

BURTON-CUM-WALDEN PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

The Council

Jane Ritchie, Chairman

David Dent, Councillor

Andrew Landau, Councillor

Sally Sahin, Councillor

Victoria Whitehead, Councillor

Sue Ryding, Clerk

Chairman's Introduction

Burton-cum-Walden Parish has been very fortunate to have had Sue Ryding as our Parish Clerk for over 22 years. She has been a most efficient officer and more than once has given well over her allotted hours to look after our interests. Much of the Clerk's work is unseen by the community: chivvying organisations / individuals for a response and/or action, filling in a multitude of returns, dealing with a stream of emails, providing Welcome Packs to newcomers and generally being the lynchpin of the Council.

We are most fortunate that Richard Nolan, retired professor of Law, has agreed to be our new Clerk. Over the last few months, he has been inducted by Sue so as to be able to hit the ground running from 1st April. Keith Ryding also deserves recognition for many years of delivering Parish Newsletters.

Jane Ritchie, Chairman

The Council has had a productive year, continuing to tackle outstanding issues like the play area, and the Waterfall area, the renovation and renewal of which are in progress. Councillors have also continued to be involved with local matters, contributing to consultations and meetings of various organisations such as the Cemetery Committee, and following the progress of the new Yorkshire Dales National Park Local Plan.

Committees and meeting

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

- Aysgarth Cemetery Committee – Cllrs Sally Sahin and Victoria Whitehead
- Upper Dales Health Watch – Cllr Jane Ritchie
- Village Hall Committee – Cllr Sally Sahin
- Emergency Working Group – Cllrs Andrew Landau and David Dent
- YLCA – Cllr David Dent and the Clerk, Susan Ryding

Planning applications

The Council was asked to comment on five planning application during the year. Of these, three applications have concerned various matters relating to Little Cote Caravan Park. These applications are still pending. Planning applications can be accessed online through the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority website, www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/planning/view-planning-applications/

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 Yorkshire Dales National Park 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.

Upkeep and maintenance

- **Street lights.** During the course of the last year all the streetlights in the village have been upgraded, or are due to be upgraded, to LED. Those lights that are fixed to properties will shortly be fitted with shades to minimise light shining into the property.

- **Play area.** North Yorkshire Council has continued its schedule of inspections of the play area on our behalf. Recently we were kindly granted a donation of £500 from County Councillor Yvonne Peacock's Discretionary Fund to carry out in depth maintenance of the play area. This work has already started and should be completed shortly.
- **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.
- **Village sign.** The sign at the entrance to the village has been cleaned and a new road sign has been installed.

Motor mower

The Council has been investigating the upgrade or replacement of the Council's motor mower. This essential piece of equipment has now been in use for ten years, keeping the Green in good order. Parish funds have been set aside towards this anticipated expense, and the Council is looking at further funding options, as the total cost will be considerable.

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Local Plan

The new Local Plan is due to be published shortly for a final consultation. The Council has responded to the six consultations as part of the Parish Council Forum set up by Councillor Yvonne Peacock. The new plan contains quite a few changes of emphasis on affordable housing and other matters, and sets out policies that will be put in place to regulate all future developments and planning applications. It can be accessed through the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority website on

www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/park-authority/living-and-working/planning-policy/local-plan-2023-40/

Village events

Members of the Parish Council are involved with the Fundraising Group and have contributed to various events during the year including the Community Teas and the very popular Quiz Night. We would like to thank the Group for all their hard work.

We would also like to thank everyone involved with the organisation of Bonfire Night and the traditional activities around Christmas. In particular, we are very grateful for the efforts of Peter Wheeler, who has organised the amazing bonfires and firework displays in November for a number of years now, and David Dent and his team for the beautiful Christmas tree and lights. This year we had an additional well-supported and delicious community tea before the switch-on of the lights as well as the popular punch and mince pies provided by the Fox and Hounds Inn.

As always, we are very grateful to the owner of The Black Bull for allowing us to use their electricity to light up the Christmas tree. With the agreement of the owner, we have over the last few years sent a donation of £25.00 each to the two Air Ambulances, by way of thanks.

Winter gritting

We would like to thank Mr Edward Dent for his tremendous efforts with keeping the Parish roads clear during the unexpected heavy winter snow. Some of you might have noticed that his efforts were reported nationally, with footage of the village and Mr Dent's tractor with the snow plough and trailer-gritter appearing on the BBC news. This was then picked up internationally by other news outlets including France and Australia.

River pollution

We would like to thank Mr Neil Smeeton who has kindly agreed to be the Parish representative on the Stop Ure Pollution group which monitors pollution of the River Ure and its tributaries. The Parish Council has been in correspondence with Yorkshire Water regarding discharges from the West Burton sewage works into Bishopdale Beck, and has received confirmation that an upgrade of these works is being considered.

Emergency Plan

We were able, unexpectedly, to put our Emergency Plan into action during the power outage at the end of August. During the day the Parish Council's new generator kept the electricity on in the Village Hall, providing hot drinks and a mobile phone charging facility. We are very grateful to Mr Neil Smeeton and Mr David Dent for keeping the generator running, and also to Mr Dent and Mr Mark Stanley for clearing the fallen tree by the Grange which was blocking the road.

Finances

After keeping the Precept at the same level for ten years, the Council felt that an increase was necessary to keep up the maintenance of the Parish to as high a standard as possible. In particular, as mentioned above we are considering the possibility of having to purchase a new mower at some stage in the near future. The increase is also in response to the many other growing costs faced by the Council.

A summary of the accounts up to the end of the financial year can be found at Annex A to this report on the Parish Council's website at www.westburton-yorkshire.org.uk.