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HAMBLETON'S PARISH COUNCIL OF THE YEAR 2015

Romanby Parish Council Newsletter Issue 3

Winter 2015/16

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Romanby Parish Allotments

**We haven't got any and we
want to have some for our
residents!**

Would you want one if we did?

**Do you know of land we might
obtain for allotments?**

**Please contact us with ideas and
suggestions**



From the Chairman

Welcome again to this our third newsletter, to update you on Parish Council business in Romanby, in what has been a very busy year for the Parish Council. The local elections in May 2015 saw some new faces on our team of (volunteer) Parish Councillors for Romanby (see back page), and as a result of the election process we are hoping to combine the Romanby and Broomfield Wards into one, ahead of the next 4-yearly elections, in line with HDC - but we will need your help! (See page 6).

With a focus this past year on our parks and open spaces, we have made good progress on our 2-year WWI commemoration project in the Memorial Garden at the Clock Tower (see p2), and we continue to make incremental enhancements to our play-parks around the Parish, as well as work at the now, well established Wild Flower Meadow.

We were thrilled as a Parish Council, to be awarded the Hambleton Parish Council of the Year 2015 Award in March of this year, and we will continue in our efforts to look after and improve

where we live, for the benefit of **everyone** in our community.

With that in mind, as you will see in the following pages, we have a host of new initiatives for 2016 for which we will need your help and support. So, as always, if you see something here that you want to/can help us with, or have any other issues or questions, then **please do not hesitate to contact us.**

Finally, may I take this opportunity to extend Season's Greetings to every- one in our Parish, on behalf of all Parish Council members.



Stuart Bradnam

ROMANBY PARISH COUNCIL YOUTH COUNCIL - 2016

Romanby Parish Council is considering creating a "Romanby Parish Youth Council", made up with up to 12 young people (under the age of 18) who would look at issues or concerns for the youth of Romanby. The Youth Council would work alongside/report back to the Parish Council with representatives attending Parish Council meetings and likewise members of the Parish Council would attend any Youth Council meetings.

Interested?

**Contact us by one of the methods
below for more information**



Romanby Parish Council



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Update on Romanby Memorial Garden Restoration Project



As many of you know, from travelling past the War Memorial and Garden site over the past few months, we have begun in earnest the project to restore the Memorial and Garden as part of the 100th anniversary commemorations of the First World War.

The physical work began in June this year, and has comprised, thus far, working with our contractors:

- Full professional clean and refurbishment of the memorial clock tower including repointing of all masonry work, and cleaning of memorial name areas.
- Hard landscaping work, following public consultation, which has included new paths; new gates; hard-standing; new step-free access points; fencing; poppy seat; plinths for additional bench seats; a central stone circle on which will be placed a sundial, and under which will be placed a Parish 2016 time capsule; re-seeding of all grassed areas.

August 2015



October 2015



So, the next phase now begins, and in the coming months, until the official opening in August 2016 (hopefully a fantastic event for next Summer) we will be working, with residents, schools and our community groups to do the following:

A new **community-designed** refurbished garden area (the Memorial Garden), including:

Planting of trees, shrubs, flowers, herbs, sensory flowers....in fact whatever residents want! Plus installation of new benches/ seating areas, sundial, memorial plinth, installation art (Romanby WI has very generously agreed to donate some money towards one of the new benches)., and very excitingly – filling and setting our Parish Time Capsule in August 2016!!

In addition, we will produce resources and records that will tell the story of the men commemorated, and life in our village during the Great War. These will be available to all on the web, and will also be used as learning packs in our schools as part of the “**Romanby Remembers**” Project

Our aim is to create a tranquil and beautiful memorial garden and community space for use by all our residents, respectful of the memory of our fallen heroes, and preserved for future generations. We hope you like what we have done so far, and that you will continue to help and support us.



ROMANBY PARISH COUNCIL NOTICEBOARD

ROMANBY PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting Dates

(All start at 7pm and are at at Parish Office):

8th December 2015

12th January 2016

9th February 2016

8th March 2016



PARISH COUNCIL MONTHLY SURGERIES

Your chance to discuss/raise any issues/concerns about our Parish with one of the Parish Council team.

The Parish Office (Ainderby Road Leisure Ground) will be open from 2-4pm on the following Saturdays:

Saturday 19th December

Saturday 9th January

Saturday 6th February

Tea, coffee, biscuits and a friendly welcome as well!

Street Lighting

As the long winter nights will shortly be upon us, the following contacts should be used to maintain safety and security around Romanby Parish. Both North Yorkshire and Hambleton District Councils provide maintenance and repair of street lights across Romanby.

North Yorkshire County Council are responsible for maintaining the majority of street and footway lights, identifiable by a number painted in black on a yellow background on the lamp post. Should there be a light not working in your street, please telephone 01609 534527 and quote the street and lamp number, or visit their website.

Lights maintained by **Hambleton District Council (HDC)** are easily identified by their distinctive plaque, which provides both the light and the telephone number to report the fault. Once again, please provide the name of the street and the light number by either telephoning 01609 77997 or using their web site.



Romanby Parish Council Chairman's Award 2016

The Parish Council is proposing to introduce a Chairman's Award for Young People aged under 18 years of age who have contributed to life in the parish and have given service and help to people in the area. Young people are very good ambassadors for the Parish and more details of the award, including how to nominate someone, will be available early in the New Year.



Romanby Parish Council Suggestion Boxes

The Parish Council are planning to install suggestion boxes located throughout the Parish to allow residents the chance to leave complaints/suggestions etc for the Council, but somewhere more convenient to them. The boxes will be located alongside the Parish notice boards, in the bus shelters and hopefully at other locations to be decided/agreed - more to come on this in the New Year.

Romanby Parish Council - HAMBLETON'S PARISH COUNCIL OF THE YEAR 2015



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PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

Since the last newsletter we have been very busy around the parks and open spaces in the Parish. There is always the routine maintenance – business as usual – to deal with as well as the exciting projects. The main project supported by ‘Parks’ in 2015 has been the renovation of the War Memorial Garden – more of this elsewhere – and we will continue to do so during

2016. Our next task is to develop the planting. The Wild-Flower meadow has grown well this year with a different palette of colour as the annual flowers give way to the perennials – to our surprise Chicory, sometimes known as the blue dandelion, appeared in several places. The meadow was cut in September to make hay – and the sun shone!

The trees across The Green were given their three yearly trim – this is a major exercise involving professional climbers – not a job for the faint hearted! At Christmas last year (2014) a rose garden was planted with 24 roses at the entrance to the War Memorial garden – 22 ‘Remember Me’ roses to commemorate the 22 men named on the Memorial who fell in both wars with one rose ‘Remembrance’ and one ‘Peace’ rose. This garden was sponsored by the North of England Horticulture Society and the Parish Council.

Now construction is completed at the Parish Office on Ainderby Road, the area in front of the Hall is to be made into a small garden, recognising many years of service to the Parish by Harry Coyle – this project will complete in 2016.

As always, much has been done, much remains. (Dave Rawson – Chair of Parks Committee/Vice-Chair RPC)

OPENING OF NEW PARISH OFFICE – AINDERBY ROAD LEISURE GROUND - 19TH MAY 2015

After several years in the planning, the Parish Council finally committed to a new office build in 2014, to provide a permanent base for Parish Council business, storage for the Parish archive, and a workplace for councillors and our Parish Clerk. More importantly, it now provides a focal point for our residents to allow regular contact with the Parish Council, and this will in turn enable us to provide a better service for our community.

After a build phase over the winter of 2014-15, we finally officially opened the new office on Tuesday 19th May 2015 – the facility was officially opened by (retiring) Councillor John Smith – one of Romanby’s longest-serving Parish Councillors (17 years service, and a former Chairman, as well as HDC Councillor/Chairman, and recently appointed Honorary Alderman of Hambleton). This was John’s last official duty as a Parish Councillor, and we would like to take this opportunity to wish both Joan and he a happy and long overdue retirement!

Honorary Alderman & Retired Parish Councillor John Smith opening the new Parish Council Office on the 19th May 2015



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NEW PROJECTS AND IDEAS FOR 2016



I hope you agree that your Parish Council cannot be accused of doing nothing (!), and if evidence was ever needed, here is a sample, in addition to what you have seen elsewhere in the newsletter, of new initiatives and ideas we are looking at for 2016 and beyond. If you have any other ideas, or can help with those listed below and elsewhere in this newsletter, then please get in touch.

Creation of a Neighbourhood Plan for Romanby Parish – absolutely vital for us as we (and others) come under increasing pressure to provide land for new homes, we are working with HDC to produce a short-medium term neighbourhood plan which will provide a clear picture of Parish priorities in the coming years – this plan would remain a “living” document, and be updated as required; a significant and important piece of work for us to undertake.

Volunteering Opportunities with the Parish Council - The Parish Council is considering offering the opportunity for individuals to become active volunteers (or friends of) the War Memorial Garden and possibly at other locations in the Parish. All that is required at the moment is an expression of interest to the Clerk. It is envisaged that the volunteers will work closely with the Parks Committee and the Contract Gardener. Each individual or small group would be assigned an area or bed and would be expected to maintain / enhance that area in line with an agreed plan. The time commitment would be in the order of 2 - 4 hours per month probably split over several sessions to suit the volunteers. Any heavy work or work involving specialist tools or equipment would be carried out by the Contract Gardener. If there is sufficient interest the Parks Committee will arrange an initial meeting in the early spring 2016 to take this forward. '

Romanby In Bloom - We are working up ideas for a Parish garden competition in 2016 – more to come on this!

Romanby Allotments – we need land for allotments for our parishioners, and are on the lookout for ideas and potential sites – see Page 1.

Youth Council – an exciting initiative to involve our younger generation in having a say in Parish issues – see Page 1.

Guided walks around Romanby – a project to produce a selection of walks around the Parish for residents and visitors alike – willing volunteers to generate the walks will be sought after!

Chairman's Award – first one planned for 2016 – see page 3

Romanby Parish Time Capsule 2016 – We are looking for ideas and inspiration as to what to include in our time capsule for installation at the opening ceremony of our Memorial Garden in August 2016 – let us know your thoughts and ideas!!

Parish Council Website Re-Design – long overdue and necessary to allow us to interact better with residents online – watch the website space!!

In all of these ideas and proposals, we need YOUR help – please let us know if you are interested in getting involved.

Stuart Bradnam

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PARISH COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

Romanby Parish Council Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2015

Investment:

Current Assets:

Debtors	11,019
Prepayments	917
Cash at Bank	98,143
Cash in Hand	<u>191</u>

Total Assets

110,270

Current Liabilities:

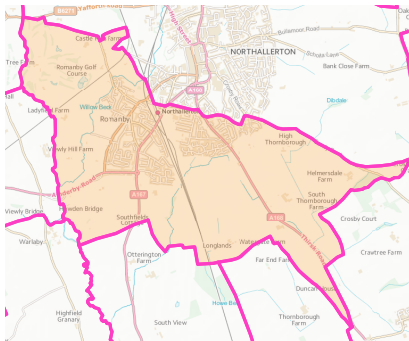
Creditors/Accruals	<u>9,307</u>
	100,963

Represented by:

General Fund	4,970
Land Maintenance Reserve	<u>95,993</u>
	<u>100,963</u>

The Parish Council's financial records are a matter of public record, and our 2014-15 figures above, which have been fully audited, are included as such. As you can see from this newsletter, material highlights for this financial year have included the spend on the Parish Office build, and income (and expenditure as the project gets underway) from the Lottery Fund (£10K) on the War Memorial & Garden. We aim to maintain a Reserve equal in value to one year's precept (the annual amount we receive from Council Tax payments to "run" parish business - circa £52500), and when the spend on the ongoing projects is complete, that is what we will have – this will be more obvious with next year's balance sheet once all payments have been made. If you have any questions or comments on the Parish Council's finances, please contact us.

Proposed Internal Parish Boundary Changes – Merging Broomfield & Romanby Parish Wards



Following the 2015 elections, where we were subject to procedural, and yet unnecessary election expenses due to having 2 wards within one parish, we have taken advice from Hambleton's legal team, who advise us to merge the 2 wards into one ahead of the next elections in 2018. This process requires us to submit, a Community Governance Review petition, signed by not less than 7.5% of the Parish electorate (about 550 signatures) supporting the merger into one Parish ward. This will then trigger a Community Governance Review, which is governed by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. Following receipt of a valid petition the District Council (HDC) will draw up terms of reference which it then consults on. Consultees include local government electors, the County Council, Parish Councils and other interested parties. HDC will then make draft recommendations which it again consults on prior to making its final decision. The process is lengthy and can take up to 12 months to complete following receipt of a valid petition.

SO - Your part in this will be (hopefully) to support and sign when we (Councillors) come round for petition signatures in the weeks and months ahead! We will explain again as we collect signatures – Councillors will be clearly identifiable with ID badges when undertaking this task.

If you have any views or opinions on this issue, please contact us, or speak to us during petition signing.

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Who's Who on the Parish Council



Councillor Stuart Bradnam

Chair of Council

All committees



Councillor Paul Fisher

Chair of Finance Committee

Member of Projects and Joint Burial Committees.



Councillor Dave Atkinson

Member of Parks Committee



Councillor Malcolm Walton

Member of Finance and Joint Burial Committees



Councillor Carol Thompson



Councillor Peter Wilkinson

Member of Finance Committee



Councillor Dave Rawson

Vice-Chair of Council

Chair of Parks Committee

Member of Projects/Finance Committees



Councillor Kevin Hardisty

Chair of Projects Committee

Member of Finance and Joint Burial Committees



Councillor Angela Smith

Member of Projects and Parks Committees



Councillor Mark West

Member of Parks Committee



Councillor Sue Adsett

Member of Parks and Joint Burials Committee



Mrs Mandy Lambert

Clerk to the Council

As you can see, we have one vacancy on the Parish Council, which we will be seeking to fill before the end of 2015 – if you are interested in standing, please contact us by one of the methods below.

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