



**March 2022 Newsletter**

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This will be our last newsletter of the current Parish Council session which can contain anything that might be perceived as influencing the outcome of the forthcoming parish council elections. After 28<sup>th</sup> March, we may only relate items that are uncontroversial and without mentioning names of individuals. This is known as Purdah or in election-speak – a period of pre-election sensitivity. Until then, we'll continue as usual.

### **ELECTION**

Some of our councillors have indicated that they will not stand for re-election on 5<sup>th</sup> May for personal reasons. In consequence, with 7 councillor vacancies in total there are spaces for more candidates to stand for election as councillors. Naturally, in our democracy, anyone who meets the criteria may stand for election and we actively seek those who wish to represent our parishioners. If you would like an information pack and candidate nominee forms, please contact Jane, our parish clerk. An application must be submitted in person at HBC by 4pm on 5<sup>th</sup> April at the absolute latest.

May recommend your re-electing those existing councillors? It is, of course, your right to vote as you see fit and for councillors to decide whether they stand for re-election.

Cathy Burrell has done a superb job in chairing our Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and running our Facebook output as well as being an active member of our Planning Committee and having an excellent grip on common sense. Steve Cobb has helped in a variety of ways and most of the improvements you see in the parish have involved Steve. His insight into local affairs has been admirable with interventions that are to the point and he has always readily volunteered to help in any capacity. Dave Oswin has been invaluable as PC vice-chairman and chairman of our Planning Committee and has represented the Parish Council at various planning-related matters as well as helping to combat some of the proposals that were put forward by HBC in the Local Plan draft and ensuing enquiry. I've done my best to promote Pannal's interests and interface with parishioners, HBC, NYCC, YLCA, NALC, N Y Police, Western Arc Co-ordination Group and the press. Like Dave, I've represented Pannal and Burn Bridge regarding the Local Plan and the West of Harrogate Parameters Plan and together we have been a bit of a thorn in the side of HBC, when others have simply acquiesced.

On behalf of all our councillors, I'd like to thank Ian Birchall and Ryan Dall for their contributions to date. Not only has Ian been our financial guru from the start in 2016 but he has also undertaken almost all of the investigative work on planning applications in advance of meetings. His expertise in business has helped us to a great extent. Ian will be sorely missed but believes it is time to give way to younger contenders. Ryan has been involved in marketing, IT, photography and scripts for our publications and had been much involved with the procurement and checking of equipment on Crimple Meadows recreation ground. Despite having business interests taking much of his time, although not standing for re-election, he has volunteered to continue helping with parish matters. Thank you both.

### **PARAMETERS PLAN (WHPP)**

We were extremely disappointed that borough council Cabinet Members did not delay a decision on the WHPP until the Infrastructure Delivery Schedule/Plan had been formulated. One wonders if these councillors are actually aware of the full contents (160+ pages) or merely accept officers' statements without question. Without any reference to infrastructure, the WHPP is little more than a developers' charter. This means that, yet again, anything goes for developers but the adverse effects on residents because of lack of infrastructure appear deemed not worthy of consideration until after the elections, so they're kicked into the long grass.

## **DUNLOPILLO**

To-date, we have had no reply to our request for clarification on the “Lessons Learnt” report from HBC. The reason given for the delay on the second “prior notice of permitted development” (PNPD) for the old office block was that of NYCC and highways considerations. We cannot see any evidence of any deliberations at all in the first PNPD on highways and have asked for evidence as to why it didn’t appear in that first request. There are, however, a raft of highways details on the second request. There are other questions regarding potential errors that remain unanswered.

At our Harrogate branch meeting of YLCA (Yorkshire Local Councils Association) it was resolved to put P&BBPC’s proposal to implement a planning law change to NALC (National Association of Local Councils) and thence to Government. This is in regard to an alternative to costly judicial review when challenging incorrect or dubious decisions made by borough/county councils. This stemmed from the Dunlopillo situation when you may recall we couldn’t risk more than £30,000 of taxpayers’ money to challenge HBC, so the decision to demolish and rebuild the office block stood.

We will be discussing logistics details with the developer’s agent later this month and will seek mitigation of disruption to car parking, access, safety and other matters during demolition and subsequent rebuild - especially for pedestrians, the village hall and regular station users.

## **QUEEN’S JUBILEE**

The second Zoom meeting of volunteers took place on Monday and plans are well on the way. As stated, the Parish Council has acted as a catalyst for the start-up and it’s up to the band of volunteers to decide what will eventually take place. The Parish Council will, however, contribute some funds and attempt to acquire grants to enhance the event. There’s still time to join in and volunteer, so please contact Jane, our parish clerk, to be added to the list.

Please put Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June and Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> June in your diaries. On the Thursday evening we will have a bonfire, burgers, some singing and a reminder of how the parish looked in each decade of the Queen’s reign. This will feature guides and scouts and all the associated age groups within those organisations.

On the Sunday from noon, it will be a “bring your own picnic” on Crimple Meadows recreation ground with various games and competitions and with music and liquid refreshments available. After the main picnic event, the vicar will hold a service on the recreation field. Jollifications can continue afterwards too. Keep an eye out for Facebook, P&BBPC and Pannal School announcements with many more details.

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

We’re getting there! A huge amount of work has been undertaken by the Steering Group and the final draft is nearing completion. Our consultant has had discussions with HBC and we have provided all manner of evidence to be inserted into the plan. Next month, we hope to have a flyer circulated to all households and businesses in the parish showing where the neighbourhood plan document can be seen and how to make comments within the consultation period.

## **BRIDLEWAY**

NYCC appears to have had a change of heart regarding the bridleway that stops abruptly just under Crimple Viaduct. Although technically just inside Follifoot parish, it has been the wish of many of our parishioners that the bridleway should be a continuous route. We resolved at our latest Parish Council meeting to agree with NYCC’s proposal to divert and extend it slightly. Please feel free to respond to NYCC individually by emailing [ron.allan@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:ron.allan@northyorks.gov.uk) quoting HAR-2022-03-CO. Please comment by 18<sup>th</sup> March to ensure your view is taken into account.

## **GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN**

We’ve been somewhat stymied by Covid 19 over the past couple of years but intend participating in this event again on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April. We usually start at 10am at St Robert’s church, when volunteers are equipped with grabbers and plastic bags. Please do your bit by coming along to help pick up junk and litter jettisoned in our parish so it may be collected by HBC. Look out for Facebook announcements for details. Our thanks again are expressed to Liz Brown for her (forthcoming) organisation.

## **UNITARY AUTHORITY**

Two P&BBPC councillors joined a MS Teams meeting a week or so ago when the deputy head of NYCC took us through a presentation of how the new NYC (North Yorkshire Council) would work with parish and town councils. We have an opportunity to try to influence matters through our local branch of YLCA. Whether NYCC will take any notice is another matter.

Where local parish or town councils already have assets or already perform certain tasks, they will probably continue. We have neither, so it probably won't affect us. However, if and when we get a mayor covering NYC, we could expect more finance and then there could be further devolution of powers. Hence, it's important we get a strong council on board ready to take on those challenges.

## **RUBBISH**

We have just been advised by HBC that dog waste bins will shortly be removed throughout the district and that larger normal rubbish bins will be installed so that dog waste bags can be deposited in them as well as usual litter. With the prospect of new wheelie bins for recycling instead of the dreadful open boxes and heavy-duty bags to replace the blue flimsy ones, there appears to be a considerable change in the overall waste and recycling policies. Of course, we're worried that bins currently sited on the Ringway footpath by the River Crimple may disappear but we've put in a pre-emptive comment to have them replaced rather than just removed. We're also asking for a bin to the rear of St Robert's church. If you have any questions or comments on this matter, please approach HBC as it's their policy and their decision, not ours.

Garden bins will soon be collected again this year. Please check on HBC's website with your postcode to find out which date applies. It will be this coming week for some addresses!

## **UKRAINE**

It has been suggested that the Parish Council contribute a sum to the Disasters Emergency Fund for persons displaced from, or under attack, in Ukraine. While entirely sympathetic to the terrible state of affairs in that country it is unfortunate that the Parish Council does not have the "power" to make donations outside the UK (indeed, it is deemed "illegal") but we would like to encourage individuals with the necessary means to make their own personal contributions as some councillors have already done. It has been suggested that donations may appropriately be made through the Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC) charity, for your convenience please find the link:

[https://www.dec.org.uk/?gclid=CjwKCAiAq6yRBhBNEiwAeVyL0M2PEsUMUFOxStfglQjtppCgtpGiYLuBEcwQ0hFLK\\_gU4nalhjpvvBoCtBcQAvD\\_BwE](https://www.dec.org.uk/?gclid=CjwKCAiAq6yRBhBNEiwAeVyL0M2PEsUMUFOxStfglQjtppCgtpGiYLuBEcwQ0hFLK_gU4nalhjpvvBoCtBcQAvD_BwE): a particular factor being that any individual donations can attract Gift Aid which, of course, is of added benefit.

We will keep everyone updated on everyday issues during the Purdah period but obviously, comment on matters that have any political connotation will not be considered.

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](mailto:howard.west@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk)

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