

## **BURTON-CUM-WALDEN PARISH COUNCIL**

### **ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22**

#### **The Council**

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

#### **Chairman's Introduction**

We are very fortunate in having a spacious Village Hall in which to have meetings without feeling at risk, as discussion is much more productive face to face. I hope that the weather will be kind to the nation for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and that our celebration community lunch will be a happy occasion for Parish residents. I would like to thank all my fellow Councillors and the Clerk for their contribution to the wellbeing of the community during the last year. I am delighted that some younger parishioners are standing for election this next time. The Government has postponed the need to map all footpaths in the village by 2026, and the Land Registry is seriously behind in registering parish land, so the new Council will have to inherit these outstanding tasks.

**Jane Ritchie, Chairman**

It has been a great pleasure and relief for us, during the course of the Council year that runs from May to April, to get back to something like normal. Face-to-face meetings in the Village Hall were resumed and, as you will see below, we were at last able to hold a couple of community events. As usual, many volunteers came forward to help to ensure that everyone had a good time and made the most of what we were able to do in restrained circumstances. Hopefully, this journey back to normality will continue as we learn to live with the virus and enjoy meeting up with friends and loved-ones once again.

#### **Committees and meeting**

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

- 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 – Cllr Jane Ritchie
- 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 just one planning application during the year, but there is another application which is still being considered.

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.
- **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. This year his efforts certainly paid off when we won the Best Kept Village competition for the fifth time since 2002.
- **Wooler's Dub.** Further to the work done last year to reinforce the bank of the Beck in this area, Mr Peter Iveson cleared a large amount of stones from the Beck to allow the water more room to flow during excessive rainfall. Some of these stones have accumulated again, but the Beck is still less congested than it was.
- **Reading Room footpath.** The owners of the field behind the Reading Room have kindly agreed to replace the gate at the entrance to the path which was put there by the previous owner.
- **Walden Road.** Repairs to this road were carried out by the Highway Authority of North Yorkshire County Council at the Parish Council's request.
- **Plinth at the entrances to the village.** A final design has been agreed, and It is hoped that work on this project can begin soon.

### **Yorkshire Dales Authority Local Plan**

The Council has participated in the fourth round of consultations on the formulation of the new Local Plan which took place in September 2021 in conjunction with the Wensleydale and Coverdale Parish Council Forum, chaired by County and District Councillor Yvonne Peacock. The focus this time was on developments local occupancy and barn conversions. As with previous submissions following consultations, the Forum focussed on a preference for flexibility, and the need to attract young families from outside the National Park.

### **Village events**

We were able to enjoy a welcome return to two events in 2021 with a spectacular fireworks display and bonfire in November, and our now traditional mince pies and punch get-together when we light up the Christmas tree in December. We would like to thank Peter Wheeler and his team for his terrific efforts in organising a wonderful Bonfire Night, and David Dent and his helpers once again for the beautiful Christmas tree. Thanks are also due to Andy Landau at the Fox and Hounds Inn for the provision of great refreshments for both events. Also, we would like to thank the owner of the Black Bull for once again allowing us to use their electricity to light up the Christmas tree. The efforts of all these people is much appreciate.

### **Consultations**

Apart from the consultation on the Local Plan mentioned above, the Council has continued to follow progress on the re-organisation of local government which will 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. The election for the new Unitary North Yorkshire Council will take place on Thursday, 5 May 2022.

The Council has also taken part in a consultation on the proposed new Code of Conduct for councillors. This has now been finalised and published, and has been adopted by the Parish Council.

### **Finances**

Our finances have remained healthy during this year, despite the cost of some extensive work in and around the Beck. As a consequence we have once again been able to maintain the precept at £6,600 for the ninth year. A summary of the accounts up to the end of the financial year can be found at Annex A on the website at [www.westburton-yorkshire.org.uk](http://www.westburton-yorkshire.org.uk).

### **Council Election**

Due to the merger of District and County Councils to form a Unitary Council, it has been decided to hold Parish Councils elections a year earlier than normal. This election will take place on Thursday, 5 May. Further details will be displayed on the Parish Notice Board before, during and after the election.

Two current members of Burton-cum-Walden Parish Council, Councillors Rowland Dent and Beth Daley, will sadly be standing down. We would like to thank them for their many years of outstanding contributions to the work of the Parish Council and to this community and wish them well in the future. We look forward to welcoming new members following the election.