



April 2022 Newsletter

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THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL SESSION (5 years)

The new Parish Council will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, 12th May, within the short period specified after an election. It is then that a chairman will be appointed for the forthcoming year and the various councillors' declarations made. There were insufficient candidates to fill all the 7 places, which was really disappointing, so there will be no election as those candidates were all returned uncontested. The council will be composed of current councillors Cathy Burrell, Steve Cobb, Dave Oswin and Howard West plus new additions Andrew Farrar and Cliff Trotter. That leaves one space vacant so a co-option may be on the cards, although we managed with 6 councillors for a while during this session.

This is the final opportunity to thank Cllr Ian Birchall and Cllr Ryan Dall for their work in this current session. Each has contributed in his own way and Ian has been with the council from the start in 2016 acting as its financial guru. Ian has already brought our clerk, Jane, up to speed on the intricacies of cash flow, precept setting and many other elements, so we will continue seamlessly into the next session.

This brings us on to our parish clerk. We have been blessed with three most able clerks – from Robin Barlow who set us on our way on the straight and narrow, to the organisational skills of Andrew Macdonald who was a force to be reckoned with during the Local Plan deliberation and now to Jane Marlow, without whom we would find ourselves in a sorry state. Jane has an eloquent way as a wordsmith of transforming councillors' sometimes bullish comments into more elegant prose and council-speak which invariably hits the nail on the head.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Within a few days, every household and business in our parish will receive a copy of the précis of the Neighbourhood Plan and there will be opportunities to read a physical copy of the full document at the Village Hall, St Robert's Church and the Black Swan. Naturally, our website will also contain the full version, so that parishioners may drill down to the detail in order to make further comments. The full version is 104 pages so to spend money printing a copy for each household/business would be irresponsible.

The specified statutory organisations will receive a full copy so they may make their comments too. The consultation period will last for 6 weeks from Friday, 22nd April to Friday, 3rd June. You may notice when reading the full document that some of your views expressed as responses to the PID are included and some not. What might appear to lay people as being perfectly reasonable may not be possible within the National Planning Policy Framework. We have taken guidance from Mike Dando, our fully qualified planning consultant, as to what is or is not permissible.

Grateful thanks are due to the various Focus Groups for their inputs and especially to the Steering Group who have spent many hours poring over documents, taking photographs, collating evidence and enduring many extended Zoom sessions to get us to this stage. One constant positive element throughout the process has been Jane, our parish clerk. She has gone beyond expectations to ensure everything has been edited and prepared in time for printing as well as suffering all those Zoom sessions with us.

LITTER PICKING

Thanks once again to Liz Brown for organising the litter pick and to the volunteers who turned up to collect **30 bags of rubbish**. On the one hand, what a great effort from locals to clean up but on the other, what a

disgrace that so much junk has been deposited in our parish by thoughtless individuals. All being well, we'll have another clean-up in September.

QUEEN'S JUBILEE

Preparations are well in hand, albeit with an odd snag here and there with respect to the paperwork demanded by other authorities. There are many things to consider and at the Zoom meetings held to date, the various options have been debated and decisions made. All this has been under the volunteer chairmanship of Cllr Dave Oswin but it should be emphasised that this is a community event with volunteer participation, not the sole responsibility of the Parish Council. If you would like to help in any way, please send your name to Jane so that you can be included in the next Zoom meeting on Monday 25th April at 6pm.

Our thanks go to Mrs Ethne Bartup for her initiative of sowing some wildflower seeds (with HBC's permission!) on a small patch of land by the entrance to Crimple Meadows which we hope will be fully in bloom to welcome people to the picnic on Sunday 5th June.

The good news is that an invitation is being sent to all houses in the parish to the two Jubilee events – at the Scout Hall on Thursday 2nd June to the Beacon lighting at 9.45pm along with BBQ and choir starting at 8pm and on Sunday 5th June to the Family Fun Day and picnic starting at noon. Come along and make this a real community event.

DUNLOPILLO

The former office block will be demolished with work starting on the Tuesday after Easter, 19th April. N.B. the car park outside the skeleton building will be closed for the duration of the demolition, which is expected to take approximately a week. Thirkhill Drive's exit onto Station Road will be closed for one of the days during the demolition process. There will be some concrete and brick crushing for a couple of weeks. Rebuilding will not start for some time yet – scheduled for the beginning of 2023 and will probably take around 16 months.

However, work will start soon (first week of May) on building the commercial units between the Post Office and Vida Grange. Construction traffic should use only the access via the roundabout at the end of Thirkhill Drive and not that opposite the village hall. A traffic management plan will be in place throughout the demolition and construction phases. We have received assurances that access will be policed by the contractors.

You may have noted that the press recently reported additional car parking would be provided for rail users. This was brought up again by NYCC at their latest Harrogate and Knaresborough Constituency meeting. We can confirm that there is no space available on the former Dunlopillo site and no such provision was made in any of the planning applications for either housing or commercial development. There was initial interest in such a proposal from NYCC but this has never come to fruition. Hence, contrary to NYCC's statement, there will be no more parking for station users on the Dunlopillo site. Parking in the car park outside the office building may also be reduced somewhat as the former Dunlopillo boundary in fact extends 2 metres into the car park from the existing wall rather than where the wall is now.

Harrogate's hope for money for improved buses and park and ride took a hit recently when central government turned down a request for funding for North Yorkshire. This will probably affect any chances of a park and ride near the A61/A658 junction at Buttersyke roundabout.

MORE BUILDING

The following matter will be decided upon by HBC's planning committee after the standard consultation period. This is yet another example of a huge number of houses, commercial properties and a school being planned without any meaningful provision for the traffic generated – just tinkering with a few junctions and some widening here and there. Please have your say by replying in the usual manner to HBC on its portal (Application Reference below together with link). It is not in our parish but within Beckwithshaw's at Windmill farm, yet the effects will be felt here for generations to come.

We were supposed to have had the completed West Harrogate Parameters Plan (WHPP) by now but, as you know, traffic and highways has been omitted – one wonders why! It will be interesting to observe what

will be included in the transport part of the WHPP; our guess is that there will be nothing significant in addition to what is included in the provisions for this planning application. After all, the WHPP was written by the developers in conjunction with HBC so we can't see the profitability of the developers being compromised. Let's hope we're wrong but if we're not, then it would be an absolute disgrace.

APPLICATION NO: 22 / 00089 / EIAMAJ (link: <https://uniformonline.harrogate.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=R5JWJEHY0B000>)

LOCATION: Land Comprising Field At 427447 453599 Beckwithshaw North Yorkshire

PROPOSAL: Hybrid planning application comprising: Detailed Planning Application for 770 Class C3 dwelling houses, associated access, open green space and landscaping, a Multi-Use Games Area, a LEAP and supporting infrastructure; Outline Planning Application for a 2-form entry primary school Class F1, a community and commercial hub comprising a local convenience store Class E, provision for circa 40.no self-build residential plots.

COUNCIL TAX

You might have noticed that things don't appear to add up with your council tax bill. With an overall uplift at around 3.6% it is arithmetically impossible that only one of the individual increases (3.7% on around 13% of the total bill [for Police and Crime Commissioner]) exceeds the overall uplift, while the others range from 2.0% to 2.2%. While we were checking the figures, the Parish Council's precept has the lowest increase of all compared to the other authorities... 13.4% since 2016.

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH (CSW)

Now we're well into spring, how about volunteering for some new deployments around the parish? There is a small group of volunteers already but to cover all the new sites and maintain a presence throughout the parish, we need more to help out please. It's only for an hour at a time so that's very little to help keep our villages safe. Please contact me so that you may be added to the list.

Our SID data shows that the situation hasn't changed dramatically at any of the locations but there are differing trends. We're still investigating the effects of SID orientation and Covid-19. Many drivers don't realise that their speed is recorded from both directions but only displayed on the digital display for oncoming traffic. Burn Bridge Road has the greatest traffic flow (when both directions are added together) but the least number of speeding vehicles. However, in March there were over 100,000 vehicles heading on Church Lane towards Pannal, making that the highest traffic count in any one direction. Traffic speed around the blind bends in Pannal village is still way too high but as North Yorkshire Police (NYP) will not enforce the 20MPH limit, there is little we can do other than increase our CSW deployments. Church Lane is still the worst affected by speeding (by far) and this is despite NYP's frequent enforcement with safety cameras. There was only one vehicle exceeding 70 MPH in March (in the 30 MPH limit) and that was between 2 and 3 in the morning so that was an improvement on previous months!

Thank you to all councillors for their continued efforts in this session. Thank you too for the many responses to the newsletter – most of them extremely positive about our Parish Council's actions. This could well be my last newsletter on behalf of the Parish Council, as the next chairman will not be decided until the first meeting of the new session in May. We hope you enjoy your Easter break and can find a few moments to fill in your online Survey Monkey replies to the Neighbourhood Plan questions.

For reference, the most recent newsletter is always posted on the Village Notice Board (at the Village Hall) and all newsletters are posted on the website here: <http://www.pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk/Documents.aspx>

Also, if you use Facebook, please join our group where you'll get any breaking news more quickly than through these periodic newsletters:

<https://www.facebook.com/Pannal-and-Burn-Bridge-Parish-Council-1655335551445518/>

Best wishes

Howard West, Chairman, howard.west@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk

and Dave Oswin, Deputy Chairman, and Councillors Cathy Burrell, Ian Birchall, Steve Cobb and Ryan Dall