



September 2022 Newsletter

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As a local authority, we must respect rules in place for public conduct following the death of our monarch. We pay tribute to HM Queen Elizabeth II for her selfless devotion to the service of our country and the Commonwealth.

We had started our Parish Council meeting on Thursday 8th prior to any knowledge of Her Majesty's passing. As always, the formal minutes of our meeting will be posted on the noticeboard and on our website but we would like to highlight some of those items discussed.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AT THE PC MEETING

Concern was expressed during this section that within the new North Yorkshire Council set-up there appears to be a disproportionate representation for the proposed mayoral "cabinet". It appears that the City of York with its population of around 200,000 has equal representation to that of the rest of the county with its 600,000. Our county councillor, John Mann, was asked to complain in strong terms that this should not be allowed. Subsequent to the PC meeting, the chairman expressed the same concerns to some of those personnel who are responsible for the change to NYC. This was at a Parish Charter meeting where he represents the Harrogate area of YLCA.

Apparently, there are some 60 bus movements a day emanating from a bus depot at the language school/riding stables just off Brackenthwaite Lane. Although not in our parish, but in North Rigton, we are affected by this especially at the narrow bends where Brackenthwaite Lane meets Burn Bridge Lane. How permission for such an enterprise could have been granted at that location beggars belief. We will support North Rigton Parish Council in their endeavours.

The largest amount of comment by far was reserved for the ludicrous decision by HBC to play fast and loose with the removal of dog waste bins and placement of ordinary waste wheelie bins on public land. We understand the financial pressures on HBC to provide services with less money. However, as with all surrounding parishes, we cannot understand the complete lack of logic and understanding in dispensing with dog waste bins and replacing many of them with standard household waste bins, especially in high footfall areas. We have written in the strongest terms to HBC and await an urgent response. This problem has been in evidence for years and the "solution" from HBC is unacceptable. We have urged our borough councillor to take appropriate action.

No account has been taken of:

The increase in the population of our parish – roughly 10% over the past 2 years

The increase in the dog population since the onset of the Covid pandemic

We need more, not fewer bins to accommodate more, not less waste

People coming to Crimple Meadows recreational facilities from Burn Bridge will not walk all the way down to the roadway to deposit litter or poo bags

Residents should, wherever possible, take their litter home but when one has a couple of children, buggies and a dog, one's first instinct is not to make a 250-metre round trip to a revolting household bin that is already overflowing.



Before



and after

Since the newsletter was originally written, and subsequently delayed out of respect for Her Majesty's demise, the household bin has been replaced by a "proper" bin similar to that by the stocks and an on-site meeting has been organised to discuss the general provision of public waste bins among other issues where HBC has responsibility. While we have been discussing the Crimple Meadows situation, the bin at the junction of Station Road and the A61 has been filled to overflowing and the smell was abhorrent on Wednesday last as it hadn't been emptied.

We cannot be certain but we are led to believe that borough councillors have not been given the opportunity to vote for the course of action taken by officers.

STORAGE

Since our inception, the Parish Council has accumulated several items on behalf of the parish which are at present stored at Councillors' home addresses. Needless to say, this is an unsatisfactory situation but as the Parish Council has no land within its ownership, this appeal is for anyone who may have secure premises on their property or who would be happy to permit placement of a part shipping container. We will also approach HBC to see if some of their land could be used, especially as there is now no intent to build on PN19 which is the area behind St Robert's church. If you can help us, please let Jane know.

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLAN

We have deferred any decision on this matter until after the YLCA conference on 23rd September when this will be one of the agenda items. We have managed without such a plan for a long time but want to ensure we have the optimum solutions in hand before launching our plan with the aid of HBC officers. To those unfamiliar with the title, this means what emergency measures we have in place to cope with a disaster – such as flooding, a severe crash or, heaven forbid, any type of attack.

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Essentially, this is the precursor to determining whether Harrogate should be "parished". We have been asked to give individual responses to the consultation but will also give the Parish Council's formally adopted view that Harrogate should have a town/parish council rather than have Charter Trustees. In our opinion, the survey has been poorly constructed but it is one of those boxes that must be ticked. Make your own opinion by looking at the following:

Because your parish council adjoins the unparished area, we are writing to invite you to have your say by completing our survey. You can do this online at www.northyorks.gov.uk/CGR or you can request a paper copy of the survey to be sent to you by contacting us using the email: CGR@northyorks.gov.uk. The deadline is 30th September.

NYC COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME

The seven borough/district councils currently operating in North Yorkshire all work under slightly different plans to mitigate council taxation for those with low incomes (this does not include pensioners). The aim is to have a common policy once North Yorkshire Council (NYC) takes over. We resolved to agree with most

of the policies stated but disagreed with the minimum amount of savings being reduced from £16,000 to £6,000. Once again, details are attached to the agenda posted on our website.

SPEED INDICATOR DEVICES (SIDs)

Such is the success of our SIDs that we have resolved to purchase an additional unit which we plan to site on Spring Lane and / or Princess Royal Way, subject to need and permission of landowners to place such a sign on private land. As with the existing signs, we have the ability to sink a socket into the ground so that when unused there is only a galvanised steel rectangle visible which is about the dimensions of an A4 sheet. The SID - plus solar panel, plus mounting pole - can then be shifted from location to location.

The bottom line is that NY Police will not undertake deployment of safety camera equipment unless there is evidence of speeding. This already works wonderfully well on Church Lane where we feed the SID data to NYP so they may determine optimum times of deployment.

We also completed some Community Speedwatch Deployments recently – the first in order to warn drivers that once out of range of the SID or safety camera on Church Lane, that it is not an excuse to accelerate. Drivers are reported to the police. Rude signs don't help! We're there to make things safer for our residents – especially schoolchildren on their way to and from Pannal School.

NYCC REQUEST TO PLEASE CUT BACK OVERGROWN TREES AND HEDGES ON YOUR PROPERTY

Residents are being reminded to cut back any hedges or trees on their land that are causing a hazard to the public.

In recent weeks North Yorkshire County Council's highways teams have seen an increase in reports of pavements being obstructed and road signs obscured by overgrown trees and bushes. The local authority is responsible for making sure trees and hedges don't obstruct the highway or damage property.

Landowners and occupiers have similar responsibilities for trees and hedges on their property. They must make sure these do not obscure road signs, reduce visibility for road users or prevent people using the road or pavement safely. They are also responsible for removing dead or decaying trees and other growth, removing branches that hinder high-sided vehicles or block light from a street light, and making sure roads and pavements are clear of debris from cutting work.

Executive member for highways and transport, Cllr Keane Duncan, said: "*With bird nesting season behind us we are encouraging people to cut back their trees and hedges that could be putting pedestrians and road users at risk. This includes hedges or trees that are reducing the width of footpaths, obscuring street lights and hiding road signs. Please do your bit in maintaining vegetation on your property for the safety of others.*"

For more information, please visit www.northyorks.gov.uk/grass-cutting-verge-hedge-and-tree-maintenance

CRIMPLE MEADOWS FOOTPATH

Residents all know that part of the recreation ground is always a quagmire once the autumn rains start. We have asked HBC to raise the level of the ground just inside the entrance so that there would be rainwater run-off to the sides enabling progress further up the field. In addition, we are getting quotations for a footpath to join Crimple Meadows with the play area and beyond. This may well be the type of path that uses plastic sections which permits grass to grow through yet still allows prams/cycles to run over it with ease. We asked HBC some time ago for a quote and await their response – hopefully at the on-site meeting convened for this week.

QUEEN'S JUBILEE BENCH

We are delighted that the Queen's commemorative bench is now – as many of you may well have seen – securely placed in situ on Crimple Meadows recreation ground. We hope you will enjoy it.



We have, additionally, been occupied with other parish benches recently and organised the “turn round” of the Parish Council owned benches on Pannal Green so that “sitters” may enjoy the trees and green view rather than traffic on the roads!



CAROLS ON THE GREEN

The date has been fixed for Monday 12th December. Please put it in your diaries to ensure we make this one bigger and better than ever.

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, Cliff Trotter, Steve Cobb and Andrew Farrar