



Pannal and Burn Bridge Parish Council Newsletter No.3 March 2017

I had intended outlining the way the parish council works in the previous newsletter but more pressing events precluded this, the future of the post office amongst these. We're pleased to announce that after timely intervention by the parish council, actions were then taken. Our ward councillors and our MP, in addition to your parish councillors, took up the challenge to try to save our post office. The battle isn't over yet but we're well on the way to a solution which would permit Steve Willis continuing in his current location until suitable new premises are available in the commercial development part of the Pannal Business Park site.

NYCC Highways staff had to specify a greater road width than that existing now, so that the developer's plans for a through road could be accommodated. That meant demolishing the post office. That virtually no-one wanted or still doesn't want a through road has been studiously ignored by all parties except the parish council. Now, according to our MP, the owners have commented as follows: "In the meantime we have granted a 6-month extension to the Post Office tenant to allow him to continue his business. We have no wish to dispossess him of the building and until such time as the Business Park plans are crystallised and we have an alternative premises to offer him, we intend to renew his licenses." There are still some actions that need to be undertaken but at least the future looks promising. We will keep you updated on progress.

As mentioned previously, the parish council would have difficulty existing without input from our parishioners. Although we have eyes and ears, we rely on information from others as well. The crux of the issue is the way we receive such information. To debate any topic effectively, any council or committee needs to have the relevant data well in advance of a council meeting.

If there is a subject dear to your heart that you feel needs the parish council's attention, then please write/email the parish clerk with the details. Even then, there is no guarantee that the issue will be debated in council; that depends upon a decision taken by the parish clerk in conjunction with the chairman. A reply may be given in writing if thought appropriate. However, if an item is best debated in public, then it could be added to a future meeting agenda.

In P&BBPC we decided that we would allow a few minutes at council meetings where parishioners could bring matters, not already on the agenda, to the attention of the council. These matters would not be debated on the day of the meeting but noted for future consideration. The bottom line is, "If it's not on the agenda, it won't be debated."

We have been pleased to receive written representations on a number of subjects and to date these have been included in agendas and debated. We also welcome members of the public at meetings - sometimes to present a case on the agenda, sometimes to reinforce their written representation or sometimes to provide expert advice or just to listen. Where a member of the public is permitted to speak, they are normally limited to 3 minutes in total, unless directed otherwise by the chairman. This time is per person up to a maximum of 15 minutes in all for all public input. This is much the same as with the borough council but we tend to be somewhat more forgiving as having a parish council is a relatively new experience for all of us. These rules are a shortened form of our Standing Orders, which are available to view on our website. When we set up the parish council, we decided to adopt Standing Orders from a national model rather than reinvent the wheel by making our own new ones.

We will formalise our timetable for our Neighbourhood Plan at our next council meeting and will appeal for help from the public in its preparation. The Neighbourhood Plan is a document which will outline Pannal and Burn Bridge's OWN vision for the future in various areas, such as housing, green spaces, infrastructure, design and transport. That vision will then be supported by detailed policies which reflect our local priorities. Its development will be a lengthy process but it is one the parish council considers valuable. The Plan, once complete and approved by Harrogate Borough Council, will have statutory status and Harrogate Borough Council will have to recognise it when approving planning applications.

It will be led by a steering group of parish councillors and parishioners. We are keen to co-opt residents with skills in the areas of surveying, planning, IT, questionnaire design, written skills and finance. If you wish to know more of how you can help and what is involved, please contact Jane Gaskell through the parish clerk or me.

Watch out for our next agenda which will be published on our noticeboard and our website at least 3 clear working days ahead of our next council meeting (Thursday 27th April). Here's one for your diaries - the Parish Meeting on Thursday 25th May in the evening. That's when we'll inform you about what we have been doing over the last year and the public will have the opportunity to make comments and to listen to Julia Mulligan our Police and Crime Commissioner. If you have any questions for Julia, please let me know and I'll pass them on. I'm afraid that there won't be any cheese and wine as was the case with the Pannal Village Society, because in law, alcohol cannot be served at a council meeting. It's not us being spoilsports!

There are many other things going on behind the scenes but nothing where we can give any concrete information at this stage. Once we are in a position to advise parishioners, the website, Facebook and this electronic newsletter will continue to be the first avenues to publish details.

Please remember, do not hesitate to contact us via the parish clerk Andrew Macdonald (parishclerk@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk or 07802 460789) if you have comments or suggestions on how to improve our parish.

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