

# Cliffe Parish Council

## Chairman's Report 2026

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

This Chairman's report covers the last year since the Annual meeting in May 2025.

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). Sadly, technical glitches mean that data recorded throughout the previous year has been lost, with a warranty claim against the sign supplier in progress.
- Maintenance of the parish street lighting network, including upgrading to the new LED type whenever an old type fails.
- 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
  - 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, contacting local businesses and haulage contractors, reminding them of the 7.5t weight limit through the village and offering alternative routes to be taken. We have also enlisted the help of the Deputy Mayor for York & North Yorkshire, who is investigating if we can get help to enforce this limit.
- Maintenance of the footpath through Broad Lane Wood,
- Maintenance of the village green, including walkways, seating, notice boards, little library, fencing, gates, plants and ornamental structures etc.
- 'Gateway' road markings installation at the North of the village to deter speeding drivers.
- Spraying to prevent future overgrowth of pathways alongside roads.
- Invested in the improvement to the surface of Oxen Lane, with new drainage channels dug and materials bought to provide a new surface from the tennis courts to well past the Maltkiln Pond.
- Continued our working relationship with Askham Bryan College, who have agreed to get involved in the project at the parish paddock to hopefully turn it into a nature reserve for the village.
- Begun a working relationship with 'Froglife', a conservationist group who have applied for grants in order to fund rejuvenation of the ponds in the parish paddock.
- Successfully campaigned to North Yorkshire Highways for speed limit reduction between Cliffe and Cliffe Common, through Lund and also the area around Cliffe VC Primary School. These have been agreed in principle and will hopefully be implemented in the coming year.
- Funding has also been provided to help start up a 'Community Café' in the Village Institute, an initiative by thoughtful & generous residents (led by Laura Richardson), which has been very popular with the members of the community so far.

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.

Thank you to Cllr Howard Cross for his ongoing commitments to the Mary Waud Trust and Cliffe Combined Charities, together with collation of documentation regarding the land owned by the Parish Council.

Thank you to Cllr John Jewitt, who has provided manpower and equipment/vehicles to aid in a number of projects this year, planting/watering of new/replacement trees.

# Cliffe Parish Council

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;

Thank you to Cllr Jon Wallinger for maintaining the excellent village website ([www.cliffevillage.com](http://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. Jon has also done many pieces of research for a number of ongoing issues, including recently liaising with Yorkshire Water regarding drainage issues in the village.

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

Cllr Emma Yates has contributed greatly to council decisions and has taken on the role of public rights of way representative with enthusiasm. Thankyou.

Thanks to Cllr Simon Gummerson for agreeing to be the representative on the Playing Field association. Simon takes an active role in many parish council debates and is a great asset.

Cllr Andy Marshall, who shows a pro-active approach to problem solving, producing signage and information leaflets regarding parish issues. Andy has also volunteered to be the Parish Council representative on the cross-council working group being organised to re-establish regular bus services to the local villages.

I'd like to thank North Yorkshire Councillor Karl Arthur for his hard work and support for our Parish, including providing funding from his locality budget for Parish Council projects.

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 also thank our 'handyman', Alan Parker, who has helped us with his practical craftsman skills repairing and maintaining fences, bridges, notice boards & seats etc. Sadly, Alan has decided to fully retire and the handyman duties will be taken on by George Reay.

Thanks go to Matt at Meticulous Gardens for the grass cutting work and keeping the village looking trim and tidy.

Thanks to Jim Whitfield (RAW Wheels) for repainting the bottom half of the little library, and to Amy Wilson for her wonderful artwork on the little library and enthusiasm to make the project happen. The bottom half of the little library will be returned to its rightful place on the village green very soon.

Thanks also go to the Deputy Mayor for York and North Yorkshire, Jo Coles, who attended our April meeting and has promised to look into a number of long-standing issues for us, including speeding enforcement on York Road, improved signage on York Road, Weight Limit enforcement on York Road and Speed limit further along the A63 through Lund. We await the outcome of these investigations and do hope we can resolve/improve some of these issues going forward

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

- Continue to monitor the surface of Oxen Lane to prevent future flooding,
- Continue developing the relationship with Askham Bryan college and Froglife advance the nature reserve project at the parish paddock,
- Complete the upgrade project for street lighting throughout the whole parish (replacing old type lightin with new LED ones),
- 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.

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)  
11<sup>th</sup> May 2026