



## **Burghwallis Parish Council**

### **Chair's Report 10 May 2016 – Covering Period June 2015 to May 2016**

This is the third year since I was appointed chair to the Parish Council and the period covering this report saw some interesting times! We started well with a full quota of Councillors and a new Parish Clerk. Most regrettable, Mr Ted Bell who has been a stalwart Councillor for many years resigned in June 2015. Mrs Gemma Bean, Parish Clerk then resigned in December 2015 after a brief period with the council. In July 2015 the council was very pleased to welcome Mr Dave Maxwell as its newest member and also Ms Joanne Halsall who joined in January 2016 as Parish Clerk taking us back to a full team.

At this stage, I would like to thank the Parish Councillors for all their hard work, support and continued commitment to the Parish over the year and our new Parish Clerk for bringing all her experience in assisting the Council.

On behalf of the Parish Council I would also like to thank all the residents who have given their support to the Council in various ways - in particular the members of the Neighborhood Planning Committee and the Events Committee for all their hard work in sustaining our village by continuing to organize various entertaining events within the Parish.

Over the past year we have worked hard to strengthen and improve our organization and I believe we have achieved this. The months below reflect on some of the achievements we have made together as a community over the last year:

#### **June/July 2015**

The new **Financial Regulations** were adopted by the Council and all documentation uploaded onto the web site to comply with the **New Transparency Code** meeting the 1 July 2015 deadline. The new **Code of Conduct** was also adopted and published on the website making our Council now fully compliant with all regulations.

Thanks to all volunteers from the village the **Pinfold** had a further face lift with green slate laid to the 3 tiered areas and the grass cut and area tidied in general.

#### **August 2015**

The Standing Orders for the Council were amended in accordance with the new regulations and adopted by all Councillors.

4 new green and gold signs were added in Old Village Street indicating the preserved monuments of **The Pinfold**, and the **Village Pump**.

Our thanks to the **Events Committee** for once again arranging a successful event of the VJ celebrations "**The Picnic in the Park**" which attracted some 100 visitors.

Wild flower beds were sown in the **playing field** and the tree canopy cut back to allow more light.

It was decided by Council that a weekly report of the **playing field** to Doncaster MBC was no longer required. However, Councilors will continue to monitor and complete the Inspection Report and retain as an internal document. Doncaster MBC will inspect the area on a quarterly basis for health and safety reasons and report back to the Parish Council if any issues arise.

### September 2015

Flyers for a “**Good Neighbours**” scheme were distributed around the village asking for volunteers to assist local residents, this was abandoned due to lack of interest.

The flag pole on the **War Memorial** was re-painted and a new plaque attached to the base. Our thanks to Joyce and Heinz Offermans for their continued support in maintaining the flower beds and the site in general.

### October/November 2015

25 members of the public attended the October and November meetings largely in response to complaints about the **Burghwallis Public House** – concerns and feelings ran very high about closing the pub and all comments were noted in the Minutes of the Meetings.

**Flu jabs** – in response to a letter from the Parish Council, Carcroft doctors’ surgery agreed to carry out the yearly flu jabs in the Burghwallis pub for residents over 60.

**Living landscape** – 1000 **daffodil bulbs** were again planted around the village, the **bench** on Grange Lane was repaired and an **extra bench** added to the Playing Field. The blackberry bushes were cut back in the **playing field** to allow clear access from the farm gate.

3 members of the Parish Council attended the YLCA new councilor training course in York.

### December 2015

37 parishioners attended a 4 course **Christmas dinner** event in the Burghwallis Pub again sponsored by the Poor’s Field Committee.

The **Christmas tree lighting** was a success once more with approximately 50 people attending the event.

The **Events Committee** kindly donated £50 to St. Helen’s Church towards a Christmas tree.

**Neighbourhood Plan** – All grant funding completed, the web site now features maps and notable buildings in the village. All policies were submitted to the external examiner and after examination all amendments were incorporated into the Plan. We are now awaiting the referendum which will be handled entirely by Doncaster MBC.

### January 2016

It was resolved by the Council that the **Parish precept** remain the same for the forthcoming year.

Website training took place for all Councilors to enable them to add items to the **Burghwallis website**.

### February 2016

Church Meadow Landscapes were appointed in place of Doncaster MBC to carry out the grass cutting contract in the **playing field**.

A marathon litter picking session was carried out on Abbe's Walk with 15 volunteers collecting 32 bags of rubbish.

All documentation for the Parish Council up to the end of 2014 was deposited at the Doncaster archives for safe keeping.

### **March 2016**

A team of volunteers planted a further **200 saplings** along Scorcher Hills Lane in addition to the 450 trees planted in 2015. Trees that didn't survive were replaced and gaps in the playing field were plugged with the remaining saplings.

A stone and lectern were erected on The Abbe's Walk to commemorate the original site of the **Plague Well** explaining the purpose and significance of this historical monument.

**Clean for the Queen Campaign** - 39 volunteers assembled in the Burghwallis car park on March 5<sup>th</sup> and were issued with litter pickers, gloves, and high viz. jackets kindly supplied by Doncaster MBC, then split into groups to cover the five lanes of Burghwallis. After about 2 hours, 87 bags of rubbish had been removed from the hedgerows of Burghwallis, the volunteers congregated back at the Burghwallis pub for a free pie and peas lunch. It was a great atmosphere – and the team included five volunteers from out of the village who said they just liked to take walks through the area. Many said that they would like to be included in the next litter picking exercise so we should hopefully get a good team together for the ongoing litter clearance routines.

**Tour de Yorkshire** – To celebrate this occasion 4 bikes were painted yellow and placed strategically around the village in support of the event.

### **April 2016**

Wild Flower seeds received by all Councillors were planted at each welcome sign into the village and around all seating areas.

Further wild flower seeds were planted in the **playing field** and a general tidying up of leaves.

**The Queen's birthday** had special relevance as the flag on the Burghwallis War Memorial was raised by two war veterans from the village to celebrate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### **May 2016**

May 5th marked the completion of the project on the **Plague Well** and the well was blessed by Rev. Dr Richard Walton, vicar of Burghwallis and Campsall during a short ceremony attended by local residents.

## **2016/17 Targets**

Following a public survey from the Neighbourhood Plan, the table below indicates the aspirations of the residents and these are the targets we will aim to focus our attention on for the following year.

<b>Public Engagement Results:</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Preserve Character of the Village</b>	31	30.4%
<b>Enhance Road Safety</b>	25	24.5%
<b>Enhance Amenities</b>	21	20.6%
<b>Protect Natural Habitat</b>	17	16.7%
<b>Preserve Heritage</b>	8	7.8%
	102	100%

Kath Walters

Chair - May 2016