

Roxby-cum-Risby Parish Council Chairman's Report 2021

A warm welcome to residents who have moved into Roxby, Risby or Dragonby over the last year, I hope you have settled in well especially under the current circumstances.

The last fifteen months have been interesting to say the least as we have had fewer meetings during this period. This has not stopped us from carrying out our regular duties and in some areas we have covered more. The Leader of North Lincolnshire Council, Councillor Rob Waltham has attended our meetings in the absence of Ward Councillors which incidentally have recently been elected. He has been most helpful with the flooding issues at The Duck Pond on Brackenholmes Lane, the Water Meadow and Old Barn Lane. Improvement works to the culvert at the Duck Pond were carried out in November and Councillor Waltham arranged a Modelling Survey of the water course running from the Duck Pond to Cringlebeck. This will hopefully highlight any problem areas in order to formulate a plan of action.

Unfortunately, littering, fly tipping and dog fouling continue. Small fly tipping issues have been cleared by ourselves and North Lincs Council have dealt with larger issues. We were unable to go ahead with the litter picking day in April 2020. However, should anyone wish to go litter picking, as some have already, please contact us as we can provide litter picking equipment which Councillor Waltham has made available. Dog fouling is an ongoing issue and we urge dog owners to pick their dog mess up. Most dog owners are responsible but it is the few who spoil it. A strange activity going on is mass drops of dog mess bags into the dog litter bins so they are overflowing and an annoyance to regular dog walkers. I do suggest dealing with domestic dog waste in an environmentally friendly, bio-degradable composter buried in the garden. I have one and can confidently say it works rather well.

Some damage was caused to the bus shelter last summer and parts of the frame were rotten. This was kindly repaired by two of our Parish Councillors.

A bench in Dragonby was kindly funded by Biffa and Nisa. We are hoping to site this at the 'Dragon Rock' in the near future.

The remembrance service in November at St Mary's Church was well attended (and socially distanced) to remember those that gave their lives to secure our freedom. The splendid poppy display being kindly provided by Roxby WI.

Kath Barley gave up her duties as Playground Warden in March last year after many years of service and we wished her all the best for the future. Playground Warden duties have been taken on in-house by one of our councillors.

Our Councillors have given their spare time and carried out quite a few jobs. Planters at the village entries have been installed and planted up boosting the village image. Also, several of us plus volunteers have taken on tidying up of the West Street/A1077 corner. A planter has been installed and we look forward to completing the smartening up of this area. The notice boards have also been re-varnished.

The playground is under review and we hope to obtain some new equipment with a view to appeal to everyone.

Thanks to Dave Farmery who carries out odd jobs we cannot deal with in-house and to Simon Hind for upkeep of the church clock.

Two of our Councillors attend regular meetings with Biffa.

Purchase of the Methodist Chapel is still ongoing with small movements in the right direction between the solicitors.

We are looking to create a Parish Council Facebook group which will be beneficial. In the mean time the Roxby Village Facebook group has proved very useful and I urge more residents to join.

In the absence of the Parish Council Newsletter this year, as there are no updates during this period, please inform us of anything you wish to have included from your groups or activities when you do finally manage to restart from where you left off.

Covid 19 continues to to disrupt our lives and in recent months it has been very rife in this area, however with the vaccination programme well under way, some normality is in sight. Sadly some loved ones have been lost to this virus and our thoughts go out to their families. I myself tested positive in November, suffering only minor symptoms. However I have since donated my plasma and will continue to do so to help those less fortunate. We can all find a way to help at this time, a phone call to those shielding, collecting shopping, prescriptions etc. Above all, please take care and stay safe.

Finally, a thank you to our clerk Jo Curtis who keeps this show on the road.

Stefan Smaza
Chairman