



Burghwallis
Parish Council

Chairman's Annual Report 2017 – 2018

The last year has been a fairly eventful year, and this report summarises the main events of that period.

At the 2017 AGM, the previous Chair, Kath Walters announced that she wished to step back from that position, and I was duly elected to take over as Chairman, with Kath being voted in as Vice-Chair.

In some respects the past year has been a difficult one for the Parish Council, but I believe that we have come through it satisfactorily and will continue to offer and provide a valuable service to our community.

Once again, we managed to provide our services at no increased cost, in terms of precept, from the previous 2 years, and this level of funding remains the same for 2017-18.

To run through the main events of the year:

May 2017:- we cut back all the long grass along the side of Scorcher Hills Lane, to ensure that the saplings we had planted over the last few years were able to flourish and not be mown down by DMBC operatives when they did their verge clearing.

June 2017:- we held a Fun Night in the Burghwallis Pub to raise funds to help pay for the Family Fun Day in July.

We eventually managed to get our new village welcome signs installed on the 5 lanes entering the village.

We organised a mass litter pick on all the lanes leading into the village, collecting some 27 bags of rubbish, in addition to items such as tyres, tv's etc too big to be bagged. Thanks to the non-members of the PC for their help.

The public telephone box on Grange Lane was removed, after being "condemned" for over 2 years.

We were advised by SYPTE that the 51 and 51A bus services through the village, which we had successfully lobbied for last year, would be retained for at least another 12 months.

July 2017:- all the benches by the roadsides and in the park were re-stained to keep up their appearance.

We lost Ted Bell, a previous parish councillor, who succumbed to his illness on 6th July.



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On 16th July, we held the Village Fun Day, in conjunction with the Scouts in Squirrel Wood. This event was our biggest ever and we are looking to revive the event next year.

August 2017:- we received the shock news that Kath Walters had been taken ill after our PC meeting on 10th August, and sadly passed away 2 days later.

A couple of days before the funeral, DMBC made a special effort to tidy up the path along Grange Lane, as their tribute to Kath.

September 2017:- on 3rd September we flew a special flag to mark Merchant Navy Day. This will become an annual event.

Once again, we had to lower the village flag, this time in recognition of the sudden passing of Yvonne Briggs, of Grange Lane.

October 2017:- again, the flag was lowered in recognition of the passing of Mike Spiller, of Grange Lane.

November 2017:- eventually, after several failed attempts, we managed to get our new village notice board into position. This has proved to be so impressive that Campsall Village Hall committee have asked us to advertise some of their activities, which we were pleased to do. We took the decision to apply for support funding for the acquisition of a defibrillator for the village. Over the next couple of months we were able to raise all the funds we need through the generosity of local residents and businesses.

December 2017:- we held our annual Carol singing and Christmas tree lighting event on 9th December, attended by some 50 local people.

The pensioners' Christmas lunch event was held on 14th December, with some 30 residents attending.

January 2018:- we eventually filled our vacancy on the Parish Council when Rob Lomas joined us. We hope he will have a long and happy association with the council.

We managed to acquire some second hand pallets, and built a compost heap in the park. This is available for all villagers to contribute to, and, eventually, take compost from when it has "matured". The compost heap was later doubled in size.

Yet again, the village flag was lowered to mark the passing of Jean Hayes, of Grange Lane.

February 2018:- another litter pick was organised for The Abbe's Walk. Some 32 bags of rubbish were collected, which, with the other things which could not be bagged, amounted to over a ton of waste.

Brenda Grimes was elected to fill the vacancy of Vice-Chair of the PC.



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March 2018:- once again, the flag had to be lowered in respect of the passing of Mavis Johnson, a long-time resident of the village and mother of 2 current residents, including Brenda Grimes.

April 2018:- after receiving comments about the state of the War Memorial, we have gone over all the lettering of the inscriptions to make them more legible.

Someone has vandalised one of the cradle swings in the park. This has now been removed by DMBC for repair/replacement.

After managing to raise the funds, through the generosity of local residents and businesses, the defibrillator machine was delivered and installed. Training in the use of the equipment will take place on 5th June. Our sincere hope is that it will never have to be used, but, if we have to, it is there.

We decided to restore the bench at the top of the Bridle Path, and have now received a quote from DMBC to supply and fit new wooden slats.

May 2018:- and finally, sadly, yet another passing in the village, that of Jack Makepeace, last week.

Our minds are turned to the imminent new legislation concerning Data Protection and our responsibilities and obligations under the new arrangements. We need to be trained and we need to appoint a Data Protection Officer in order to comply with the new requirements.

Looking forward, we have developed a Future priorities statement:

The Parish Council is committed to maintaining and enhancing the character of the village and environs as laid down in the Burghwallis Neighbourhood Plan.

We are rightly proud of our village as a semi-rural community with its rich history. This is demonstrated by the number and quality of the built environment elements, historic sites and the status of part of the village as a Conservation Area.

The Parish Council is continually working to ensure this situation remains the norm. We are open to any comments and suggestions from residents and visitors that will help us to achieve this. Please speak directly to any member of the Council, or send us a message via the website, or attend any of our meetings (8/9 per year) held in the Burghwallis pub. In addition to “regular” meetings we have an Annual Meeting to report on the significant events of the



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past year, our plans for the next year, and to listen to any comments or suggestions from the public. The dates of all meetings are advertised on the village notice board.

The main areas of focus are:

- ✓ Routine liaison with DMBC 'Street Scene', 'Highways Department' and local volunteers to help maintain roadways, road marking, hedgerows and paths.
- ✓ Planting of shrubs and bulbs to restore and enhance roadside environments
- ✓ Maintain the Playing Field for the enjoyment of all
- ✓ Upkeep of all historic sites including the Poor's Field.
- ✓ Encouragement and support for the village Church, Pub and Squirrel Wood Scout Camp as community focal points
- ✓ Liaise with DMBC and South Yorks Transport Executive to maintain the bus services through the village when the current trial period ends in September 2018
- ✓ Lobby broadband suppliers to improve connectivity to exceed central government's minimum line speed of 10 mbs

We hope that residents and visitors will appreciate and assist our efforts in achieving these goals.

Dave Maxwell
Chairman