



SPRING NEWS

Are we in a good place?

Surely we are and in a better place than we were two and a half years ago. Back then there was a great deal of pressure on our small community. Developers wanted to change our environment with inappropriate housing and acres of solar panels. Some of the forgoing went ahead some did not but the community had very little say at that time.

Today the situation is very different, we have a Parish Council working together with residents to preserve and protect our landscape, ecology and quality of life.

Today, Aldcliffe with Stodday Parish Council is a tier of government with the ability to effectively interact with the City Council and many other official bodies.

The Parish Council has commissioned a neighbourhood plan and an ecological survey. It is also forming strong bonds with Fairfield Nature reserve and the Canal and River Trust. There is a lot going on behind the scenes, so watch this place for further good news.

Are we in a good place? You bet we are! Aldcliffe and Stodday are wonderful places and worth caring for.

Nick Webster

Are you connected ?

Long-suffering Aldcliffe residents will be delighted to know that their telephone and broadband service is likely to improve.

Having been approached by very many concerned parishioners, Cllr Webster contacted the chief executive of Openreach and received a prompt and helpful response. Plans are now in hand to replace the low quality aluminium telephone cable running between the junction boxes situated in front of 'Ashlar House' and 'Rydal Mount'.

Cllr Webster is working closely with Mark the Openreach senior engineer in order to minimise disturbance to our environment.

Together Mark and Cllr Webster are determined to deliver the best telecoms service possible.

Officers of the council:-

Parish Clerk...Derek Whiteway
clerk@aldcliffewithstoddaypc.org
Tel 01524 64908 07805 260976 (mobile)
Chairman...Chris Norman (Highways)
Vice Chairman .Nick Webster (Amenity)
Cllr Colin Rogers (Neighbourhood plan)
Cllr...Emma Wolstencroft (Ancillary)
Cllr...Kevan Walton (Stakeholders)

Cllr Emma Wolstencroft

We regret to announce that Emma will not be standing for council for the coming term. She has personal and family commitments that now take up much of her time.

We thank her for her valued support.

Parish Council Elections 2nd May 2019

Lancaster City Council and Parish Council elections are both scheduled to take place on Tuesday, 2nd May 2019.

The Parish Council has 5 councillor seats and there are opportunities for new candidates to put themselves forward for election. The closing date for the nomination of candidates is Wednesday, 3rd April.

The role of Parish Councillor is often a rewarding one although, with the limited powers extended to parish councils, it can also at times be quite challenging. Prospective candidates should have a sympathetic ear to concerns raised by residents of the parish. It is a purely voluntary role – a list of the criteria for election can be obtained from the Parish Clerk.

Councillors are expected to attend Parish Council Meetings, which are typically held every second month on a Tuesday evening. Meetings are held in the Friends Meeting House in Lancaster, commencing at 7.00pm and usually last around 2 hours.

If you are interested and would like a set of nomination papers, please contact the Parish Clerk, Derek Whiteway Phone: 01524 64908
Email:
clerk@aldcliffewithstoddaypc.org

Public Right of Way news

The proposed PROW along Aldcliffe Hall Drive is now in the hands of the County Council. There is quite a backlog of these proposals in the pipeline at present but City Hall promise to process it in due course.

History buffs apply here

There is the full history online at www.lancaster.ac.uk/users/rhc/Aldcliffe/Aldcliffe%20transcript.pdf

East Lodge Vandalism



Sadly, East Lodge has been vandalised yet again. It has now been boarded-up after the owner was contacted by the 'Empty Homes Officer'. What will its fate be after so much neglect?

The Neighbourhood Plan

A working party headed by Cllr Colin Rogers has met recently in order to further develop the Neighbourhood Plan.

It is a lengthy process with many official bodies and experts to consult.

After the local elections are completed the working party intend to hold a series of public meeting so that parishioners can influence the development of the area in which they live and work. This input will help the working party to:-

Consider where new homes, shops, offices and other development should be built.

Identify and protect important local green spaces.

Influence the design specifications of new buildings.

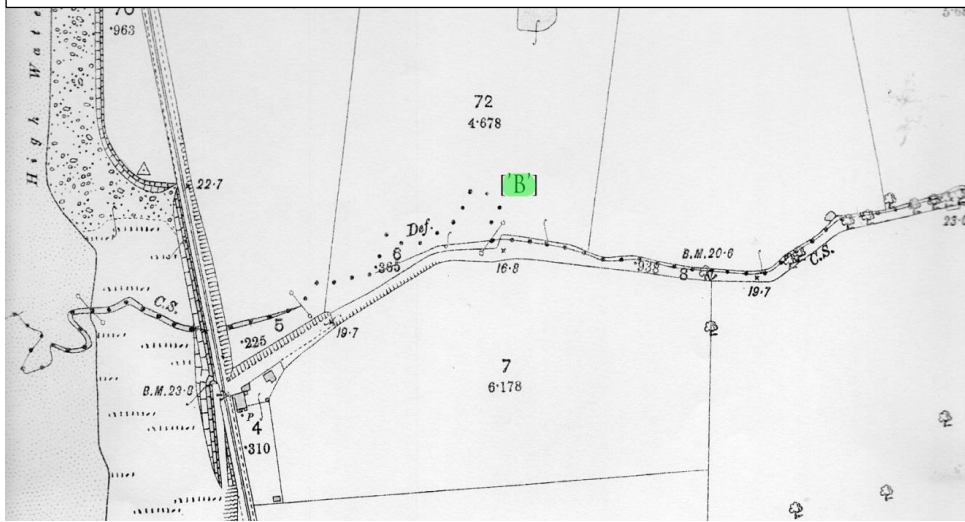
Snuff Mill Lane paddling pool

As many parishioners, cyclists, walkers, dog walkers and idle paddlers will well know the lower part of Snuff Mill Lane has a serious problem with flooding. For some time now there has been a great deal of uncertainty about the ownership of the part of the road beyond the barrier near to the Water Works entrance. United Utilities offered to improve the condition of this track but only if ownership could be defined.

Recalling that the barrier had not existed before the old railway line was converted to a public footpath and cycle track in the 1970s and remembering some earlier research work, I visited Lancaster library and consulted the earliest large-scale Ordnance Survey map of the area dated 1846. This map clearly shows that Snuff Mill Lane continued to a level crossing point on the railway line in order to access a slipway onto the banks of the river Lune. River transport of goods and livestock would have been very common at that time. The map also shows the route of the watercourse, the source of the flooding.

There is a serious blockage of the watercourse at the point marked 'B' on the map (my notation). At this point on the map the watercourse is shown taking a sharp loop to the right into the land now occupied by the Waterworks. It would appear that there is a considerable underground obstacle at this point that the groundworks engineers of that time could not remove so had to go around it. There are many records of 'Erratics' (boulders) left behind by the retreating glaciers of the Ice Age. Perhaps a simple endoscopic survey of the blocked loop at point 'B' would help to indicate what work might be required to clear the blockage.

Nick Webster



Parish Budget

As Council Tax bills arrive, you may be wondering what's happening with the money raised by the Parish Council. The Council set its 2019/20 budget on 18th December 2018, and the figures can be seen in full on the website.

Councillors voted to increase the annual 'precept' – the money raised through Council Tax - from £3,600 to £5,200. This extra money is mainly needed to fund the work of our new Lengthsman. At most, this increase is costing Council Tax payers less than an additional £2 per month.

Website

We now have an active website - www.aldcliffewithstoddaypc.org
Do take a look; it's there for you.

What did the Romans do for Stodday

The road through Stodday is an ancient 'Hollow way' probably existing before Roman times as a 'high road' above the flooded valley bottoms. We know the Romans used it as they erected a milestone in Stodday.

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Greg Robinson our lengthsman.



Greg has been doing a back-breaking job looking after our roads ditches and hedges for the past three months. Despite suffering a snapped tendon in his left wrist he has managed to cut back the over-grown verges of Aldcliffe Hall Lane. The apron of Aldcliffe Hall Drive in front of East Lodge has also benefitted from his efforts, as have the entrances to Craiglands and Oaklands Courts. These now look much more attractive. His next tasks are to clear the gutters on both Courts and then to paint the metal gates.

He continues to litter-pick along Lunecliffe road. Motorists will be grateful to know that in the near future Greg will be cutting-back the self-set saplings growing against the stone walls leading to the sewage pumping station.