

FEBRUARY  
2015



## SCRIVEN PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



### COUNCILLORS

Mrs Sarah Patterson (Chairman), Dr Rod Adams,  
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## BOROUGHBRIDGE ROAD HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

The development site in the fields off Boroughbridge Road has now been sold to David Wilson Homes who submitted their proposals to the planning department just before Christmas. The plans are available to view on the Harrogate Borough Council (HBC) website via the Planning Portal using the application number 14/04929/REMAJ, and the proposals will go before the Planning Committee in early March.

Scriven Parish Council (SPC) feels there are a number of areas of concern with these proposals, not least the lack of consideration to designing out crime, which is detailed as a significant issue that needs addressing in the Police report responding to the plans.

Despite the passing of the initial deadline, HBC have confirmed that comments submitted for this application, will still be accepted up until the decision date and the Parish Council urges you to have your say.

## TRANSFORMER MOVE

Over the Christmas and New Year period the new transformers were delivered to the electricity sub-station at Lingerfield. The slow progression of the oversized vehicle through the area and around the tight corners of the village was an impressive sight and the meticulous planning and careful execution of the task by the haulage company is to be commended. Thanks to all residents for their co-operation in keeping the roads clear, enabling the moves to be made without incident.



Scriven Parish Council is re-elected every four years and the current term is coming to an end.

The next election is on Thursday 7th May 2015.

The Parish Council is the most local form of government and one of its key roles is acting to conserve the unique character and heritage of Scriven, including reviewing and commenting upon local planning applications to encourage standards compatible with Scriven's Conservation Area status. SPC is also active in local issues that could have an effect on Scriven, such as the recent appeal against development of the fields off Boroughbridge Road.

To operate effectively, the Parish Council needs to have five councillors and as not all

existing councillors wish to be renominated more people are required.

As a councillor, you are expected to attend SPC meetings (5-6 times a year), review documents circulated between meetings and contribute to activities where you feel comfortable doing so. The Council is administered by the Clerk in accordance with legal requirements. HBC also offer training sessions to new councillors if required, to enhance their understanding of the role.

If you care about Scriven and maintaining it's special character and independence please get involved and support your Parish Council by voting on May 7th. If you've lived or worked in, or within three miles of, the parish for at least the last 12 months and wish to stand as a councillor please request a nomination form from the Parish Clerk by April 2nd.

## PRIVATE ROAD REPAIRS

Resurfacing of damaged areas of the private road has now been completed. HACS originally missed out some of the areas requiring repair but when this was pointed out by the Parish Council they returned to complete the work. The road is now in a better condition than it has been for some years although a few small repairs are still needed in areas that were not covered by the planned resurfacing work. The Parish Council reclaimed the VAT on the cost of the work and this has been added to the road fund and will enable the small amount of work still needed to be carried out.

As previously stated, responsibility for road repairs lies with residents rather than the Parish Council, and a residents group will need

to be set up to deal with future road maintenance. This will be on the Agenda for discussion again at the Annual Parish meeting in March.

## JACOB SMITH PARK

Harrogate Borough Council have allocated £2779.61 for improvements to the Park. The money comes from the "commuted sums" budget which is funded by levies on Developers. Part of the money is going to be used to plant further trees in accordance with the recommendations contained in the report on enhancing the boundary of the Park. This will include 13 oak trees to ensure new ones are maturing to replace some of the older trees as they decline. A further 325 trees will be planted as "whips" and will include some local varieties of fruit trees to help encour-

age and increase the bio-diversity in the Park.

The present "mud bath" at the Park entrance is temporarily being addressed by adding forest bark chips to the ground—a longer term solution is being considered.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

A new Chair has been appointed to the Area Neighbourhood Watch. Her mission includes making information more accessible to the local public and to improve the sharing of information via "Social Media". Crime is at very low levels in Knaresborough as a whole and Scriven in particular but ongoing vigilance is required to maintain this record. As further detail becomes available it will be included in future Newsletters.

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Open Meeting will be held at 7pm on Monday March 16th, at Park Grove Methodist Church Hall. This is an open meeting and is a review of the year in the Parish and a chance for the public to express their views and raise matters of concern.

Representatives of any interested local organisations are also welcome to attend and present information or an update on their group.

Also on the agenda will be the need for the formation of a residents group to co-ordinate the future repairs of the Private Road. All are welcome and encouraged to attend to discuss this matter with other residents.

This meeting will be immediately followed by a Parish Council meeting at 8pm.

## FIRST WORLD WAR MEMORIES

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As a memorial to the terrible events of the First World War, the Parish Council is publishing personal stories of how the War affected ancestors of present day Scriven residents. The events can be on any subject and do not have to be related to Scriven. In the second item in this series, Tony Richardson from Greengate Lane shares the memory of his Uncle Ally and his part in the conflict.

*I never knew my mother's brother Ally, but his photograph stood on our mantelpiece throughout my childhood. Ally witnessed the carnage of the German bombardment of the Hartlepoons on December 16th 1914 when 121 people, many of them children, were killed by shell fire from the German battleships. Like hundreds of other young men in the twin towns, he was so angry that he enlisted in the army soon afterwards. Together with some of his friends, he joined the King's Own Scottish Borderers.*

*After training, Ally was sent to France early in September 1915 where he only had three weeks in the trenches before being involved in the Battle of Loos. Somewhere in this fierce fight, he was wounded in the leg by shrapnel from a shell, but many of his friends were killed, or were affected by the gas which was used by his own side in spite of the wind not being favourable.*

*Ally was sent home to hospital and recovered from his wound but suffered from shellshock.*

*He told his parents and his sisters of the horrors that he had seen. In particular he hated having to thrust his bayonet into living men during hand to hand fighting in the mining village of Loos. He was a gentle quiet young man and found it hard to cope with what he had experienced in those few hours.*

*Ally returned to the same region of France in April 1916. Helmets had now been issued, so I expect he felt slightly more secure during the few weeks he spent in the trenches. On May 14th, his battalion was told to retake a trench which had been captured by the Germans. Once again he found himself climbing out of his trench into a hail of bullets and shells. He charged over the 200 yards of 'no mans land' and somewhere in that hell, a shell blew him to pieces. The trench was not taken and the action was later described as a 'skirmish'. Twenty men from his battalion were killed in that skirmish and seventy were wounded.*

*I have his identity disc which was later found in no man's land. His body was never recovered.*

If you have family memories of the First World War please write them down and send them to a Councillor or the Clerk for publication. We need to keep memories of the War alive to remember the sacrifice and hardship that our ancestors suffered and to make us all aware of the dangers inherent in our present unstable world. It is hoped that sufficient stories will be forthcoming to publish one in each newsletter until November 2018.