

NEW EARSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Report 2020-21

Your Parish Councillors

The Parish Council comprises ten Councillors and a Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer who works part time based at the Parish Council Office at the Folk Hall. The Chairman, Cllr Don Crawford resigned from his post in August 2020 after more than 25 years of service to the village. His retirement was acknowledged with a gift and the gratitude of the Parish Council for his commitment over the years. Cllr Glenton was voted on as Chair at the Zoom meeting in September 2020. Following the resignation of Cllr John Young there is still one vacancy remaining after Yvonne Orton expressed interest and was co-opted

Your Councillors are:-

Cllr Sue Glenton (Chairman)
Cllr Roy Love (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Fiona Blyth
Cllr Fiona Crawford
Cllr Christine Durrant
Cllr Darren Newton
Cllr Yvonne Orton
Cllr Carol Runciman
Cllr Audrey Steel

Covid 19

With the ongoing situation of Covid 19 the ongoing work of the Parish became increasingly difficult especially for the Parish Clerk. The Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk made the decision to cancel the March 2020 meeting, in advance of any Government decision, to protect the safety of the Members. The lockdowns created a dilemma for all councillors and all aspects of the work of the Parish Council. There was no access allowed to the Parish Council Office for several months, the audit had to go ahead and with some difficulty the Clerk and auditor managed this vital work remotely. It was decided to hold a Zoom meeting for all Councillors from July and these meetings continue in this form.

Community Support Project: With full Parish Council agreement JRHT was contacted in May by the Vice Chairman to arrange the delivery of food boxes to any resident suffering financial difficulty due to the lockdown, redundancy, furlough situation. The initial project was abandoned in September/October due to lack of take up, with only 2 referrals from JRHT to the local supplier. However a JRHT Food Waste stall had been organised in the meantime so the committee agreed to support this by providing a weekly food box (£20) from a local supplier. This has continued and is still in place, with 4 volunteers from the Parish Council attending on Saturdays, until the end of May when the situation will be reassessed.

Finance

The precept for 2020-21 was set at £27,000. This sum was arrived at by looking at the expected expenditure for the forthcoming year and taking into account the reserves of the Council. Each year the accounts are examined at an independent internal audit and then passed to the external auditors. The accounts are available for inspection by prior arrangement with the Clerk. The Finance Committee of the Council meets regularly on Zoom and ensures any recommendations made by the auditors are carried out.

Grants

During each financial year, Parish Councils are able to offer grants. If your organisation would like to be considered for financial support, please contact the Clerk for an application form or download one from our website. This year grants totalling £5450 have been awarded. Organisations including The Friends of the Swimming Pool, The Nature Reserve and The Local History Society have received support.

Environment

The regular Community Walkabouts which had taken place with representatives from New Earswick Parish Council, City of York Council (COYC), Ward Councillors and Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust (JRHT) had to be abandoned due to Covid 19 restrictions. The Chairman suggested that the responsibility for acknowledging and referring problems within the village could still be met by each Councillor as the group is spread out across the village. Initial contact with the Clerk was advised to highlight any issues for referral to the Trust or COYC. Examples raised, include vandalism and the ongoing issue of overgrown hedges that reduce pavement space. The Parish Council is in contact with the Sports and Social Club and other groups in an attempt to reduce dog fouling throughout the village.

Membership

We continue to be members of various local and national groups and societies that are relevant to the work of the Council including:-

City of York Council - Ward meetings

Friends of New Earswick Swimming Pool (FoNESP)

New Lodge Liaison Group

Open Spaces Society

River Foss Society

Campaign to Protect Rural England

Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC)

Yorkshire Local Councils Associations (YLCA).

Members of the Parish Council regularly attend meetings of these and other external organisations.

Policing

The Parish Council receives updates relating to incidents and the initiatives that are being undertaken by the Police. They offer crime prevention advice to residents and property marking schemes. The village of New Earswick continues to be a relatively low crime area, however should contact with the police be required the details are listed below:

To make contact: - Telephone 101 or you can email:-snayorknorth@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

Consultation/Community

The Parish Council is consulted by COYC on planning applications for properties within the Parish. The Parish Council also responds to COYC and other organisations regarding policies and proposals that concern the Parish. Many requests relate to tree works in the Parish. A new Local Plan is still being developed by COYC and the Parish Council has responded to the consultation documents. JRHT opened consultation in the Autumn, on the proposed development of the area known as The Old School Field for a substantial housing development. The Parish Council responded to this consultation and the formal application lodged with COYC. The new York In-Patient Facility on Haxby Road is complete and opened in April 2020.

Meetings

Due to Covid 19 restrictions the Clerk was unable to access the Parish Council Office at the Folk Hall from March to August. Members of the Council continued to ensure that the work of the Council continued during this period with formal meetings commencing via Zoom in July. Local residents are welcome to attend meetings of the Parish Council which are held every third Monday in the month (except December) commencing at 19.00 hours in the Parish Council office or on Zoom. Agendas and minutes from meetings are displayed on the Parish notice boards and are available on the Parish Council web site.

Contact

To contact any of the above Councillors please do so via the Clerk in the first instance: -

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