

Eskdaleside cum Ugglebarnby Parish Council
Chairman's Report 2016/2017
For the Annual Parish Meeting 3 4 17

Councillors

During the last year we have had the resignation of Maisie Marsden, to whom we give grateful thanks for her contributions over the years. We are currently in the process of endeavouring to co-opt a replacement.

I am grateful for the ongoing contribution of all Members.

Finance

The Parish Council has decided to increase the precept for 2017/18 from £15,691 to £15,750; however, this will give a zero percent increase to residents in their council tax bill.

The Model Agreement monies of £1950.23 were received from Scarborough Borough Council during the 2016/17 financial year, this is against the SBC approved estimate of £3900.45 due to an underspend in 2015/16 – SBC deduct the underspend from the second instalment the following year. The new Model Agreement for 2017/18 has been signed and sent to Scarborough Borough Council for the approved expenditure estimate of £3939.46; however, due an underspend in 2016/17 financial year the actual amount received in the 2017/18 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

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

The parish council continues to receive updates on the York Potash project via presentations by their team.

Public Conveniences

The parish council is shortly to takeover the freehold of the public conveniences on Eskdaleside from SBC at a peppercorn amount, and is waiting for legal documentation to be drawn up. It is planned that refurbishment will commence in April 2017 and will take approximately 3 months. However, due to the unexpected high costs of the project, the initial refurbishment will consist of one unisex disabled toilet undertaken to a high standard – with the second toilet being refurbished once monies become available. Small grants from NYMNP and NYCC will help towards the costs of the project. In addition, as of the 1st April 2017 the parish council will take over the responsibility of cleaning the public conveniences and has contracted a self-employed cleaner to undertake this task. The parish council remains 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, road maintenance, speeding, parking 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 relating to:

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

Footpaths

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

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 council is sad to learn that Sleights Show will cease to exist due to lack of volunteers coming forward.

The parish council along with a large group of residents celebrated HM The Queen's 90th Birthday by lighting the Beacon, following kind permission being given by the landowner - this was in conjunction with other Beacons up and down the country. The Beacon will again be lit in 2018 when we honour a 100 years of Remembrance following the end of WW1 on the 11th November.

There has been a continuation of the parish council's maintenance programme of assets with work being completed on benches, noticeboard and the village pump area. Many thanks is given to the Sleights Area Men's Shed for giving their time for free to undertake the repairs to the fencing of the village pump.

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

Youth Advisor(s): The Parish Council has welcomed Alfie Edwards as its appointed Youth Advisor. He has been attending the regular meetings since September 2016 and has contributed 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. Following one of his suggestions around communication, the Clerk will be creating a Facebook Group especially for the Youth of the Parish. In addition, Alfie will be arranging to meet the older pupils of the parish at Sleights Primary School during 2017.

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.