

Eskdaleside cum Ugglebarnby Parish Council
Chairman's Report 2015 -16
Annual Parish Meeting 4/4/16

Councillors

During the last year we have had the elections and it has been good to see familiar faces returning to sit on the parish council and continue the good work. However, we have had the sad loss of Ron Duck and he has now been replaced by Ken Shephard.

I am grateful for the contribution of all Members.

Finance

The Parish Council has decided to continue to again freeze its Precept request for 2016/17 at £15691.00. By freezing the precept residents will be given a 0.56% reduction in the precept.

The Model Agreement monies of £2001.00 were received from Scarborough Borough Council during the 2015/16 financial year, this is against the SBC approved estimate of £3812 due to an underspend in 2014/15 – SBC deduct the underspend from the second instalment the following year. The new Model Agreement for 2016/17 has been signed and sent to Scarborough Borough Council for the approved expenditure estimate of £3900.00; however, due an underspend in 2015/16 financial year the actual amount received in the 2016/17 year will be reduced significantly. The Model Agreement monies from SBC help towards maintenance costs, for example such items as grass verge cutting throughout the parish, and is aimed to assist SBC in reducing its administrative burden of managing such tasks.

Planning Applications

46 planning applications and consultations were received during the year from Scarborough Borough Council, North York Moors National Park Authority, NYCC and Central Government. The Council is grateful to Cllrs Dave Tate and Alf Watson for considering and advising on planning matters again this year.

Public Conveniences

Due to higher project costs than expected, the Parish Council has decided to abandon the project of building new toilets at the car park in the centre of the village. The parish council is currently in negotiations with SBC to obtain the freehold of the public conveniences on Eskdaleside at a peppercorn amount, and is waiting for legal documentation to be drawn up. It is planned to refurbish the public conveniences during 2016. In the meantime we remain most grateful to John Mead for keeping a watch on the premises and locking and unlocking them every day.

Highways

Working with SBC, NYCC and the police the Parish Council has been able to tackle ongoing street lighting, speeding and parking issues.

The parish council has signed up to a 4 year programme for the temporary VAS to be sited on Coach Road, which it is hoped is making some impact on reducing speeding of traffic.

Environment

Working with SBC and NYCC the Parish Council has been able to tackle ongoing issues relating to:

- Linden Close Wildlife Area - the Parish Council is grateful to the efforts of SBC parks department, SBC Cllrs G Coulson and P Trumper as well as the residents in the vicinity on recent improvements
- Flooding and overloading of gutters/gulleys
- Dog fouling
- Fly tipping
- Abandoned vehicles

Footpaths

The Parish Council has continued to monitor the footpaths throughout the parish.

Other Activities

The council again had a presence at Sleights Show and this was well received by those who attended. Thanks should go to Cllr C Stephenson in organising the stand in conjunction with the Clerk and liaising with Sleights Primary School in regards to the annual children's competition the council sponsors.

The Parish Newsletter continued to be produced on a regular quarterly basis and distributed to virtually all residents in the parish via the Whitby Advertiser, except for Littlebeck which is distributed via The Link. We are grateful to Cllr Judy Powditch for the excellent work she does in compiling the content for each edition.

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.

Affordable Housing: After delays the project is now finished and the Parish Council had a very interesting site visit on the 14th March 2016. It is hoped that those residents from Sleights who are moving in will benefit greatly from this housing project.

Youth Advisor(s): The Parish Council has been liaising with Caedmon College, Whitby on a new project to appoint a Youth Advisor, who will attend the regular meetings and contribute with their ideas and thoughts on what the youth of our parish need – as well as meeting objectives and aims of the Parish Council's Parish Plan. It is hoped that we shall have appointed the Youth Advisor(s) in time for the September 2016 meeting.

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. The Parish Council has welcomed Cllrs Helen Swiers to its meetings, and is grateful to the hard work undertaken by Cllr G Coulson.

Cllr B Truman