

I have been a Parish Councillor since 2003 when an existing councillor, Mrs Joan Osbourne, and I were talking about the state of the roads and verges in rural areas, - no change there as yet! Mrs Osbourne said to me, "Why don't you join us on the Parish Council?" I was then approached by Cllr Paul Dixon about joining, signed the relevant forms, and was duly elected in the May elections.

There were many new Councillors that attended the first meeting. Under the care and attention of Mrs Marjory Bewick, Clerk to the Council, we were told about attendance, the Code of Conduct and dress code, which was strictly adhered to, - no off-the-shoulder dresses; smart was required and the men in suit and tie, no jeans, shorts, flip-flops and jazzy shirts. We were, after all, representing our Parish. My ward was Netherthong. I must admit on my first meeting and for some weeks to follow I did wonder what on earth I had done, - all the legalities and correctness was a bit daunting, - but I got used to it.

I have lived in the Holme Valley since I was 20 when I lived in Honley. Then I moved to Totties and, with my husband being in the building trade, we renovated a house and barn at the top of Green Hill Bank. Following that we moved to Wolfstones and turned what was a hatchery into our home and have lived here some 32 years with our two children. I worked part-time for 25 years delivering washroom items until this last year, and my husband and I have now both retired.

I was given the opportunity to become Chairman of the Parish Council in 2009 and took on some 80 engagements on behalf of the Parish. I went into every school in the Valley, giving out some 18 sacks of daffodil bulbs together with two oak trees for our High School to plant. The following year I was invited by Sheena Spence to attend a Garden Party at the Palace which was the icing on the cake! I attended many church services, community groups, gave talks on the Parish Council, and attended whatever I was asked to attend. I have since 2007 been part of the Planning Committee which assesses local planning applications. I have always enjoyed the planning side of things, although the complexity of some of the applications stretches me.

Unfortunately, due to ill health and age I am thinking of hanging my boots up, but we will see.

Cllr Judith Roberts