

BURTON-CUM-WALDEN PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

The Council

Jane Ritchie, Chairman
David Dent, Councillor
Andrew Landau, Councillor
Sally Sahin, Councillor
Victoria Whitehead, Councillor
Sue Ryding, Clerk

Chairman's Introduction

2022-3 has been a busy year, with a lot of unseen activity beneath the surface. I particularly want to thank my fellow Councillors, as well as our Clerk, for extra meetings and time spent on a range of issues that had to be dealt with, without being particularly exciting.

We purchased a bench for the Platinum Jubilee and will now be doing the same to commemorate the Coronation. The May Fair Committee is back in full swing under the chairmanship of Vicky Whitehead. We are most grateful to all those who have volunteered to help in 2023.

We can report that Burton-cum-Walden Parish Council has signed the Civility and Respect protocol which commits us to proper behaviour in line with the Nolan principles.

We are fortunate that our Richmondshire District Councillor, Yvonne Peacock, is also our North Yorkshire Councillor. She has attended most of our meetings during the year, which has been very helpful.

Jane Ritchie, Chairman

We were delighted to welcome two new Councillors to the Parish Council after the elections in May 2022. Since then, new Councillors Victoria Whitehead and David Dent have begun to make a significant contribution to the work of the Council. We wish them well in their new posts. In the meantime, the Council has enjoyed getting back into routine parish work after the upheavals of the previous two years. This has been a significant year in North Yorkshire for the local government sector, with the abolition of the District Councils and the formation of the unitary Council of North Yorkshire on 1 April 2023. The effects of this re-organisation are as yet unknown, but there will certainly be more responsibility devolved down to parish council level, a change we will be monitoring closely.

Committees and meeting

Councillors and the Clerk were nominated for the following committees and working groups.

- Aysgarth Cemetery Committee – Councillors Sally Sahin and Victoria Whitehead
- Upper Dales Health Watch – Councillor Jane Ritchie
- RDC Upper Dales Area Partnership Board – Councillor Jane Ritchie
- Village Hall Committee – Councillor Sally Sahin
- Emergency Working Group – Councillors Andrew Landau and David Dent and the Clerk, Sue Ryding
- West Burton Charity – Councillors Jane Ritchie and Victoria Whitehead
- YLCA – Councillor David Dent and the Clerk, Sue Ryding

Planning applications

The Council was asked to comment on two planning application during the year. One of these was for the glamping pods at Aysgarth Holiday Lodges, to which the Council objected on several grounds, as did Aysgarth and District Parish Council. However, it was still approved.

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. However, repairs have been delayed, we have been informed, as the contractor is in the process of replacing all street lights with LED lights.
- **Play area.** Richmondshire District Council continued to carry out inspection of the play area on our behalf. We are waiting to be informed as to how these inspections will be carried out in future.
- **Village Green.** As in past years, 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.
- **Cherry tree on the Village Green.** This has been cut back to allow easier access to the benches beneath it.
- **New dog waste bin.** At the request of a resident, a new dog waste bin has been installed by Richmondshire District Council at Eshington Bridge. We now have four bins which are emptied by the District Council waste disposal scheme as part of their routine waste disposal scheme. The responsibility for this will be taken over by North Yorkshire Council.
- **Road markings.** At the request of the Parish Council, Road markings around the Village have been re-painted.

Yorkshire Dales Authority Local Plan

The Council has now participated in all five consultation rounds on the formulation of the new Local Plan in conjunction with the Wensleydale and Coverdale Parish Council Forum, chaired by County Councillor Yvonne Peacock. The fifth round concentrated on the provision of new housing, local occupancy, settlement boundaries and second homes. In its submission, the Forum reiterated its call for flexibility, and for the need to attract young families from outside the National Park. A sixth consultation meeting is due to be held at the end of April. This will focus on where development will be allowed to take place within village boundaries.

Village events

The highlight of events last year was the hog roast held to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of HM The Queen. It was a happy event with, of course, no indication that the next state occasion of significance would be Her Majesty's funeral, or that we would be planning now to mark the Coronation of her successor, HM King Charles. More details of this event will be published shortly.

The spectacular fireworks display and bonfire in November, and our traditional mince pies and punch get-together when we light up the Christmas tree in December always lend a cheery note to our winters. We are very grateful to the people who kindly give up their spare time to organise and run these events, particularly Peter Wheeler and his team for their wonderful efforts in organising Bonfire Night, David Dent and his helpers for the magnificent Christmas tree, and Andy Landau at the Fox and Hounds Inn for the delicious refreshments for both events. Once again, we would also like to thank the owner of The Black Bull for allowing us to use their electricity to light up the Christmas tree. The efforts of all these people are much appreciate.

Consultations

In addition to the consultation on the Local Plan, the Council has continued to follow progress on the re-organisation of local government which we mention above. Details have been published in the local press and can be found on the North Yorkshire Council website. As part of this re-organisation, the Parish Council has responded to a consultation request on a Parish Charter which lays out the procedures for liaising between the unitary authority and the parish council sector.

The Council has also responded to a consultation request from the Wensleydale School on the decision to remove its sixth form provision.

Emergency Plan

The Parish's Emergency Plan was originally put together in 2007 at the same time as the Parish Plan was published, as many of you might remember. A couple of years ago it was decided that the Emergency Plan needed updating. The result is that a completely new Plan has now been completed, together with the formation of a nine-strong Emergency Group of people who will lead the response to any emergency. One such emergency could be an extended power outage, and with this in mind, the Parish Council has recently purchased a petrol-driven generator. This will be able to power up the Village Hall to provide an emergency community base with lighting, warmth and the ability to produce hot drinks, meals, and re-charging for IT devices. We would like to thank Richmondshire District Council for a grant of £1,000 towards the cost of the generator, and the Village Hall Committee for undertaking the installation of the change-over switch.

Finances

Our finances have remained sufficiently robust to allow us, once again, to maintain the Precept at £6,600. As mentioned above, a grant of £1,000 has been received towards the cost of the generator, and a further grant of £174 will shortly be received towards the cost of the Coronation celebrations. A summary of the accounts up to the end of the financial year can be found at Annex A to this report on the website at www.westburton-yorkshire.org.uk.