



January 2023 Newsletter

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Firstly, a Happy New Year to one and all.

We have started the final 3 months where our next local authority tier is HBC. After 1st April, there will be just one higher authority – North Yorkshire Council. Although work has been going on in the background, there is still a great deal of uncertainty as to how the new unitary authority will function with decision-makers being even more remote.

Most of the officers will remain the same (under TUPE rules) although there should be fewer top-level people – one of the cost-saving reasons given as well as the removal of a huge duplication, triplication etc. in head-count.

OUR PARISH COUNCIL

There will be changes here too. We have just about managed to continue our work with one councillor less than we should have since the election almost a year ago. In the summer, one of our councillors will retire from office so we will definitely need to get back to full strength as soon as possible. Hence, we will need to co-opt two councillors.

Since our inception in 2016, most of the “heavy lifting” has already been done. We managed to stop unnecessary and unwanted development behind St Robert’s church (PN19), at Spring Lane Farm (PN17) and a traveller site just off the A61. This was both before and during the Harrogate Local Plan discussions. There are a host of other actions we have effected but, as stated, the “grunt work” has been accomplished. Our main aim now is to implement our Neighbourhood Plan, which is coming up to inspection and then referendum, so that should need far less effort than that which we expended on challenging Harrogate’s Local Plan. Therefore, the workload will be significantly less but we still need new ideas and younger blood.

We are appealing directly to parishioners to make themselves available for co-option now by communicating with Jane, our parish clerk (parishclerk@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk). Our intention is to put more flesh on the bones in such an appeal if we don’t get an immediate response but we trust some of you are ready right now to lend a hand and become a councillor in what is surely one of the most successful parish councils in the area. That would save us the expense of a leaflet drop too!

As usual, it’s a good/bad news story this month. We’ll start with the good.

CRIMPLE MEADOWS PLAY AREA

We’ll be getting at least one and probably two new pieces of kit for our younger children – a spring mounted animal for starters. HBC’s Parks department has been most helpful to date and is involved in getting quotes for a footpath and some groundwork to improve access across what is the annual winter quagmire by the road entrance to Crimple Meadows.

SCHOOL RUN

A request has been made by the cabinet member for highways at NYCC to upgrade the double yellow lining in Pannal village so there is no excuse that they can’t be seen when HBC’s parking enforcement staff arrive to issue tickets to transgressors. This is in response to parishioners’ requests to the Parish Council.

DEFIBRILLATORS

Once they come into stock (anticipated in February) we should have two new units – one hopefully at the Methodist Church and one opposite the Black Swan. Our grateful thanks are extended to DKP Consulting in Burn Bridge who have offered to pay for the acquisition, installation and maintenance of a unit on their property. The other - as already mentioned - will be provided by the company responsible for the redevelopment of the Dunlopillo office block, Echo Green. This will mean good coverage of the villages for all concerned.

SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE (SID)

Our latest acquisition is now in situ on Spring Lane – albeit lacking a bit of battery power from its solar panel during the gloomy first part of January. A few days of sunshine should put that right. If, as locals claim, there is a significant amount of speeding then we can now provide North Yorkshire Police with the data and hopefully they will deploy their safety camera equipment as they do on Church Lane.

WASTE BINS

This is a 50/50 situation. HBC have refused to put a bin for dog waste where it is most needed – by the cricket field – claiming it is on private property and their bin lorry can't get close. On the other hand, they will place one somewhere on Malthouse Lane which would mean pedestrians diverting from the Ringway footpath. They have already put a bin on the footpath just up from the play area on Crimple Meadows and another at the end of Mill Lane – not the optimum type at the latter nor the exact location we wanted but something is better than nothing.

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL / PARISH COUNCILS CHARTER

The draft of the charter, as composed jointly between NYCC officers and representatives of the YLCA branches received the thumbs up from the Executive of NYCC on Tuesday last. This will be an evolving document as the new NYC beds in from 1st April. A formal 12-week consultation will take place with parishes and the Parishes' Joint Liaison Group will monitor progress especially during the first year of the new authority.

Some downsides are:

NYCC will not change its stance over the chaotic parking at school run time on Crimple Meadows. This remains a dangerous situation should an ambulance need to access houses on that road.

HBC refused any suggestion of allowing a Country Park designation for the area behind St Robert's church.

HBC has refused to allow any storage capability for Parish Council owned property on waste land to the side/rear of St Robert's church, so we're back to yet another appeal to parishioners to please, if possible, allow us to store some pieces of kit that we have acquired over the years. Do let us know if you can help.

Unfortunately, our meeting with County Cllr Keane Duncan concerning the lack of progress with road infrastructure for the Western Arc traffic (as agreed at the Constituency meeting) was cancelled at the eleventh hour. We're really keen to get another date set as soon as possible so that he may see at first hand why so many complaints arise.

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLAN

We need more volunteers to join in on the project to give clear directions on what should be done in an emergency. Councillors Steve Cobb and Andrew Farrar are representing the parish council but will need some help please. Again, if you can lend a hand, please let Jane know (parishclerk@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk).

KING CHARLES III CORONATION CELEBRATIONS

At our latest Parish Council meeting representatives of Pannal Cricket Club offered the use of the cricket pitch and the use of Cow Corner and barbecue equipment to aid in celebrations over the coronation weekend. Many parishioners asked if they could have something similar to that which was enjoyed in honour of Queen Elizabeth II's platinum jubilee. The answer is YES, in principle, on Sunday May 7th, and probably on Crimple Meadows recreation ground but we urgently need volunteers to come forward this

coming week who can commit to help with the planning and co-ordination of the event on the day and, importantly, so we can give the event the go-ahead and put the required formal arrangements in place by the end January. The Parish Council will help, of course, but at our Jubilee event - whilst a great event and everyone enjoyed it and had lots of fun - most of the heavy work rested on the shoulders of Cllrs Cathy Burrell and Dave Oswin, so - *for this event to go ahead and with the support of Parish Council resources* – commitment by volunteers is imperative and who will also share their ideas and help with the planning over the coming weeks as the aim is to make it as fun and enjoyable as possible for all and encourage participation across all age groups. We would urge volunteers to please let Jane (parishclerk@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk) know, within the next week, how you can help.

COMMERCIAL UNITS

A planning application for change of use to the first two units on the new development between the post office and Vida was reviewed by the Parish Council at its latest meeting. This is for conversion of those units for use as a veterinary practice for small animals. There was no objection to the application per se but the PC's comments were made that even if there were sufficient parking for staff, concerns were raised about a lack of space for clients' vehicles and the possibility of noise disturbance if animals were kept overnight. There's still time to have your say in the normal manner via the HBC planning portal or a direct email to planningconsultation@harrogate.gov.uk (consultation deadline 5th February, application number 23/00086/FUL).

Best wishes

Howard West, Chairman, howard.west@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk
and Dave Oswin, Deputy Chairman, and Councillors Cathy Burrell, Cliff Trotter, Steve Cobb and Andrew Farrar

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/>