work should start on 4th September and take four days.

Mrs Coupe asked "The Rooster" to advise parents and other carers that children using the aerial runway did so at their own risk and should take great care.

(*Mrs Coupe later told "The Rooster" that she and Mr Walter Holbrook remained signatories to the continuing bank account.*)

Rectory Road : a scheduled cycle loop

Referring to the proposal to widen Rectory Road, Mrs Cherie Blenkin said that Highways had recognised this road as part of a cycle loop. Widening the road would contradict the assumption that Rectory Road was a quiet and little-used thoroughfare that was safe for cyclists.

RES application for wind turbines at Sunderland Farm

A letter from Mr John McWatt, Chair of Rimswell Parish Council, urged Roos Parish Council to write to the Planning Department to support his request that a decision be deferred until after Christmas. The stated deadline was 24th August. Mr McWatt argued that the application was complex and residents needed more time to consider it. It was agreed to request deferral.

"The Rooster" accused of bias

The challenge

Letters to the Parish Council from Mr Tony Simpson and Mr Andy Brumhead accused *The Rooster* of bias in dealing with the issue of wind turbines. Between them

they claimed that the Editor had "a hidden agenda", had been seduced by secret free hospitality from the turbine companies and had publicised the case for wind turbines in defiance of the decision to oppose them by the Parish Council of which he was a member.

Mr Simpson wrote : "He has constantly sought to undermine and negate the policies of the council to suit his own ends." Mr Brumhead said that the editor was unfit to be a councillor and should resign.

The Defence

Cllr Helliwell said that his integrity had never before been so savaged. He had tried to present information objectively without taking sides. He had not sold his soul to the turbine companies in some secret deal. He wanted "The Rooster" to be a forum for the exchange of views and had not excluded opinions he did not share.

Mrs Cherie Blenkin challenged the claim that all material submitted had been printed : she herself had submitted a letter on behalf of the Parish Council but it did not appear. Cllr Helliwell was embarrassed. He could not at the meeting remember what the letter had contained and was therefore unable to defend himself at the time. (See the later article, "The Rooster on trial".)

Cllr Helliwell apologised to Mr Brumhead in one respect. During the public session of the July Parish Council

meeting Mr Brumhead had accused the Editor of bias yet the accusation had not been reported. The accusation had probably been omitted either through oversight or because it was irrelevant to the issue in question, i.e. the Parish Council's continuing opposition to all turbine applications. Cllr Helliwell admitted that, in retrospect, the accusation should have been printed.

Cllr Helliwell said that "The Rooster" was independent of the Parish Council and was not bound to reflect the Council's views. Its function was to provide objective reports of Council meetings. When he added comments or data of his own the additions were given in brackets and italics, usually with the initials "L.H." at the end.

Roos Parish Council
11th September
NORMAL MONTHLY MEETING
7.30 in The Memorial Institute

12th September
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
7.30 in The Memorial Institute

An opportunity for residents to discuss matters of concern with their parish councillors. All welcome.

Roos & District Horticultural Society

Another successful Annual Clay Shoot

The Annual Clay Shoot was held on June 25th. Mr Martyn Maltas kindly provided the venue. The money raised goes towards putting on the Spring and Summer shows.

The Committee wish to thank everyone involved in helping once again to make this a successful day.

Jennifer Grant

	D.T.L.		Sporting
<u>Open</u>	1. A.Wright 2. A.Lyons 3. B.M.T.		1. A.Wright 2. A.Lyons 3. C.North
<u>Local</u>	1. S.Ashley 2. B.M.T. 3. A.Mayors	<u>Ladies</u>	1. Jo.S.Bocking 2. D.Culshaw 3. Di Cook
<u>Ladies</u>	1. Jo.S.Bocking	<u>Junior</u>	1. A.Long 2. F.Reece 3. N.Heard
	Junior D.T.L.		
	1. A.Long 2. B.Stephenson 3. F.Reece		

Children`s howlers (allegedly) - 2

The nineteenth century was a time of a great many thoughts and inventions. People stopped reproducing by hand and started reproducing by machine. The invention of the steamboat caused a network of rivers to spring up.

Karl Marx was one of the Marx Brothers. The other three were in the movies. Karl made speeches and started revolutions. Someone in the family had to have a job, I guess.

Coming events

September

- 6 Roos WI. Memorial Institute. 7.30. Judith Law : The History of Thorntons` chocolates.
- 8 Deadline for "Rooster" material.
- 11 Roos Parish Council. Memorial Institute. 7.30.
- 12 Annual Parish Meeting. Memorial Institute. 7.30
- 21 Rooster Association Committee. Black Horse. 7.30.

October

- 4 Roos WI. Mem. Inst. 7.30. Chris Lee : Textiles and goldwork.
- 9 Roos Parish Council. Memorial Institute. 7.30
- 8 Sponsored run for Cancer Research. Castle Howard.

November

- 1 Roos WI. Memorial Institute. 7.30. Annual meeting.
- 13 Roos Parish Council. Memorial Institute. 7.30.

What do you know!

- 1. How long did the Hundred Years' War last?
- 2. Which country makes Panama hats?
- 3. From which animal do we get catgut?
- 4. In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution?
- 5. What is a camel`s hair brush made of?
- 6. The Canary Islands are named after which animal?
- 7. What was George I`s first name?
- 8. What colour is a purple finch?
- 9. Where are Chinese gooseberries from?
- 10. What is the colour of the black box in commercial planes?

ANSWERS (Four correct needed to pass, it says here.)

- 1. 116 years
- 2. Ecuador
- 3. Sheep & horses
- 4. November
- 5. Squirrel fur
- 6. Dogs
- 7. Albert
- 8. Crimson
- 9. New Zealand
- 10. Orange

Further gas caverns planned near Aldbrough

E.ON UK proposes to develop further gas storage caverns to the north of Aldbrough.

The Whitehill Gas Storage Project will create about ten caverns some 1.8 km underground. Unique salt deposits (stretching under the sea to Germany and Poland) make the area one of the few UK locations suitable for such a project.

Extra storage is needed because of the reduced production of North Sea gas which has made us increasingly dependant on imported supplies. By 2015 some 70-80% of our gas will be imported. The Whitehill caverns will help to manage daily, weekly and seasonal fluctuations in demand and to provide security of supplies and stable prices.

To create the caverns sea water pumped into wells drilled into the deposits will return it to the sea as brine.

A surface processing plant will take gas from the National Transmission System (NTS) at Ganstead and store it at high pressure in the caverns.

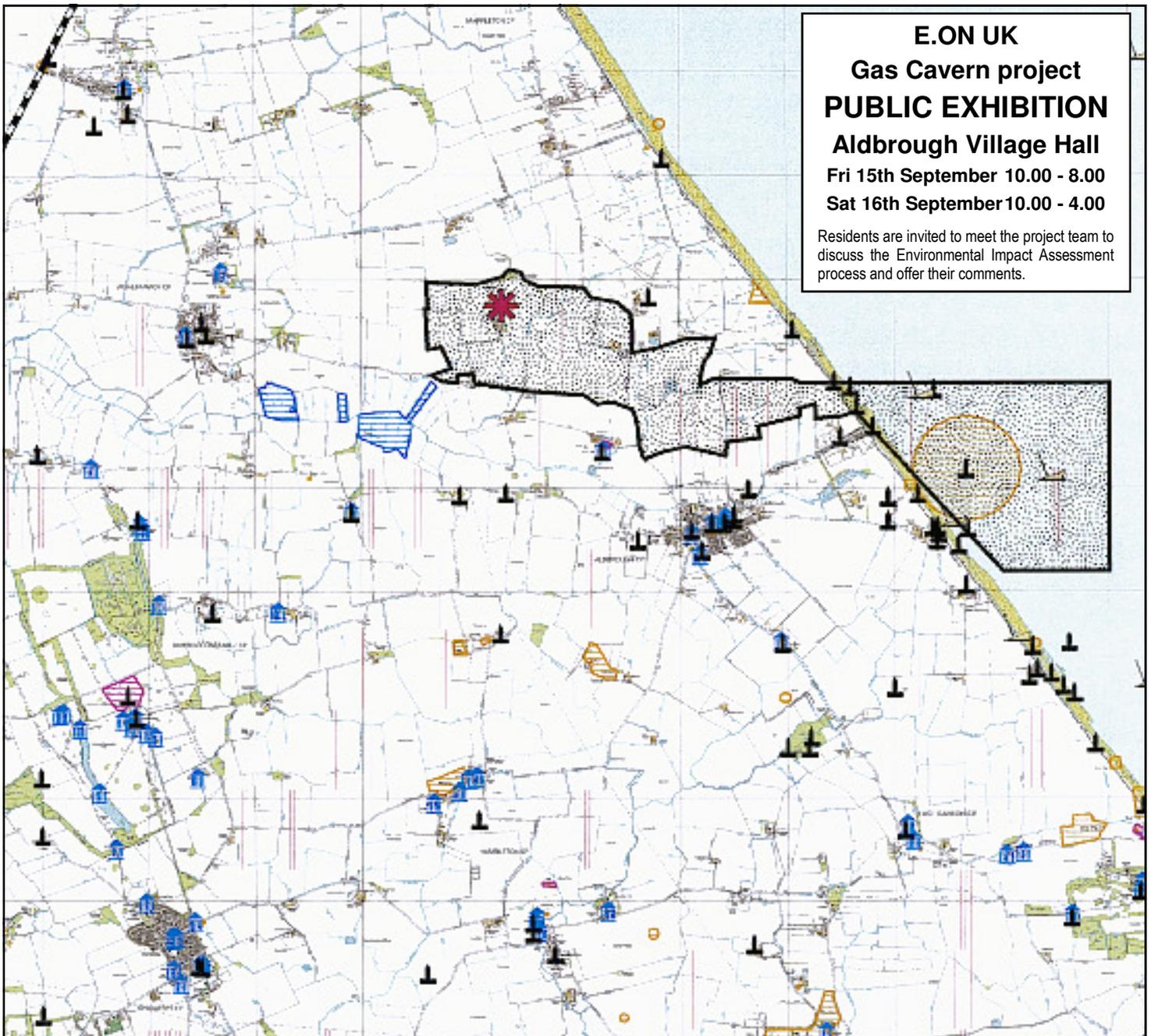
When required to meet high demand or at times of reduced supply, the facility will process the gas to appropriate standards for return to the NTS.

Members of Roos Parish Council have each been provided with a copy of the Scoping Report commissioned by E.ON. This 70-page document explains what installations will be needed and outlines the researches to be undertaken in preparing the Environmental Statement as part of the eventual planning application. The Planning Authority may require additional features to be considered.

A covering letter implies that residents in general have been advised of the project but have not been given copies of the Scoping Report. It may be inspected at County Hall or the company's website (www.eon-uk.com/gas_storage/whitehill). Alternatively, borrow a councillor's copy or obtain one of your own. Ring E.ON's Community Relations team : 0800 3777 345.

This article is based on the opening pages of the Report. The map is a small section scanned from the A3 map supplied : the original map covers an area from Mappleton in the north as far south as Thorgumbald and westward to the fringes of Hull.

*The heavy line shows the boundary of the Scoping Area.
= National Monuments Record (Point).*



"The Rooster" on Trial

Our newsletter depends on its readers for its funding but also for their trust. If that trust is lost it might be better to cease publication.

The recent criticisms are deeply wounding, not only to the Editor's self-esteem but also to the integrity of "The Rooster" as a reliable source of community information.

For that reason it seems worthwhile to set out in detail what has been said and done so that readers may judge for themselves what to make of the controversy.

The material set out below is long and exhaustive. Many will find it tedious. But accusations of unfair bias and impropriety need to be answered.

Even then, no doubt, some mud will stick. The saying, "Qui s'excuse, s'accuse," springs to mind and it was tempting to apply the other maxim, "Never apologise; never explain."

This feature continues under two headings : 1. Criticisms. 2. Defence.

1. Criticisms

Four letters

Two letters were addressed to the Parish Council, though I was given copies in advance of the meeting.

The Holderness Gazette had earlier printed two other letters critical of *The Rooster*.

All four were written by opponents of E.ON's wind turbine project at Tedder Hill.

All four are reprinted here.

The prospect of wind turbines in our immediate locality was bound to arouse strong feelings.

Those For and those Against become very partisan and tend to denigrate anyone who appears to them to support the other camp. The messenger is blamed for the message – "If you don't like the music, shoot the pianist."

What suffers is rational debate.

Letters to *The Holderness Gazette*

27 July 2006

Wind farm "supporters" would not listen

On a shopping trip to Withemsea from Roos on Thursday, July 20 I was shocked to find representatives from the Company E.ON who are planning to build three wind turbines on the edge of Roos down Queen Street in Withemsea.

I believe they were touting for support and this bothers me! As underhanded as it appeared, when confronted, they just did not listen to anyone with an argument.

Yet as they stopped the public going about daily business, it would be not too presumptuous to say that up to 60 per cent of the people stopped were probably visitors to the town, i.e. Holidaymakers.

When I pointed out my opposition as I lived in Roos, at first I was refused a copy of the letter they were asking people to sign. After pointing out that we now live in a democracy and I was entitled to access to this letter I was reluctantly handed one.

Perhaps E.ON has to drum up support by any means as the opposition to wind farms grows. I do hope people are aware of the foreign imports, by that I mean the steel, plastic, and every nut and bolt are probably engineered in Germany or Denmark.

Not to mention the hundreds of tonnes of concrete they will pour into the land. There is also the sheer magnitude of the trucks coming and going from the site. It is all purely motivated by money. If the land were compulsorily purchased would the landowners give in freely? I think not!

Furthermore, we are asked to continually support British farmers by buying their produce. More recently at farmers' markets. Fantastic! Yet they will sell or let the land to companies such as E.ON.

Farm diversity NO! Green NO! On England's green and pleasant land SOLD! I think not!

Mike Blanchard
Roos.

3 July 2006

Wind farms

With regard Mr Blanchard's comments last week.

Wind energy companies will go to any lengths to have their planning application passed. They send in letters of support from all over Europe.

They are not green, nor do they care about the environment. If they did why are E.ON in talks with the government to build nuclear power stations as we speak?

At the RES awareness day in Roos, I asked Mr. Bristow the project manager, "Will you be extending the Sunderland Farm site at all?"

His answer was and I quote : "At this time we have no plans to extend the Sunderland Farm project, but we cannot rule out extending the site in the future".

I then asked : "Do wind farms affect house prices?"

Again, and I quote : "There is no proof of falling house prices, when the planning application is sent in, and the building is under way there is a fall in house prices but as a rule they generally go back up."

How reassured are you? How many turbines will there be in five years' time?

Finally, can anyone tell me if the Roos Parish Newspaper, the Rooster, has been taken over by one of the wind energy companies?

I ask this because it only ever prints one side of the story regarding wind farms.

Mr J McWatt
Rimswell

Mr McWatt is Chair of Rimswell Parish Council and organised their opinion poll.

At two meetings in Roos he spoke robustly in opposition to the Tedder Hill project and to wind turbines in general.

Letters to Roos Parish Council

25 July 2006

Roos Parish Council : for attention of the Chairman, Mr David Winter

Dear Sirs,

Further to the last Parish Council Meeting, I was astonished to see the report in the subsequent edition of "The Rooster". Whilst containing a general assessment of the meeting, it carried no mention, in the "Public Session", of remarks made by other villagers and I, in regard to the "Wind Turbine" issue.

I was hopeful of something. I expected it not to be in depth, nothing more than a mention that it had been discussed would have been at least polite. Further, to exacerbate the issue, once again, a very biased view was put forward in regard to the most recent planning application, for the "Sunderland Farm" site.

As far as I am aware, the editor, in sole control of the inclusions within the parish "newsletter", is your deputy-chairman, Mr Helliwell. I have not met this gentleman, so clearly am not aware of any "hidden agenda" that impels him to speak publicly in contravention of your council's policies. I realise the publication in question, has no formal links with Roos Council, although it generally reports, almost verbatim, the content of the meetings. It does not take any great intellect to realise parishioners might, in good faith, assume all that appears in "The Rooster" in regard to your meetings, is a concise indication of "our" council's business.

I was under the general impression that those putting themselves forward for election to "serve" on the "parish council", did so with the clear understanding that once elected they would be expected to do just that, "support and serve" the people of the parish, over and above their own thoughts and desires.

Furthermore, issues concerning the parish and its parishioners, should be decided in an open and democratic manner.

Likewise, one would assume, that someone linked so intrinsically to both the council and the local newsheet, especially considering the latter's local

influence, and the fact the paper is financed by the local populous, should strive to be seen as; fair, honest, open and unbiased. My opinion is that Mr Helliwell has been none of these.

Whether or not his opinions be moral or otherwise, right or wrong, these should be of no consequence to his actions in support of, what is now the overwhelming opinion of Roos households (as was made more than clear at the recent "RES" presentation), wind turbines are not wanted in our parish.

Contrary to what the gentleman may think, in consideration to the moral issues, his is not the only point of view. The rest of us are not just, uneducated, country bumpkins with no concept of the deeper ramifications of renewable energy. Personally, I have been involved in construction and civil engineering for more than thirty years, and have spent, at least a hundred hours recently looking into the wind energy conundrum in depth, and this before nailing my colours to the mast.

I don't seek to change Mr Helliwell's mind, I only ask he consider that he has as much chance of being wrong as the rest of us, and as such he should have confined his opinions to himself and his associates and not taken the subversive route. He has constantly sought to undermine and negate the policies of the council to suit his own ends.

I am further led to believe, despite the parish council's early decision to support the wishes of the villagers, in rejection of local wind turbines, Mr Helliwell took it on himself, not only to dismiss this motion out of hand, despite being voted upon, but to actually accept a luncheon date with one of the representatives of "EoN" the energy company proposing the "Tedder Hill" wind-farm site.

If your fellow member can sell his allegiance and integrity so cheaply, one should ask oneself, should he really warrant a position on our council? Personally I think not, and would further suggest he be asked to "step down" as a representative of Roos village and parish forthwith. He has let us down and discredited himself.

My Kindest Regards

Andv I. Brumhead.

North End, Roos.

Dear Chairman,

Please note that I have also sent a copy of this letter to Mr Helliwell for publication in the Rooster.

I am becoming somewhat concerned over the recent issues of the monthly magazine "Rooster".

The magazine was always an innocent and rather charming reflection of village life, but recently it appears to have been seduced by big business, and is now very little more than a propaganda outlet for the Power Generation Companies.

It certainly does not reflect Village life or Village interests. The recent issues have been an embarrassment, with carefully worded and very misleading full-page "advertisements" for Wind turbines.

Absolutely no consideration has been paid to the numerous comments and opinions from the vast majority of villagers who desperately oppose the proposed and needless decimation of the Village and Village life. There is indeed a great deal of anger and bitterness within the Village over its contents.

I have seen photographic evidence that apparently up to 90% of those attending the Tedder Hill "Open Day" meeting registered their total opposition of the project. Strangely this was missing from the Rooster report.

With urgency I ask that all council members, like MPs, openly and honestly declare any interests in the Power Generation Companies, not just directly, i.e. with land, but also indirectly, with all aspects considered, including hospitality etc. We must trust our elected officials, and we currently have sufficient reason to be very wary.

It is now apparent that the Power Generation Companies look set upon employing very underhand methods in an attempt to win friends, stifle opposition and mislead the public. I have seen some of the current techniques being practised before; they are generally used when the Companies feel their arguments are losing credibility.

After all, I suspect their very large bonuses are at stake.

Yours sincerely

Tony Simpson.

This defence uses some of what I said at the August Parish Council.

Some of these have been elaborated and others have been added.

(I was too busy to make notes!)

2. Defence

Independence of the newsletter

I started "The Rooster" in 1985 as a means of publicising issues tabled at parish council meetings, since residents were at the time very poorly informed.

Nevertheless, "The Rooster" has never been a mouthpiece for the parish council and is, I believe, sometimes right to criticise – as long as the reporting and the comments are clearly distinguished. As a

famous editor of *The (Manchester) Guardian* once said : "Facts are sacred; comment is free."

When I have added explanations and comments within reports of meetings I have always done so in italics and inside brackets to show the distinction between fact and comment.

Present scope of the newsletter

Although "The Rooster" started as a means of publicising parish council business, over time other parish interests were added : reports from clubs and societies, appeals, advertisements for local events, etc.

"The Rooster" is now a forum for the community. The more residents who take part – by submitting reports, articles and letters (however critical!) – the more the community benefits.

Providing additional information

Parish Council meetings often have a very full agenda and there is often inadequate time to consider issues as fully as they deserve. *The Rooster* can deal more thoroughly with such issues.

This is especially true when the East Riding of Yorkshire Council sends weighty documents requiring a response almost by return. For example, materials have been sent about the LDF (the Local Development Framework) the evolving new planning structure – and there will be much more to come.

(The Parish Council will not cope with such demands unless it adopts procedures to discuss long documents in detail.)

Publicity in the newsletter

The Rooster has regularly publicised these innovations, usually by summaries and selective quotation.

Readers have a right to know what new policies and procedures are being developed since they will affect how issues affecting our own communities will be decided.

Publicity : Environmental Statements

The same reasoning justifies publicising documents about planning applications by E.ON and RES.

Each application must be accompanied by an Environmental Statement.

Environmental Statements are not blatant self-serving propaganda from the turbine companies themselves. They are the findings of independent consultants after rigorous professional research in accordance with statutory requirements.

The research is partly office-based, (checking national and local government policies and guidelines) but most of it entails detailed environmental surveys by specialists.

Residents could have read copies of the

Environmental Statements at the library in Withernsea, at County Hall, on the internet and by application to the Parish Clerk. Few residents would have the time or facilities to do so.

The Rooster provided summaries of the Statements to satisfy a public need. Residents were enabled to appreciate the actual likely impact of the turbines on our communities and environment.

Yet Mr Simpson accuses me of printing full-page "advertisements" for the wind companies. But nobody accused me of advertising for ERYC when I publicised summaries of new planning procedures.

Editorial independence

The present editor is also a parish councillor but "The Rooster" cannot keep its independence if it has to toe a parish-council line, whether about wind turbines or any other issue.

No editor (or councillor) can take a decision that satisfies all electors. All he can do is assess an issue as fairly and knowledgeably as he can and then make up his own mind.

Editorial decisions

An editor has to make best use of the space. Every month the material must be laid out in an even number of pages since it is wasteful to print an odd number and leave one page blank. To achieve an economical layout some articles are abbreviated and others are excluded altogether.

Mr Brumhead accuses me of omitting points that he and others made in the public session at the July meeting.

In answer to a question the Chairman had already stated that Roos Parish Council opposed wind turbines and would continue to do so. Mr Brumhead and others seemed intent on persuading councillors to reach a decision already taken. Their arguments were irrelevant to the question asked. Perhaps that was why they went unreported, though I may have simply overlooked them. Saving space may also have been a consideration.

However, as I admitted at the August meeting, I should have included his accusation in July that *The Rooster* was biased. I apologised.

Accusations of bias

I never exclude someone's views because I disagree with them. For example, in September 2005 *The Rooster* reported the public meeting on 18th August attended by Chantal Thomas from E.ON. She had at first declined the request to attend since at the time she had no information to give other than what had already been given to the parish council. When she did

attend she became an Aunt Sally for protesters. I thought this was unfair.

Yet the meeting was very fully reported and a display ad was printed to publicise a meeting to plan the SHOWT campaign. Since then SHOWT has submitted no material for *The Rooster* (except Mrs Blenkin's – See below) and consequently none has been printed.

Mrs Blenkin's challenge

At the August parish council meeting Mrs Blenkin challenged my claim that *The Rooster* was open to all viewpoints. She referred to a letter she submitted allegedly on behalf of the parish council.

I was embarrassed since I remembered the occasion but not the reason why the letter did not appear. Research has now aided my memory.

Parish Council Report, The Rooster, June 2006

Mrs Blenkin said that the closing date for objections was now 30th June but that many people did not have details of the application. She asked that a letter be sent to all residents setting out the procedure if they wanted to oppose it. The Chairman said he would consult the Clerk.

Mrs Blenkin later asked *The Rooster* to print a letter. It not only advised readers how to oppose E.ON's application but also offered advice what to say.

The letter was not printed for the following reasons.

- The Parish Council had not sanctioned such a letter, though asked to do so.
- The letter had already been circulated to residents as a leaflet.
- The letter implied that opposition was the only option.
- In June, Philip Parker, Head of Planning and Development Control, had already written advising residents on the procedure, whether they wanted to support the application, oppose it or merely offer a comment. The Rooster reprinted the advice. Mrs Blenkin's letter was superfluous.
- In June *The Rooster* had also printed details of E.ON's application, including the Environmental Statement summary. It was no longer true that, "many people did not have details of the application."

Not seduced by a bowl of soup

I am not part of a furtive conspiracy. I have no "hidden agenda". I am not in the pay of the turbine companies. I have derived no gain from the way in which I have passed on wind-turbine information. The idea that I sold my soul for a secret lunch is laughable. E.ON invited media representatives to visit the Out Newton site. I was invited as Editor of *The Rooster*. I later enjoyed a bowl of soup but was not seduced by it. I informed fellow councillors of the visit in advance and reported on it afterwards both to them and publicly in *The Rooster*. Nothing was done in secret. (See *The Rooster*, Nov.05).