

BURTON-CUM-WALDEN PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

The Council

Jane Ritchie, Chairman
Rowland Dent, Councillor
Beth Daley, Councillor
Andrew Landau, Councillor
Sally Sahin, Councillor
Sue Ryding, Clerk

Chairman's Introduction

Our Clerk is right to comment on our strong community spirit in her report. Parishioners do look out for each other. I would strongly recommend anyone without local family to make sure a local friend is a key-holder to prevent concerned neighbours asking the Police to break in to check they are okay!

I hope all those who have come to live in the Parish during this period have found the Parish Welcome Pack useful. Any suggestions of further information to include would be welcome. We hope that there will be new willing volunteers as events start to be organised again. Please make yourselves known.

Jane Ritchie, Chairman

Despite the strange circumstances in which we now have to operate, the members of the Parish Council have continued to carry out our statutory responsibilities as best we can. We managed to hold four face-to-face meetings in the main hall of the Village Hall in July, October, November 2020 and January 2021, and then held two on-line meetings in March and April 2021. At the time of this report we have just held the first meeting of the new Parish Council year, which runs from May to April, with a face-to-face meeting in the Village Hall. Councillor Jane Ritchie has served as our Chairman throughout. A Risk Assessment was adopted for the face-to-face meetings incorporating all current regulations on face masks, social distancing and sanitising. In the months where there were no meetings, the Clerk updated the Council by regular Clerk's reports.

We are now looking forward to being able to get back to normal once restrictions have been lifted.

Committees and meeting

Councillors and the Clerk were nominated for the following committees and working groups. Not all of these groups have been able to meet, but much has continued to be done behind the scenes.

- Aysgarth Cemetery Committee – Cllrs Rowland Dent and Sally Sahin
- Upper Dales Health Watch – Cllr Jane Ritchie
- RDC Upper Dales Area Partnership Board – Cllr Jane Ritchie
- Village Hall Committee – Cllr Jane Ritchie
- Emergency Working Group – Cllr Andrew Landau
- West Burton Charity – Cllrs Jane Ritchie and Beth Daley
- YLCA – Cllr Beth Daley and the Clerk, Sue Ryding
- Fundraising group – Cllrs Jane Ritchie and Sally Sahin and the Clerk, Sue Ryding
- Rights of Way working group – Cllrs Jane Ritchie, Beth Daley and Sue Ryding

Planning applications

The Council was asked to comment on two planning applications during the course of the year.

All planning applications are discussed at a full meeting of the Council and anyone who is involved can come along and tell us about their concerns or ask for an application to be supported. Any valid objections to, or support for, an application can then be passed on to the Planning Authority. As has been explained in previous years, the Council only has the right to comment. It has no powers to grant or refuse any application.

Up keep and maintenance

- **Street lights.** Several street lights that were faulty were reported to Richmondshire District Council and were usually repaired or replaced swiftly.
- **Play area.** Richmondshire District Council continues to carry out inspection of the play area on our behalf. Following the District Council's recommendation, new flat swings were installed in July 2020. At certain times during last year's lockdowns, the play area had to be closed, but thankfully normal access has been allowed by the Government since last summer. A new goal post has been acquired by the Parish Council and placed on the Village Green.
- **Village Green.** Once again we would like to thank our Parish Caretaker, Richard Chapman, for his efforts in keeping our Village Green, and many other areas of the village, looking good. The Council very much appreciates all the work that goes into keeping our village one of the most attractive in Wensleydale.
- **Waterfall area.** Following the work done to the footpath by the Waterfall in 2019, Peter Iveson carried out some remedial work to an area of the footpath that had been affected by flooding. The garden area next to the Mill has been cleared of overgrown vegetation, trees and litter.
- **Woolers Dub.** The bank of the Beck has been reinforced with large stones, and the area levelled and seeded with grass.
- **Reading room footpath.** Vegetation has been cleared from this footpath.
- **Water leaks.** Two water leaks in the village were reported to Yorkshire Water and were repaired.
- **Plinths at the entrances to the village.** It is hoped that work on this project can begin soon.

Yorkshire Dales Authority Local Plan

The Council has participated in the third round of consultations on the formulation of the new Local Plan which took place earlier this year in conjunction with the Wensleydale and Coverdale Parish Council Forum, chaired by County and District Councillor Yvonne Peacock. The focus this time was on places where permitted development should be allowed. Once again the Forum, in its submission, focussed on a preference for flexibility, and the need to attract young families from outside the National Park.

Village events

Nearly all events this year have fallen victim to the pandemic. We have now missed two May Fairs, a Bonfire Night and a Quiz Night. Nevertheless, we did manage to get the Christmas tree put up, thanks once again to David Dent and his team, and to the owners of the Black Bull for the use of

their electricity. Also, we were able to enjoy David's fantastic Christmas display outside Grange Farm.

Consultations

There were two main consultations during the course of the Council year. The first was a consultation by the Highways Department of North Yorkshire County Council on the removal of laybys on the A684. Very few of the laybys scheduled for removal were in our Parish area, but we did request that the layby outside the AA box should not be removed.

The second consultation was on the proposals for the re-organisation of local government which would see North Yorkshire County Council taking over the responsibilities of all District Councils. Further details have been published in the local press and can be found on the North Yorkshire County Council and Richmondshire District Council websites.

Village Shop

In September last year we were delighted to welcome the new owners of the shop, Marie and Julie O'Byrne. Despite the difficulties caused by the pandemic, they have made a tremendous start in transforming the shop and the tea shop, and we wish them all the very best in this endeavour.

Parish Website – Local History

Our Parish website, which can be found at www.westburton-yorkshire.org.uk, contains information about Parish Council activities including links to minutes and agendas of meetings and newsletters. Also on the website is a link to the recently re-written **History of West Burton**. On the theme of local history, copies of the very interesting '**A Prowl Round West Burton**' are on sale for £2 at the Village shop and Hartle's Butchers. The proceeds of all sales goes towards the maintenance of the Parish, the Chapel and the Village Hall. We would also like to remind you that copies of our community **Recipe Book** are still available at the Village shop at a cost of £3. Again all proceeds go towards the upkeep of the Parish.

Finances

The Council has maintained a financially secure healthy surplus which allows us to keep the Precept at £6,600 for the eighth year in a row. A summary of the accounts up to the end of the financial year can be found at Annex A.

Covid-19 pandemic

Looking back at the comments we made last year on the pandemic, we feel that we were right in our judgement about a strong community spirit being in evidence. We would like to end this report with our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has helped us, and continues to help us, get through this difficult time, including all our local NHS workers, Julie Greenslade and her team at the Hawes Community Centre who have organised deliveries and so much other assistance, and the volunteers who have given their time to assist with the remarkable success of the vaccine roll-out.

We hope that the end is in sight and that next year's report will reflect a more normal Council year. In the meantime we wish everyone a continued safe journey through this unusual time.