

## **CHAIRMANS REPORT TO ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 27 APRIL 2021**

Once again it has been a very busy year for the Council.

The most significant thing that has happened quite unexpectedly has been the closure of the middle bridge at Water End.

Unfortunately the dangerous condition of the bridge came after the Council had submitted its annual precept request to the District Council. The estimated costs of replacing the bridge is over £28,000, money that the Council simply did not have. However Hambleton District Council has agreed to forward this sum of money to Brompton Council in advance of it being able to access its £99,900 CIL monies in February 2022.

An application for planning consent for a new bridge is being submitted but residents need to be aware that any new bridge will, due to current environmental and safety regulations, be of a different design than the bridge that has been there for the past 50 years.

Substantial tree works are currently going on around the Greens, this happens every three years and I think it is only right to point to the excellent work that our tree contractors Hillside Tree Surgeons do for us.

Coronavirus has had a marked effect on everyone and the Council has over recent months been holding its meetings remotely. Whether this can continue beyond the 7th May is now subject to a High Court case against the Governments decision that all meetings after that date must be held by physical attendance.

On the advent to lockdown last year fly tipping became an issue but thankfully very few incidents have been reported recently.

Regretfully the last year has seen the deaths of a number of former Councillors - Herbert Langthorne, David Winter and Ernie Lofthouse.

It would also be remiss of me not to mention Doctor Kenneth Carveley who has very recently left the Council as he has moved elsewhere.

For many months crime and anti-social behaviour has been at the forefront of the Councils business. Much of this surrounded events at certain properties month on month. Eventually persistency paid off with the main offender having been jailed for some months.

Crime is however relatively low and the Council has a good working relationship with its PCSO and its local Police Sergeant.

A Working Group is looking at establishing circular walks around the village and the Secretary of State has recently asked the County Council to make an Order to add Scots Pit Lane to the Definitive Right of Way Map as a bridleway.

Residents will have seen that the work on the wilds flower areas at Water End is progressing and shortly we will see descriptive sign boards being built containing excellent artwork by a local resident depicting all the nature that can be seen around the beck and the Greens.

As regards highways the Council has been very lucky to receive funding via the Police Road Safety Fund and the County Councils community budget towards a VAS sign and warning signs on Lead Lane in an attempt to reduce traffic speeds.

“Children Playing” signs have also been put up around Water End Green.

Although the childrens play areas have been closed for long periods during Covid 19 the Council has however replaced the old swings seats with new one and the seated platform on the rocker has also been renewed.

New Notice Boards around the Greens have made a big improvement as has works to the bus shelter which was damaged by a broken off large tree branch during the winter.

Complaints have been received about the concrete block manufacturing works on the industrial land behind Linen Way and these have been referred to the respective Agencies.

The Clerk some months ago received numerous complaints about the works for the new link road from residents at the new North Northallerton development as they mistakenly thought that there would be no main road passing their properties. However the link road was in the developments Master Plan and it was well recorded that there was to be both a link road and a bridge over the railway line.

The Council continues to work with its Agent George F White of Bedale to see the pedestrian bridge at the School come to fruition and to acquire additional land adjacent to the Cemetery that will accommodate burials for at least the next 60 years.

On the subject of burials the Council has recently amended its Cemetery rules so that if a double depth grave is requested by relatives then this is can be provided. Since the opening of the current cemetery extension some 40 years ago only side by side graves were permitted but it is a fact that some relatives do prefer double depth graves. Also this provides added longevity to the life of the cemetery as space is used up far less quickly.

Flooding along Stokesley road has been a major issue of over the past two winters. Many times after heavy rainfall Stokesley Road has been impassable. The Council is very pleased to hear very recently that the County Council has come to an arrangement with the developer to rectify this problem and it is very much hoped that the necessary works can all be completed prior to the next winter.

Thanks must also go to Councillor Langthorne for stepping in when the icy weather suddenly came upon us and filled grit bins and carried out some pavement gritting voluntarily. The Council will be working up its own strategy for pavement gritting for the next winter.

Thanks must also go to the Councils former workman Mr Paul Toman for all the hard work he carried out all year until the end of October on a vast variety of tasks. It was not always easy for him as many times when he was working on a particular job he had to be taken away to rectify some other urgent matter that had suddenly arisen. It is unfortunate that due to budgetary issues it has not been possible to re-engage Mr Toman for this year.

The longstanding issue regarding the maintenance of the defibrillators around the village has been resolved by Restarting Hearts agreeing to look after all four of them with the Council making a donation to them for doing so. This ensures that all four defibrillates are fully operational at all times when needed, as the one at The Shop has been needed very recently.

Unfortunately this month the Brompton Flood Prevention Group has folded therefore the Council will be taking steps to ensure that the excellent work carried out by the Group over many years continues.

Lastly I would also like to thank all Councillors for all the time and support they have given over the last 12 months and also our Clerk Paul Atkin for his work and support during this difficult year.