

NORTH DUFFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT APRIL 2020 – MARCH 2021

The past year has been particularly unusual and challenging due to the Covid pandemic. However, we still managed to meet as a Parish Council on the agreed 11 occasions (there being no August meeting as per usual) as well as on two further occasions to discuss the Selby Plan and separately the allotments. These meetings were in the main held remotely via zoom to comply with Covid restrictions. Unfortunately, we had no option but to cancel the Annual Parish meeting in both 2020 and 2021.

The vacancies caused by the resignation of Bob Wells in the previous year and Anne Carr in this year were duly advertised and eventually filled with the co-option of Mel Patten and Stuart Brown – welcome both. Our thanks go to both Bob and Anne for their exceptional service over many years.

The Parish Council would also like to formally record our acknowledgment and appreciation to our clerk, Sally Look. In these difficult and unprecedented times Sally has exceeded her remit in keeping us updated on issues arising and in implementing the decisions we have made.

Despite all the issues caused by the Covid pandemic we still managed to install the Christmas nativity scene in good time. New lights were purchased for use around the pond and the island as well as new coloured lights for the mature tree on the south side of the green. These were co-funded by the parish council and by a grant from the local budget – thanks go to Richard Musgrave. To assist with installation/removal the council has invested in an inflatable dingy which will in future negate the need to borrow a rowing boat. Continued covid restrictions resulted in the removal of the nativity scene being delayed until 10th April.

Several organisations were supported during the year including –

- Under 5's – covid support.
- Bowls Club – covid support.
- WI – covid support.
- North Duffield and Skipwith Playing Field Association – contribution towards the cost of insurance as in previous years.

In line with other parish councils along the route we continued to support via subsidy the retention of the Friday and Saturday evening bus service to/from York operated by East Yorkshire.

A major initiative this year was the establishment of the new allotments at the western entrance to the village and the subsequent transfer of management to the elected allotment committee. The allotments are well patronised with all plots being occupied.

Contracts for insurance and grass cutting were renewed for a further year with the incumbents in both cases.

Speeding along both the A163 and York Road remains a concern. A speeding survey was conducted funded jointly by the council and a resident of the village but the results obtained fell short of the level of speeding required to warrant further action by the police. The parish council will continue to lobby NYCC highways and the relevant agencies.

The village continues to grow at a controlled rate with a net increase of around a dozen new homes in 20/21, the development of which was supported by the parish council and all are now occupied. These new builds were all 3+ bedroom detached properties which were welcomed, however the need for affordable housing in the village remains an issue which will hopefully be addressed in the future.

The parish council is in the process of establishing ownership of The Landings and this work is ongoing via our solicitor.

The precept for 21/22 was held at the previous levels.

As we enter the new year our priority remains to support the village for the benefit of all residents. Key initiatives include -

- The support of appropriate development, especially affordable homes.
- Continuing to press for speed restrictions on A163 and York Road.
- The establishment of a 20mph speed limit on the school approach
- The development of the village green
- The Landings
- Relaunching the Millennium Fund
- Supporting the Selby Plan next stages where there is a benefit for the village and the local area.

Renny Hemingway

Vice Chair

May 2021