

Eskdaleside cum Ugglebarnby Parish Council
Chairman's Report
For the Annual Parish Meeting 6 4 2020

Councillors

In 2019 the Parish council elections were held and 6 councillors were elected. Since that time the parish council has been seeking to co-opt councillors and we are pleased to welcome Cllrs Maureen Gregory, Rosemary Corner and Ron Cohen.

Over the last year we have been saddened to hear of the deaths of two longstanding Cllrs, Lloyd Smith and James Preston.

I am grateful for the ongoing contribution of all Members.

Finance

The Parish council has decided to retain the precept for 2020/21 financial year at £15780; however, this will elicit a 1.14% increase on the residents council tax bills.

The Model Agreement monies of £4138 were received from Scarborough Borough Council during the 2019/20 financial year. The new Model Agreement for 2020/21 has been signed and sent to Scarborough Borough Council for the approved expenditure estimate of £4209. The Model Agreement monies from SBC help towards maintenance costs, for example such items as grass verge cutting, bench repairs/replacement and so on, and is aimed to assist SBC in reducing its administrative burden of managing such tasks.

Planning Applications

The parish council has considered planning applications and consultations throughout the year from Scarborough Borough Council (SBC), North York Moors National Park Authority (NYMNP), North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) and Central Government.

Maintenance

The parish council has undertaken some repair work to the recycled plastic seats in the parish over the past year as well as to the wooden benches. The noticeboard near Sleights Railway Station has also undergone significant refurbishment work.

A new seat to commemorate 100 years since the ending of WW1 was commissioned from Godbold Blacksmiths and is now sited on the Daffodil Green. The seat is adjacent the commemorative tree planted in 2018 and donated by SBC and NYCC.

The railings and gate were replaced at the War Memorial due to significant erosion. The Veterans Association and Green Howards expressed their thanks for undertaking this work following the November 2019 Remembrance Service.

Highways

Working with SBC, NYCC and the police the Parish council has been able to tackle ongoing street lighting, road maintenance, speeding, parking, street sign, pavement, damaged verges and overgrown hedge issues.

The parish council continues to provide temporary VAS on Coach Road in conjunction with NYCC as part of its 4 year programme, which it is hoped is making some impact on reducing speeding of traffic.

The parish council is thankful to the Community Speed Watch at Briggswath for their efforts in tackling speeding traffic on the B1410.

Environment

Working with SBC and NYCC the Parish council has been able to tackle ongoing issues such as:

- Flooding and overloading of gutters/gullies
- Dog fouling

Footpaths

The Parish council has continued to monitor the footpaths throughout the parish, reporting issues to NYMNPA and NYCC where appropriate.

Other Activities

The Parish Newsletter has continued to be produced on a regular quarterly basis and distributed to virtually all residents in the parish.

Noticeboards are continually updated with information regarding the parish council, relevant organisations and events in the parish and the surrounding area. The website continues to be a central location for information about the parish council and the area and hopefully it has been of use to residents.

The Youth Advisor has undertaken liaison with Sleights Primary School to ascertain what activities/organisations the children are involved with and what gaps they would like to be filled. This information has been passed onto NYCC Stronger Communities and North Yorkshire Youth to facilitate progress. The Youth Advisor has also been undertaking research on the potential initiation of a Young Person of the Year Award and the parish council is planning on having its inaugural award in the coming year.

The parish council has petitioned NYCC to retain the No 95 bus operating route along Eskdaleside rather than diverting via Blue Bank/Fairhead to reach Grosmont. This was successful.

Police liaison: The Council has received regular updates from the police representative regarding incidents within the area.

Borough/County Councillors: Regular updates have been received on matters that appertain to the Borough and County from our representatives.

Cllr Alf Watson
Chairman
Eskdaleside cum Ugglebarnby Parish council