

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2015/16

KIRBY GRINDALYTHE AND DUGGLEBY PC

INTRODUCTION

In introducing this year's report, my first as chairman I will begin by thanking all the councillors who came together for our first meeting one year ago as the new parish council, with the common objective of effecting change and ensuring that our parish council began to meet its statutory obligations and duties to the local community.

FINANCE

A more detailed report of our financial situation will be issued and publicised by the treasurer in the way of audited accounts and additionally published on our parish website. We evaluated our financial situation at our meeting on the 4th January 2016 and it was resolved to increase our present precept from £1,000 to £1,300 to allow to future maintenance of the villages no longer covered by Ryedale council.

MEETINGS

Regular parish council meetings have been held and published both on the public notice board and once the parish website had been completed on there too. We had a few weeks on establishing the content of the minutes but now have a steady structure in place and the minutes clearly outline the action plans, detailing the councillor taking the action on board and finally items being completed and closed. Since 1972 there has been a statutory requirement for parish council to hold an annual public meeting in addition to its AGM to invite local opinion and discuss work of the council. No such meeting has taken place and we must ensure we adhere to this moving forward.

MAINTENANCE

We saw a change in the grass cutting and verge maintenance carried out by Ryedale council and we addressed the areas of concern and made a decision to continue cutting the church yard area in Kirby Grindalythe and the area of land known as the village green in Duggleby. This expenditure had been funded by the parish precept. We as a council I am sure would like to thank local residents who continued to cut their own verges in proximity of their homes in order to keep the general tidiness and appearance of the parish also many thanks to John Sawdon who continues to maintain a large stretch of highway in Duggleby.

In December 2015 we saw torrential rainfall and flooding in the parish. To address how we can assist as a parish council in the future we invited the chair of the Luttons PC who rolled out a plan to form a water course and maintenance program to address the increasing possibility of flooding in the parish. We agreed at the meeting in March that we would support and be part of this group and nominate councillors and parishioners to be involved in future meetings and action plans. Our district councillor had also made plans to collate independent reports from Yorkshire water, environmental agency and highways. At present we do not have the results of these reports.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

In this fast moving age of technology and its necessity to be used for communication to various departments and agencies we now have an email address as an option for parishioners to contact via this method, any of the councillors in addition to a landline for those not wishing to communicate electronically.

Our clerk did an outstanding job and showed great commitment to setting up our parish website and I feel this is an excellent platform for future communication. At the moment it is in its infancy, however we need to continue to advertise and utilise this method in addition to the village notice boards. Each and every councillor now has access to the YLCA website to assist in their duties.

BUS SERVICE

The bus service and its funding suffered a hefty financial cutback in Ryedale, however we learnt that our bus route the 190 will not be withdrawn and will continue as normal with the omission of the final journey of Foxholes to Malton. This was brilliant news for the Wolds valley as it is a vital form of connection to Malton and beyond resulting in many of our communities remaining independent.

SPEED LIMITS

The speed limits that were granted of 40mph have been a very slow and arduous process to implement but have been assured by highways that our limit came in to force 11th April 2016 and signs should be erected no later than early summer 2016.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Although the parish does not receive many planning applications (both residential and commercials) we have put a system in place whereby every councillor receives, reads and comments, on the applications received and if necessary a site meeting or emergency meeting has taken place to discuss any areas of concern.

PARISH COMMUNITY

There are a wide range of activities and social groups in operation mostly orchestrated by a very successful and motivated village hall committee. The addition of the luncheon club has been well attended and continues to bring the community together. Great thanks to the village hall committee for all their hard work.

With the formation of a new working group of residents on Duggleby this should see a healthy coalition with the parish council and should be encouraged for future plans.

CONCLUSION

We are a relatively small community and should be able to assist to the needs of the parish. Our role of councillors is one that should be taken seriously. We are a corporate body, and elected body in the first tier of local government and we play a vital part in representing the interests of the residents of the parish of both Kirby Grindalythe and Duggleby serving to improve the quality of life and local environment. Our parish council is made up of councillors from different backgrounds, enthusiasms and interests. We should celebrate this and use our different skills and attributes to come together and work as a team. Our job is to represent the interests of the whole community, understanding the needs of different groups in the community. I believe we should encourage more participation of residents and other groups in meetings which will assist in the community having a say and being able to express their ideas and plans to improve the parish. This is what we are here to facilitate. We should widen the involvement and be more open to opinions.