



The Rooster

Roos Village Newsletter

No. 82

December 2001

Roos Parish Council

The 10th meeting December was attended by Councillors Cheeseman, Cook, Grant, Jackson, Kirk, Quarmby, Priest, D. Winter and G.E. Winter (Chair). Mid-Holderness Ward Councillor Stewart Willie was in attendance.

Minutes

After approval of the November Minutes, members discussed matters arising from them.

Notice of financial resolutions.

Councillor Willie had advised that advance notice of financial resolutions to be tabled should be given in the Agenda. Taking financial decisions without prior notice could be deemed illegal and there would soon be stricter scrutiny of financial decisions by local councils.

The Clerk had researched the matter and in response had prepared a written statement, which the Chairman read out. It defended the Parish Council's practice of deciding financial matters as they arose and without prior notice. The Chairman made clear that Councillor Willie's remarks had been uncalled for. His views carried no more weight than those of any other member of the public. The report of them in "The Rooster" had maligned the Parish Council and merited an apology.

Councillor Willie said that as ward councillor he voluntarily attended the meetings of several parish councils to pass on advice and information that he was in a position to give. His motive was to assist, not to dictate.

As to the issue in question, what he had said was true: it had always been good practice to give advance notice of financial resolutions. Most parish councils had standing orders that required it. There were to be greater checks on the propriety of decision-making by all councils, not least over financial matters. It would be wise to follow the recommended procedures.

Councillor Grant said that Councillor Willie's advice had been offered in good faith. His intention had been to give assistance and, whatever the Parish Council decided, the advice should be regarded in that light.

(There was no formal decision on the matter. The Parish Council will probably continue to take financial decisions as they arise in a meeting and not postpone them to be notified in advance in the Agenda for the next one.)

(The report of the last meeting in "The Rooster" was a true account. It did not malign the Parish Council. No apology is needed.)

Road signs. The signs had now been erected.

Road to Dent's Garth

For the Highways Department Mr Mike Peak had replied to the query over the status of the road. His current information was that it was a private road. However, another enquiry had raised the question whether it might not, in fact, be a public highway. The matter was being looked into.

Members agreed that a copy of the reply should be sent to Mr Roberts, the resident who had raised the matter.

Millennium monument

The bill for the plaque had been received. There had been no reply from the Parish Council's insurers about the increased level of premium to cover public liability in respect of the monument.

Correspondence

Model Code of Conduct

A letter from the Department of Transport, Local Government and the Regions enclosed a copy of "The Parish Councils (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2001".

This legislation was laid before Parliament on 6th November and came into force on 27th November.

The Order requires every parish council to adopt its own code of conduct by 5th May 2002. A council's code must include the provisions set out in the order.

The provisions concern the propriety of behaviour of individual councillors. They cover such matters as declarations of interest and the improper use of public funds. In some instances written statements from individual councillors will be required.

Receipt of the document was noted but members did not consider the requirement to adopt a code of conduct by next May.

National Training Strategy

A twenty-two-page document on training was received with a covering letter signed jointly by Margaret Clark, Director of the Countryside Agency, and John Findlay, Chief Executive of the National Association of Local Councils.

The aim is to increase training opportunities in England and Wales for both town and parish councillors and for their clerks. The matter is regarded as urgent in order to

equip councils to cope with increasing responsibilities and new legislation affecting local communities. One-off government funding is available.

The letter was not read out, though the Chairman picked out one sentence : "A key criterion to qualify for quality parish council status is to have a competent clerk." He then startled members with a sudden question : "Do you agree that we have a very competent clerk?" All assented.

The main document was not considered.

Roos Children's Playground Association (RCPA)

A letter from Ms Sharon Mullett reported that RCPA held its inaugural meeting on 4th December and formally elected its officers. Following discussions, it had been mutually agreed that RCPA should be regarded as a sub-committee of the Roos Playing Field Association.

(At the Parish Council meeting Cllr David Winter said that land for children's play equipment would be made available near the Playing Field car park.)

RCPA was intending to seek funding from the National Lottery but to do so needed to demonstrate that money was being raised locally. Fund-raising efforts were planned and it was hoped that the Parish Council would give financial support.

Councillors welcomed the progress of RCPA so far and agreed in principle to support it. No actual grant was considered at this stage.

Planning

Two decisions of the Planning Committee were reported.

Owstwick Grange. Outline application approved.

Carr House, Hilston Road. Removal of agricultural tenancy condition approved.

One application had been withdrawn :

Glebe Farm, Hilston Road. Demolition and replacement of the dwelling.

Accounts

The Treasurer, Cllr David Winter, referred to three items.

Two payments were approved : the Parish Clerk's salary and the bill for the provision and fixing of the plaque on the Millennium Monument at a cost of £176.25.

As to the latter, it was noted that, since the stone had been donated and its installation had been free of charge, the cost of the plaque had been the only expense incurred by the council.

A way-leave payment of £49.48 had been received in respect of electricity poles on Parish Council land.

Any other business

Abandoned cars

Cllr Cheeseman suggested that the police be asked to remove the car left in a dyke on the straight stretch of road out of Roos to Withernsea. The Clerk had already enquired. It was not a police matter but the responsibility of the car owner.

Cllr Willie said that when a car owner left a damaged car

(or deliberately abandoned an unsaleable car) the location of the vehicle should be reported to the East Riding, which would, after a lapse of time, remove it.

The Queen's Golden Jubilee, 3rd June 2002

Cllr Kirk said she had been asked what plans the Parish Council had to mark the Jubilee. One suggestion was to install a good-quality seat on the roadside between North End and the village centre. It was agreed that the topic should be an Agenda item for the next meeting.

She also asked that the Minutes should be printed in larger type. The Clerk said that he had been trying to save paper but it was agreed that larger type should be used.

MPs and the Ombudsman

Cllr Quarmbury noted that MPs had made such a fuss about enquiries into their personal affairs by the Parliamentary Ombudsman that she was unlikely to be reappointed. The rest of us — including parish councillors, who were being given more and more jobs and being tied up in more and more rules — had to grin and bear the demands of officialdom. We couldn't sack officers employed to keep an eye on us..

Goodwill to all men (and women)

The Chairman wished all colleagues and residents present a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

PUBLIC SESSION

Dumping

Mr L.Helliwell said that abandoned cars were a problem everywhere because there was no longer even scrap value in old bangers. One residential street in London had regularly suffered from several dumped cars left for weeks at a time.

Cllr Willie said that the cost of removing abandoned cars was a drain on scarce public resources. It was hoped that the government might help to meet the expense.

Members noted that the problem was not confined to cars. There was no longer recovery value in other scrap goods. For example, refrigerators and freezers were also being dumped. Because of the health hazards their safe disposal was essential yet, because of the cost, local authorities would no longer accept them at waste-disposal sites. One member noted that Comet had had a scheme to accept them — but at a charge of £30.00.

Cllr Cheeseman reported that a quantity of car tyres had been dumped over the cliff near the Tunstall-Hilston road. Cllr Jackson said that even asbestos had been left there.

Cllr Willie repeated his advice that all such dumping should be reported to the East Riding.

Roos Parish Council

Next meeting

Monday 14th January

7.30 p.m. in the Memorial Institute

Members of the public always welcome

The Rooster

Recent donations are gratefully acknowledged from :

Miss M.Littler

Mr & Mrs B.Miller

Mr & Mrs A.M.Lockwood

Mr & Mrs B.N.Reckitt

Figures and the calendar

There have been over 80 contributions. Some persons have donated twice - which reduces the number of individual donors. Some donors no longer live in the village - which reduces the number of actual residents who have contributed.

These figures relate to the year so far since 1st April.

If you last subscribed before 1st April, you have barely three months to do so *this* year before the end of March. If you always mean to contribute but keep forgetting, please forgive the repeated reminders. (And apologies to everybody else too.)

Please pass donations to me at Canwick, Lamb Lane. (The National Savings Bank requires cheques to be made out to "L.Helliwell".)

ROOSTER DEADLINE

Please pass material for publication to
Leslie Helliwell, Canwick, Lamb Lane
(Phone : 670291)

by

Friday 11th January

Roos Cricket Club
Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 8th January
7.0 p.m. in the Pavilion
All welcome - including new members

Coming events

December

Services at All Saints', Roos

16 10.30. Morning Prayer.

6.30. Nine Lessons & Carols by candlelight with the Roos and Holderness Singers. 6.30.

20 Confirmation and children's Carol Service. 2.0.

24 Christingle Service. 6.30.

25 Christmas Day Holy Communion. 10.00.

30 United Benefice Holy Communion. 10.00.

January

8 Cricket Club AGM. Pavilion. 7.00.

9 Roos WI. Memorial Institute. 7.30. Pie & Pea Supper

Does nothing else happen in Roos in December and January? This calendar would have been far longer if Club secretaries had been more forthcoming.

Let "The Rooster" advertise your events and activities!

Roos and "The Lord of the Rings"

The Tolkein connection

In a recent letter Mr Basil Reckitt, formerly of The Elms, refers to a connection between Roos and J.R.R. Tolkein. He was the author of "The Hobbit", a children's tale, and "The Lord of the Rings", a three-volume fantasy for adults, which has achieved classic status and has now been made into three films. The first, "The Fellowship of the Ring", is being premiered at the present time.

Mr Reckitt points out that Tolkein was stationed in Roos during army service in the 1st World War. In 1917 he and his wife Edith were billeted here in furnished rooms, a fact noted on page 97 of the biography by Humphrey Carpenter. Mr Reckitt asks if anyone knows the property where the Tolkeins lived and who owned it.

Arboreal influences

Tolkein not only lived in Roos but is said to have been fascinated by the atmosphere in the wooded area down towards the church. (There was an army gun battery near Dent's Garth.) The part played in his work by forests may be due to his memories of Roos.

There was the menacing Mirkwood in "The Hobbit". In the "Rings" trilogy the forest of Fanghorn was more benign : the trees there were "ents", animate beings capable of both speech and movement. They helped and spoke to Pippin and Merry who were lost among them.

Part of the "Forest" of Roos



Most of the buildings in the photograph are quite recent - i.e. Orchard Close (top right), Cherry Hill Park (middle right) and the properties (low centre and bottom left) on each side of Dent's Garth.

Before these sites were developed, the land southwards from Dove Lane was occupied mainly by trees. Those in the photograph (in an area still known as "Camp") are the start of the woods stretching down to the church.

If anyone has information - even if only hearsay - about Tolkein's time in Roos, please contact me. L.H.

G.W.Wilbraham : The History of Roos - 30

Education in Roos (concluded)

As usual, this summary retains many (but not all) of Mr Wilbraham's own words. The last instalment ended with his own arrival as headteacher in September 1919.

There were four staff :

Miss Gardiner (Infants)

Miss Garbutt (Standard 1)

Miss Silversides (new appointment, Standards 2,3,4)

Mr Wilbraham (Standards 5, 6 and 7)

New attitudes

It was a time of progress and change. Country children were no longer to be called slow and dim-witted. School and all it involved was heritage to be won. No longer was it merely a place to send children out of the way. Parents – the younger ones especially – were very helpful and generally supported projects for their children's welfare. School work could take place out in the open air.

Behaviour

Some of the lads – one or two as big as their teacher – had got out of hand. They thought it funny to play ring o' roses round an old lady as she wheeled an old bath chair with wood for her hearth. They had to be made to see that the lady had as much right to walk the King's Highway as they had – that she was somebody's mother and grandmother. The majority saw my point but a few had to be taught – some the hard way – to give and take.

Football

In 1920 a school football club was formed. The boys had never seen the game played properly. It gave them an urge to play and do so in a sporting spirit. It was an honour to wear the school colours. Parents saw this too and provided equipment. A field was loaned and an adult club was formed at the same time.

No badly-behaved boy, however good a player he was, was allowed to play in Saturday's team. There were matches against teams from other village schools. The larger ones had a wider choice for team selection. This taught our lads – occasionally – to be good losers.

In 1927 we were proud winners in a South Holderness knock-out competition and so played against Hornsea, the winning team in North Holderness. Our gallant boys lost by the odd goal. They did not win the trophy but received the acclamation of many, including the winners.

Years later, the Education Act of 1944 put paid to football as we knew it between village schools. *(Pupils aged 11 now moved to secondary schools instead of staying in their local school until 14. This affected the age-range available for school teams. In the next paragraph Mr Wilbraham reverts to the pre-war period.)*

A changing pattern

Thorp Christiansen and Edward Barron were followed by other scholarship winners to the school in Withernsea where Mr Durrant was encouraging bright scholars to stay on another year. That was the beginning of the Central School. It was the only one of its kind in the county and was encouraged by the local authority in various ways.

(Mr Wilbraham is describing a process that started before

the war but one that the war expedited. Many children evacuated from Hull were grammar-school pupils. The school at Withernsea established for them School Certificate courses that continued after the war. Many pupils from its wide catchment area who had passed their 11+ exam came to Withernsea rather than travel to Hull. This is why Withernsea High School claims to have been the first comprehensive school in the country.)

The exam results attained opened the doors of industry and the professions — but only for the few who had were at Withernsea. Good scholars at Roos were encouraged to go there. (Cycling was the only transport — and punctures were common!)

Other initiatives

Funds were raised to provide a school library and school editions of good books were obtained from Arnolds of Leeds. It was some years before the County Library was formed and made genuine children's books available.

Another innovation was the Penny Bank, affiliated at first with the Hull Savings Bank. Later a Withernsea branch was formed, more convenient for our school bank.

A water supply

In 1921 Hull water came to the village. From the mains in Pilmar Lane a pipe was connected under the school to one of the porches where a tap was fixed, but no proper basin yet. The pipe continued to the Institute and school beyond (*i.e. the Infants building attached to the School House?*). "This was a great boon but it was some time before everybody thought so." (*Who objected? The pupils?*)

Blow for Miss Garbutt

Miss Garbutt's engagement as an assistant teacher was terminated that year (1921?) as the Government deemed her qualifications inadequate. Classes were rearranged – Standard 1 joining the Junior group and Standard 4 moving up to the Senior group.

Holderness Schools Sports, etc.

In 1922 the school competed for the first time in the Holderness Schools Sports. Frances Lorrimer of Tunstall was second in the High Jump for Girls. She later emigrated to Western Australia with the rest of her family. Another Tunstall pupil, James Barron, won a scholarship.

Older girls attended the Withernsea Cookery Centre. This was an unsatisfactory scheme. Since the Centre could not cope with girls from all the Holderness schools at once, a school's pupils attended for one year and got another turn a few years later.

Use of the Memorial Institute

Since 1915 the Junior class had been accommodated in the Institute. When the committee wanted to end this arrangement Mr Wilbraham was put in an awkward position : he was Secretary of the Institute Committee but not keen to have two classes taught in one room.

In 1923 a solution was found — a moveable screen that could be opened when the whole room was needed. It was of wood below and glass above. It had a door and

was nearly soundproof. It was made and fixed by a local tradesman, E. Curtis, for £48.13s.0d. So two classrooms were made out of one. No one foresaw a time when the Institute would be used again as a classroom.

Floored

In the summer holidays of 1924 a new floor was laid in the main room by another local tradesman, Herbert Metcalf. The old floorboards were used to make a fence between the schoolyard and the Institute grounds. The floor had lasted 52 years and had been trodden during all kinds of village functions as well as during the school day. Knots in the surface were unpleasant to walk on — and dance on for that matter, for folk dancing was being taught to the children now.

Retirement of Miss Silversides

Miss Silversides reached retiring age in 1924. She had served her pupils well and I had been fortunate to have had the services of two elderly and thorough assistants in Miss Silversides and Miss Gardener. Miss Marjorie Duke (*who became Mrs Ron Maltas*) was appointed to take the junior class and needlework.

Improvements to the buildings

In 1925 two HMIs inspected the buildings. As a result various alterations were required to bring the buildings up to Board of Education standard. The LEA's surveyor asked the Managers how they intended to respond. As it was a church school no LEA advice was available.

Mr Tennison, the Diocesan Architect, prepared some plans but the Managers rejected them as "fantastic".

In September 1928 it was agreed to have fresh plans drawn up by a different Diocesan Architect, a Mr Walker. These were approved in March 1929. The work was given to Carr and Hunter of Withernsea for £624.4s.9d.

The main alterations and additions were :

- Verandah in the girls' yard connecting the former boys' porch to the new porch over the Institute fence.
- Fresh Infants offices in a corner of the girls' yard.
- New boys' cloakroom and lavatory.
- Enlargement of girls' (old boys') cloakroom at the expense of the former old school.
- Division of the old girls' cloakroom into a stock room and fuel place.
- Two new windows in the Infants room — south side — and same in Senior room facing west.
- Hoppers to all windows.
- New floor in the Infants room.
- Central heating.
- Blackboard walls in the three classrooms.

Having approved the alterations, the Board approved the buildings as suitable for 138 mixed pupils and infants.

Casting new light

In 1930 the smelly oil lamps gave way to electric light, which made things better when the school was used in the evenings. Since the Managers had no funds to pay the cost, the money was raised by the schoolmaster. There was a ready response to his appeal and for a time we were linked up with the Institute meter.

Educational outings

Annual trips for children were traditionally arranged by

Sunday Schools. These educational outings, started in 1931, were different. Red tape had to be cut first. Conditions were laid down by the LEA : no child should be barred and the work of the rest of the school must be carried on under assistants. Children on the outings could be marked "present" in the register. At last such trips were a part of public education.



The first one was to Spurn Point — to Kilnsea by private bus and then a four-mile walk along the shingle path.

Objects of interest were the mouth of the Humber,

Grimsby and Cleethorpes across the water, a climb up the lighthouse and a visit to the lifeboat. Permission to visit Spurn Fort was not granted by the War Office but the visit was made and no harm done.

Next year the visit was to Scarborough : to Oliver's Mount, the castle ruins, the museum and aquarium, the harbour and fishing boats.

The 1933 trip was to Cleethorpes. It was the first time most of the pupils had travelled by bus, ferry and train all in a day.



And so it went on : to Flamborough to explore the headland and the caves; to Beverley, Watton and Rudston; to York to see all the sights.

The visits were just for the top class — the others got their turn as they grew older. The assignments based on them lasted quite a month. Some former pupils have unearthed their copies and shown them to their own children.

Sadly, these outings were stopped by the war.

Crafts

Handwork had got past the cardboard and paper stage. Mr Wilbraham became qualified to teach spinning and weaving and light woodwork. On two afternoons a week the look of the room was changed. Instead of the normal arrangement of desks visitors saw long trestle tables bearing the tools and apparatus. Pupils got satisfaction from their creations and were challenged to imagine what more could be accomplished.

Some Roos children — not all, since attendance beyond 14 was not yet compulsory — were spending extra years at Withernsea Central School. The results were worthwhile : successes in entrance exams for the Army, Navy and Air Force; apprenticeships in trades; and so on. Such openings would not have been available from Roos.

Yet Roos had its successes. Even leaving at 14 boys and girls made their mark for themselves. Among old scholars are master joiners, master builders, plumbers, teachers, a high-ranking Air Force officer, nurses, ladies' maids, farmers, etc.

"And then the War came. It had come before in 1914 but never one like that.

We should label this : "Roos School in wartime."

(Perhaps this was the intended title of a final section but "Education" ends here. There is no account of wartime and the years up to Mr Wilbraham's retirement in 1949.)

Changes in the 20th Century

The Poor Law

In 1926 the Boards of Guardians and overseers were abolished and county councils took over. Funding came via rating authorities, the district councils - in our area Holderness Rural District.

Public assistance committees were set up to handle applications for assistance.

For a time public opinion managed to prevent the closure of the union workhouse at Patrington but failed in the end.

Overseers and local rate collectors lost their jobs. The last Roos overseers were W.Maltas and J.W.Kirkwood. The last local rate collector and assistant overseer was Thomas Sowerby, the Parish Clerk.

Local government

(At the same time?) Civil parish boundaries were altered so that every ratepayer could vote for a parish council. Roos itself already had one but the new civil Parish of Roos now included Tunstall, Hilston and Owstwick.

These settlements had now lost not only their assistant overseer, guardian and overseers but also their parish clerk and annual parish meeting. Residents had to accept the inevitable. At least they could now exercise a vote to elect a representative parish council.

In 1939 Thomas Sowerby, Roos Parish Clerk since 1905, resigned through ill health and G.W.Wilbraham, was appointed to fill the vacancy. He held the post until 1965.

All Saints' Church

(Continued from over ten years ago! - Newsletter No. 55, July 1990)

Way-out building

Strangers often remark that our church stands away from the village. Actually, the church was not built apart from the village. It is the village that has left the church.

The lord of the manor of Roos lived in the south and cottagers in the old days were probably only too glad to live close to the protection of the castle. The church was then convenient for all. It served both as the lord's private chapel and as the parish church.

Annual income

Lords of the manor built the church and endowed it with tithes - a tenth part of the produce of the soil - to pay for a priest to serve in it. In return, when there was a vacancy, each lord of the manor had the right to present for the archbishop's approval a priest of his choice to fill it.

In 970 during the reign of King Edgar, there was an enactment affecting endowments. If a lord had a piece of land separate from his main estate (but not enough to form a parish in itself) he was to endow his local church with a tithe from his separated land. No doubt this is how our church comes to own land in Ryehill that is let by the wardens. The rent is paid into the church estate account.

Protecting the inheritance

At the start of the 12th century parliament attempted to regulate the relation between church and state. No doubt the new laws alarmed churchmen and private owners of advowsons began to give them to large religious houses which were springing up all over the country.

According to the "Monasticon Eborae" (published by Burton in 1758) Roos Church was given to the Priory of Kirkham, "whose Canons had an annual pension of £20.0 out of the profits thereof."

The family of Ros were large landowners and were benefactors of Kirkham Abbey. Several of them were buried there and the Ros coat of arms in stone can still be seen over the ruined gateway.

These facts establish beyond question that a church has existed in Roos for nearly 1,000 years.

Pews

Before the Reformation parish churches had no pews as we know them. During the reign of Queen Elizabeth and her successors, when long sermons were common, congregations began to long for fixed places to sit. Pews supplied the need.

A document from 1673 in church records runs as follows :

"John Dixon hath for him and his heirs for ever sold and released unto John Shore, Clerk, the seat or pew in the Isle called commonly John Brown's stall for the use of the farm late William -----, the conditions by the said John Dixon and John Shore mutually agreed this ---- day of April 1674. John Bean (mark), Christopher Legges, junr (mark), Churchwardens."

(Probably "for the use of the farm late William..." means "for the use of the farm-workers of the late William...")

At first, freeholders appear to have erected pews at their own expense but early in the 18th century pews as we know them (but with doors) were provided by the churchwardens, together with two galleries, one at either side of the tower in the aisles.

At the restoration of the church in 1842 these were replaced by the present oaken pews and those in the aisles were provided with doors.

(Of the galleries before 1842 Poulson says they were neatly panelled. He also mentions the remains of a carved screen in a pew in the south aisle.)

Among his other efforts to improve the church, Rev. E. Milsom (Rector 1891 - 1921) had these doors removed when he had the floors treated with woodworm killer. He also took out one pew on each side of the main aisle and replaced those left. The galleries were also removed.

Church records include a seating plan showing where named parishioners sat. *(I have a copy somewhere. If I can find it I'll print it next time. L.H.)*