



May 2024 Newsletter

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Annual Parish Council Meeting and Assembly

Following our Planning Committee and annual Parish Council meetings last night, we held our annual Parish Assembly to which you will have received an invitation. A warm welcome and thanks were expressed to all those who attended – when your parish councillors are required to temporarily relinquish their councillor roles and join attending parishioners – apart from myself, as your Chairman, and Jane as the clerk. In all we numbered about 25 and we were grateful to Andy, representing the 1st Pannal Scouts Group, who offered and welcomed us in holding the occasion in the beautifully refurbished facilities of the Scout Hall. We were very impressed with the finished result.

(Cllr) El Sharkey outlined ongoing work on the parish's Community Resilience Plan when she confirmed the real need for volunteer community involvement (it just cannot be done without you!) in shaping the plan to cater for local emergencies. She very much appreciated two volunteers coming forward but we really need to be able to call on further / additional skills within our parish for this Plan to be workable. So please don't hesitate and come forward in expressing your interest to our clerk (parishclerk@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk).

(Cllr) Neil Permain confirmed much of which you are aware in talking about the parish impact from the huge and ongoing housing developments in the Western Arc of Harrogate, stating that the existing impact of the completed (approximately) 750 houses is yet modest in comparison to when the full (approximately) 4,000 houses will be built. It is impossible to imagine that our parish roads will be able to accommodate and function with the expected and dreaded traffic increase. He affirmed that the Parish Council – with other bodies – had been representing their concerns for a number of years and firstly to HBC and now NYC but that, to date, we had not been listened to with the main NYC address focusing on junction improvements which will only serve to increase traffic flow and speeds. We will persist.

Information was given that future Parish Council projects will include “walking the boundaries in the parish” to ascertain where problems exist and what improvements can be made / some tree planting alongside the new path on Crimple Meadows / the D-Day 80 June anniversary commemoration and, of course, Carols on the Green which has become an annual event.

The assembly appreciated receiving a number of questions from attendees and which included the control of traffic down Spring Lane / recognition that although a number of the parish roads carry weight restrictions that these are never enforced with concern expressed for the continued very heavy contractors' vehicles travelling through the parish as they make their way to the Western Arc developments / ongoing concern for the unsafe pedestrian route from the Bellway houses down Station Road and across the railway bridge. Confirmation was made that councillors have a significant priority in protecting the parish from coalescence with Harrogate which is always uppermost in the minds of the Planning Committee in its application considerations. Additionally, the footpaths would be strimmed “as usual” this year with a plea to parishioners whose often overgrown hedges intrude into the footpath width and for the same to be cut back. Cllr John Mann informed that Thirkill Drive – as yet unadopted by NYC Highways – should be so once the commercial developments on the site are complete.

Our appreciation to all who attended for the positive support and contributions which made it a very enjoyable and constructive occasion.

Notice of an approved planning application

As a transparent courtesy to our parishioners and in fulfilment of our councillor duties, we wish to inform you of the situation regarding our recent consideration of a planning application for prior approval at Bilton Grove Farm on Hill Foot Lane.

The Parish Council sought planning advice with regards to this application on the basis of which it compiled a number of reasoned objections as to why this application should not be permitted. This was the second prior approval application for the site to convert another of the buildings to another house. The Parish Council sought, and was given, a consultation extension of time in submission of its response. Nevertheless, NYC Planning made its application decision prior to the council's submission and prior to the date it had given us. It approved the application.

We wrote in the strongest terms addressing our dissatisfaction to, amongst others, the CEO and Council Leader at NYC and appreciated their prompt responses. Fulsome apologies were received – and appreciated – regarding the recognized procedural breach which had occurred in negating the Parish Council's opportunity to make its submission before application determination. NYC has assured us this won't happen again.

However, NYC Planners would neither "quash" their application decision or consider seeking further applicant details to support the development, although the Parish Council remains of the view that this is non-compliant. In granting this application the Parish Council is concerned for the possible future ramifications regarding this site and others where similar issues arise. Whilst we have advice that our position is the right one, we were unable to meet the costs of pursuing a High Court challenge on this occasion.

Litter Picking

Mrs Liz Brown, who organises the parish's twice a year litter-collection events, recently sent the following message which we would like to pass on to you.

"Thank you to the person/s who have done some litter picking around the village in the last couple of days, this is great and very much appreciated. Unfortunately, the bin men won't pick up the bags unless it has been arranged through the council, even though they were in council bin bags. I have removed the bags and put them in my rubbish bin this afternoon.

I arrange the litter pick twice a year and do so through the council and they pick up the litter after the event. There are a few of us who go around at various times throughout the year picking up the litter, but we have to take the bags home with us and deposit them in our own bins. It would be much appreciated if you could do the same. Many a time my bin is so full I have to ask neighbours if I may use their bin. I will speak with the council and ask them if there is something we can arrange for ad hoc collections as we don't want to deter the volunteer litter pickers from picking up the litter."

Pannal Village Hall

You may recall that the March newsletter included information regarding PVH's notice that they would shortly be introducing nominal car parking charges within their leased Community Car Park. The information below is duplicated from the previous newsletter. **(PLEASE NOTE appended update on charging start date ie 13 May as noted in their latest information, below.)**

"North Yorkshire Council is not renewing its lease of the Car Park opposite the Village Hall and so, to prevent it falling into the hands of a third party, the Village Hall is taking on the lease from 1st April '24. This has not been an easy decision as the costs are difficult for us to manage but we wish to protect this community asset which is of benefit both to hall users and local residents. Therefore, we have entered into an agreement with a Car Park Operator who will introduce a small daily parking charge for "non" Village Hall cars who use the big lower car park. The Village Hall charity will then get a share of the parking income to offset our rent and insurance costs etc.

How will it work?

The small charge of £2.50/day will apply only in the big lower car park, 6am to 6pm Monday to Saturday with Sundays and Bank Holidays free. The first 20 mins will also be free of charge.

So, from early in April all cars using the lower car park area will have their reg numbers recorded by a camera and during charge periods they will have to pay £2.50/day via a RingGo parking app on their phones.

To avoid this charge, Village Hall users who need to use the lower area will be able to enter their reg numbers on an ipad in the Village Hall and this will "cancel" their charge.

The small top car park (opposite the Hall) will remain free and reserved for Village Hall users."

The following communication was received more recently from a member of the PVH committee of which you should be aware:

"Our Operator now plans to start on Monday 13 May using daily patrols.

So please tell your users to tap their Registration Numbers into the ipad in the corridor from your first day.

As they are expecting cars to relocate onto the Village Hall spaces they will be patrolling all areas. So you will need to tap your Reg. No's. into the ipad wherever you have parked.

We will make sure there are plenty of clear signs displayed but please remind all your users to enter their Reg. No's in order to avoid getting a ticket.

Thanks very much for your support."

Glad tidings from NYC Highways!

The following notice has been received so fingers tightly crossed that it comes to fruition: "For your awareness I am aware of the concerns raised regarding Main Street Pannal and can advise that this carriageway will be resurfaced this year. I'm afraid I don't have a confirmed start date but this will likely be in August / September".

The Neighbourhood Plan

The Plan is hopefully proceeding through its final stages having been externally examined and is currently residing with NYC for ultimate approval and rubber-stamping. The Parish Council's Steering Group felt itself very appreciative of the excellent recommendation by our consultant of an External Examiner who proved to have a constructive, positive and very supportive attitude and address. Members were delighted to receive her following comment: "It is one of the best NDPs I have examined in recent times and (*the Parish Council's consultant*) always does a sterling job - but I know from experience as consultants we need good and innovative clients too."

Pannal Green

The Parish Council's employed arborist has now completed his tidying on the Green with removal of the bolters under the Walnut tree, some tidying of branches and stump grinding. Hopefully the current fair weather will continue so this area may be enjoyed through the summer – and also for the D-Day 80 commemorations on Sunday 9th June.

D-Day 80 commemoration event – Thursday 6th June and Family Fun Day on Sunday 9th June 2024



The beacon will be lit – as nationally recognised – at 9.15pm on Thursday 6th June with attendees invited to gather in St Robert's Church car park at 8.45pm when refreshments (no food!) will be provided and a

musical provision will be made. In consideration of our environmental awareness, although recyclable cups will be available may we please ask, if possible, for you to bring your own drinking vessels? This will also save on washing up! Thank you.

Please come along and join in on **The Family Fun Day** which will be held on **Sunday 9th June starting at noon (until 5pm)** when there will be a bouncy castle / children's games / Bar / Bar B Q provision made by the Cricket Club / Pizza and ice cream stalls / Face Painting and a Dog Show with similar classes to last year so please bring your four-footeds with you. There will also be music provided by a DJ.

We look forward to seeing you on both these occasions.

Best wishes

Cllr Cathy Burrell (Chairman of the Parish Council), Cllr Neil Permain (Vice Chairman) and Councillors Steve Cobb, Andrew Farrar, Elatia Sharkey, Cliff Trotter and Helen Hayes

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/>