

Cliffe Parish Council

Chairman's Report 2023

Good evening and welcome everyone, including Parish and County Councillors, and especially any members of the public present.

This Chairman's report covers the last year since the Annual meeting in May 2022.

The Parish Council undertakes a number of services within the Parish and I would like to look back at what has been achieved over the last year through the efforts of all our councillors and members of the public, as well as looking forward to the future with planned projects and objectives.

I have compiled the list of brief highlights below to give an overview of the projects, challenges and achievements the Parish Council has made over the last year:

- Continued utilisation of the village speed sign (with survey facility), including four installation locations (A63 eastbound, A63 westbound, York Road northbound & York Road southbound). This has been used to good effect, highlighting areas of concern for speeding vehicles, and providing data to the authorities for consideration in future speed monitoring efforts,
- Village website, which continues to be an essential source of informative information,
- Maintenance of the parish street lighting network,
- Grass Maintenance, ensuring the grassed areas within the Parish are maintained in a healthy condition, are free from litter and competition from weed growth.
- Monitoring of public footpaths throughout the parish, ensuring landowners are reminded of their responsibilities to keep them clear,
- Liaison with Highways on issues such as road surfaces, signage and pathways,
- We have provided funding to a number of organisations within the Parish in recent years, including:
 - Cliffe VC Primary School (most recently to fund a new internal fence)
 - Cliffe Pre-School
 - Cliffe Playing Fields Association
 - Cliffe Village Institute
 - Cliffe Community Fundraising Group
- Monitoring of issues regarding water drainage in the village, collating comments from residents and approaching authorities/utility providers with the aim of resolving issues,
- Monitoring of HGV traffic along York Road (which remains a concern), contacting local businesses and haulage contractors, reminding them of the 7.5t weight limit through the village and offering alternative routes to be taken.
- Continued monitoring and pro-active participation (in partnership with Hemingbrough and Barlby/Osgodby Parish Councils) in efforts to revive and improve the public bus services for the village,
- Maintenance of the footpath through Broad Lane Wood,
- Completion of the village green extension to the village institute, including rectification work on the new culvert, re-routing of pathway, grassing the newly created space and adding fencing/gates etc
- Clearance of overgrown pathways alongside the A63 from Lund to Cliffe (with traffic control provided by North Yorkshire Highways)

As evidenced from this list of highlights, a significant amount has been achieved over the last 12 months. There are also a number of additional activities which are 'ongoing', and which are mentioned later in this report.

The Police Community officer reports rarely mention Cliffe due to there being no crimes reported. Whilst not claiming credit for this, it is important to note that the Parish Council plays a big part in helping to tackle local crime by facilitating information sharing, making sure the police reports are accurate and representative and in supporting members of the public who are experiencing local issues such as antisocial behaviour.

Thanks go to Cllr Andrew Pulleyne, who has provided valuable practical advice on a number of projects undertaken this year, and especially his volunteer work utilising his plant equipment on projects such as the pathway clearance along the A63.

Thank you to Cllr Howard Cross for his ongoing commitments to the Mary Waud Trust and Cliffe Combined Charities.

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Thank you to Cllr John Jewitt, who has also provided manpower and equipment/vehicles to aid in a number of projects such as the pathway clearance along the A63, planting/watering of new trees and grass seeding of the new village green extension. John has also coordinated the procurement of the new fencing & gates for the village green.

Thank you to Cllr Jon Wallinger for maintaining the excellent village website (www.cliffevillage.com) which provides the Parish with news, updates, links, parish council minutes, councillor details etc. This is a fantastic resource and a huge amount of personal effort has gone in to keep this updated to Jon's high standards.

Thank you to Cllr Andrew Holman for his continued work on the Drax steering group and for supporting me in his role of Vice-Chairman;

Thanks to Councillor Ralph Woodall for his work with the village flag pole on the village green, always ahead of the game when it comes to having the right flag for the right occasion flying in the correct manner;

Thank you to Cllr Paul Maw for representing the council at Cliffe Village Institute and Cliffe Playing Field Association Committees;

Thanks also go to Cllr Karen Wedgwood, who was our liaison with Highways officers regarding a number of issues within the parish. Karen has decided to step down as a Parish Councillor and her pro-active, practical approach to problem-solving and active participation in debates will be missed by the Parish Council. I wish her well for the future.

I'd like to thank Cllrs Karl Arthur and Mark Topping for their hard work and support for our Parish, including providing funding for the village green extension project. Mark is now no longer a councillor, and I wish him well for the future.

Thank you to our clerk Julie Leighton-Eshelby for all her hard work and dedication to this Parish Council, I appreciate your knowledge, guidance and help. On behalf of the Parish Council and the Parish, thank you Julie.

I must also thank our two 'handymen', Alan Parker and Mark Blundell who help us with their practical craftsmen skills repairing and maintaining fences, bridges, notice boards & seats etc. Thanks also go to John Wedgwood, who can often be seen on his ride-on lawnmower keeping the grassed areas of the village cut and well maintained. John has also volunteered his time to help with other projects such as the pathway clearance along the A63.

The next year promises to be as challenging as ever, with a number of new and existing projects and objectives on the list, including (but not limited to):

- Reviewing all options for York Road with North Yorkshire Highways in order to resolve the two main issues of speeding and illegal HGV use, together with subsequent consequential issues such as anti-social noise/vibration caused by existing ineffective speed-bumps,
- Reviewing & resolving water / waste / flooding issues throughout the village, especially around the village Institute / Pre-School area,
- Ensuring Highways issues such as road surfaces, signage and pathways are maintained,
- Ensuring public footpaths are clear and available to all whilst ensuring they are used properly and responsibly by raising awareness of where the public can and cannot walk, whilst respecting the land, land owners and wildlife (follow the country code),
- Continue to support groups, organisations and charities in the Parish and those representing the parish,
- Investigate feasibility of re-purposing the Village Paddock at Cliffe Common into a nature reserve,
- Incorporating recently funded Primary School artwork projects into a commemorative area for the King's Coronation within the new village green extension.

That concludes the Chairman's report for this year. If I have missed anything or anyone then please accept my apologies. I look forward to working with you all going forwards in the future for the benefit of the Parish and its Parishioners.



Gary Wilson (Chairman, Cliffe Parish Council)
15th May 2023

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