



Burghwallis Parish Council

Chair's Report 18 May 2017 – Covering Period June 2016 to May 2017

This is my fourth year of office since I was appointed chair to the Parish Council. We maintained a full quota of Councillors and no changes were made this year. Mr Dave Maxwell (Councillor) and Ms Joanne Halsall (Parish Clerk) settled in well with the Council and we appreciate their input over the last year.

It was resolved that the parish precept remains the same for the forthcoming year and we maintain a healthy bank balance of £4,618.34.

I would like to thank the Parish Councillors for all their hard work, support and continued commitment to the Parish over the year and 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.

We have some dedicated and amazing people in our village and this was the focus of a blog published on the website in December 2016 -<http://www.burghwallis.org.uk/blog/burghwallis-local-heroes-2016/>. In particular, two separate committees being the Neighbourhood Planning Committee for successfully seeing us through the process of the Neighbourhood Plan 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 2016

18 volunteers stepped up to clear **St. Anne's graveyard**, uncovering 2 tombs which had been covered in ivy for decades. On behalf of the Church we are hoping to make this an annual event.

A new village flag was erected on the **War Memorial** showing the St. Anne crest. It was agreed that various flags would be shown to commemorate significant days in the calendar and also, as a mark of respect, if anyone passes away in the village the flag would be flown at half-mast.

August 2016

Our thanks to all the members of the **Events Committee** and various helpers for once again arranging a successful Family Fun Day in Squirrel Wood which attracted over 100 visitors.

Through extensive lobbying by the Parish Council and members of the community, First Buses agreed to re-instate the bus service through the village. This is to be reviewed in one year's time.

September/November 2016

After 3 years of hard work the **Neighbourhood Plan** was finally adopted for our village. 35.1% parishioners turned out for the vote with 76 yes and 11 no votes. This will now be the guideline for any issues within the parish.

The **Playing Field** received a face lift and benches were re-stained, goal posts re-painted, a dead tree removed, goal mouths re-turfed and the tree canopy cut back to allow more light into the area.

December 2016

Living landscape – 500 **daffodil bulbs** were again planted around the village and **further trees** planted on Scorcher Hills Lane. These are to replace the saplings damaged by DMBC contractors.

37 parishioners attended a **Christmas dinner** in the Burghwallis Pub, again sponsored by the Poor's Field Committee. The entertainment this year was provided by a Ukulele band.

The **Christmas tree lighting** was a success once more with approximately 60 people attending the event not being deterred by the bad weather!

January/February 2017

Proposed **boundary changes** were submitted by Ward Councillor White – a second round of consultations to take place this year.

The **Church magazine** was added to the website by request of Father Walton.

March/April/May 2017

Road closures in March occurred to allow DMBC to cut back trees obstructing the highways and to allow double decker **buses** access through the village.

A new larger **notice board** has been purchased to replace the existing board on Grange Lane and will be fitted during May 2017.

The 5 **village signs** are to be refurbished with new frontages and the existing signs to be re-painted.

2017/18 Targets

The aspirations from residents within the village remain the same and I repeat the table from the Neighbourhood Plan survey showing our aims to focus our attention for the following year:

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.

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

Kath Walters
Chair