

Rufforth with Knapton Parish Council

Newsletter Spring 2011 Issue No 15

www.rufforthwithknapton-pc.gov.uk

A Busy Time Local Government elections are upon us again which could mean a change of faces both at Ward and Parish level after May 5th. The Annual Parish Meeting has come and gone (4th April) with 3 members of the Public present. A disappointing turnout. We'd like to think it's because we're doing OK but suspect it's more to do with other pressures on people's time. A copy of the Chairman's report is included in this Newsletter.

A cry for snow Wardens As you know, during recent bad weather in York, many residential streets and pavements became treacherous for a number of days as the council is unable to grit every road and pavement in the city. As a way of easing this problem in future years, City of York Council would like to invite local residents to become Volunteer snow wardens. As a starting point City of York Council Neighbourhood Management Unit is gathering names to build up a database of volunteers.

A message from **Rufforth Pre-School** Rufforth Pre-School is open every weekday morning from 9am to 12 noon during school term times. We run a lunch club on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 12 noon to 1pm and there is an afternoon session on Fridays from 12 noon to 3pm.

We are Ofsted registered and take children from 2years old until they go to school. The Pre-school leader is a fully qualified teacher and one of the other two members of staff has an NVQ3.

We have a very close partnership with Rufforth Primary School and the majority of our children go there when they leave us to go to school.

We also run a Parent and Toddler session on Thursday mornings from 10am to 12 noon where parents are offered a cup of coffee and the children can enjoy playing with the other children. These are open sessions and parents are welcome on any or all Thursdays.

We have a few Pre-school places left at present and will be able to offer more in September.

If you would like to find out more why not drop in and see us in Rufforth Village Hall or ring Stephanie on 738751.

Action Knapton *Knapton village enjoyed a 'litter pickup' on Saturday 26th Feb when various members of the community turned out to collect litter from the footpaths and hedgerows of the village . 6 people helped and surprisingly 10 bagfuls were collected, using equipment provided by City of York Council. Many thanks to them .Please watch the notice board for further actions, probably in the late autumn.*

In the meantime it would greatly help and gratify us all if you spotted and picked up anything left near your house or you spotted something along the lane and removed it. Many Thanks

Rufforth Village Garden Cllr Hildreth reports that after months of rooting through the parish archives and form filling we have at last succeeded in registering Rufforth Parish Garden with the Land Registry. As you may remember from previous updates in the newsletter we had to substantially prove the Parish Garden had been in ownership of the Parish Council for at least a 10 year period.

Having compiled the relevant proof, completed the forms and paid the specific money, the Land Registry deemed it necessary to conduct a site visit. On a cold February morning at 7:50am I met a chap from the Land Registry office to conduct the site survey. He arrived armed with a GPS mapping system and proceeded to measure up the site to see if it accurately reflected what he had on his map. I explained why the parish garden was there, and the concept for the runway design as he proceeded to survey the boundaries and vegetation.

Thankfully the effort has been worthwhile.

Knapton Allotments Some time ago a number of residents expressed an interest which unfortunately fell upon stony ground. The Parish Council has recently been searching again for land in Knapton Village which could become available to use for allotments. A small amount of land has been found with sufficient space for a few allotments all of a manageable size. If you are a resident of Knapton and interested in occupying one of the plots either on your own or to share, please contact Anne Powell on 795059.

Distribution will be aimed at those who expressed an earlier interest and following that it is hoped a waiting list of other interested residents will enable full use of all plots.

News from the Trenchard Road residents

Well it looks like spring has arrived after the long hard winter. Thankfully the daffodils around the gardens have survived and are beginning to bloom in all their glory, the grass is beginning to grow and the moles are pushing up mounds of earth in a frenzy of activity. No sooner have the mole hills been cleared then they are back again. Our plan for the development of the communal ground is still ongoing with the establishment of a small orchard up on the field. A resident's working party got together one weekend in the autumn to plant up six mixed fruit trees, supplied by our local Springfield Nursery. The trees have all been under planted with daffodils supplied by the Parish Council, so in addition to a wonderful spring sight, we are looking forward to our first year of fruit cropping – fingers crossed!

Rufforth Village Institute Belinda who has acted as booking clerk and caretaker for many years has left due to work commitments. The committee wishes to thank Belinda for her contribution over the past years. We welcome Julie on board and to book the hall please ring her on 01904 738891. In addition to our regular users the Institute is also available to all for parties and social events.

Post Office Funding Each year the Methodist Chapel receives c £1000 to cover the cost of heating, lighting and wear and tear to provide a premises free of charge to the Outreach Post Office run by Poppleton PO. This year we have been fortunate to obtain a £500 ward

committee grant to add to the Parish Council contribution of £250. The balance of the £1000 is made up by funds raised at events organised by a few generous residents. Church members and other volunteers make sure the schoolroom is open and provide tea, coffee and biscuits in a convivial atmosphere. With cuts impending there is no guarantee that further ward grants will be forthcoming and if we wish to retain this valuable service we need to be ready to raise more money ourselves. If anyone is interested in organising a fund raiser to help secure the PO's future please contact a member of the Parish Council.

Contact Numbers

Cllr Tim Haward	Rufforth	737544
Cllr Anne Powell...	Knapton	795059
Cllr Roger Lee.....	Rufforth	738447
Cllr Helen Butterworth	Rufforth	738592
Cllr Peter Williams	Rufforth	737083
Cllr Dick Syms	Knapton	798731

Clerk to the Parish Council

Mrs Stephanie Warden.....738751

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Yorwaste's ambitions. Some of you will have attended the exhibition put on by Yorwaste at Rufforth Institute in November. The Parish Council is very unhappy with their proposals in particular as planning applications will continue to be submitted in a piecemeal manner. There is to be no formally approved master plan which examines Yorwaste's overall ambition and the appropriateness of their plans for Harewood Whin. The increase in traffic which will be generated in the future and the fact that waste will be coming from other County and City Councils to be processed at Harewood Whin is alarming and contrary to past undertakings. The Parish Council's concerns are shared by our Ward Councillors and our local MP Julian Sturdy. Meetings have been held with City of York Council with more to follow but so far there is little sign of any shift in position. The Parish Council will continue to raise what it believes are legitimate objections to future planning applications.

Dates for your Diary

Parish Council Annual Meeting
Monday 9th May 7.30pm.

Chairmans Annual Report April 2011

It seems incredible that 4 years have passed and that Local Government elections are upon us again. It seems unlikely that there will be elections for the Parish Council as candidates are few but for our Ward Councillors it is a different matter as they will have to go through the election process.

I thank the Ward Councillors for their support over the years. Perhaps we shall see some of them back. Cllr Ben Hudson however has decided not to stand so we wish him all the best for the future.

Two of our Parish Councillors have decided to call it a day and so thank you to Martin and David. A welcome to Dick Syms for being co opted to the Parish Council and strengthening the Knapton representation. Perhaps a bigger thank you to those Councillors who have registered as candidates. Much of Parish Council work is repetitive, often tedious and always time consuming and probably not much appreciated. If any one would like to join this dedicated band after this sales pitch please speak to one of the Councillors or the Clerk about cooption. **YOUR PARISH NEEDS YOU!**

A very big thanks must go to our Clerk Stephanie Warden who has kept us on the straight and narrow despite IT difficulties. She has been rewarded with a shiny new blue laptop computer. No more frustration with crashed computers!

All of what we do is recorded in our minutes and Newsletters which are available on the Parish Council website www.rufforthwithknapton-pc.gov.uk and of course parishioners are encouraged to attend meetings to listen and make their views heard. Looking back and looking forward it's more of the same. Next year will see the third village sign go up along Bradley Lane and could see real progress towards a foot/cycle path linking Rufforth to the York network if CYC and Yorwaste move quickly to secure funding.

A big threat to the parish amenity is posed by Yorwaste's expansion plans for Harewood Whin. Those who attended the exhibition in November will be aware. The Parish Council, together with Ward Councillors and Local MP Julian Sturdy are pushing for an approved master plan which the main parties are resisting. From what we have seen we calculate that traffic coming to and from Harewood Whin is set to increase by 50% or more over the next few years as Yorwaste move to commercial waste recycling. We continue our challenges and have reluctantly raised the Parish Precept by £500 to help cover consultancy fees which we anticipate will arise. Our decision to take CYC to the Local Government Ombudsman over this have come to nought as strangely the "rules" do not permit it.

So you can see it's very much as you were, give or take a Councillor or two, for the foreseeable future.

Tim Haward

Chairman Rufforth with Knapton Parish Council