

WHORLTON NEWS

Produced by your Parish Council to keep you up to date with what is happening in Swainby
February 2020

Whorlton Parish Council

As we advised in our last Newsletter, we were awarded a grant of £2500 from Hambleton Council's Making a Difference Fund towards upgrading **the Public Toilets**. The work is now almost complete at a total cost of just over £4000, kept to a minimum thanks to Howard Tribick who managed the installation of the appliances, and to volunteers who worked to repaint and clean. The balance has been paid from Parish Council reserves. All that remains is a new door for the toilet for the disabled but, as a bespoke design, it had to be specially commissioned and will take several more weeks to install. This is an additional cost.

You may also be interested to know that the Donations Box, which the Parish Council installed a while ago, collects around £5 per week in winter, up to £7 in summer, which all helps towards the running costs.

In October, the Council reviewed our remaining financial reserves alongside anticipated projects for next year and reluctantly agreed that it was time for a modest increase in **the Precept of 2%**. This first increase in 2 years will replenish our reserves to fund more community projects.

Primary School Site update: you have now had the opportunity to submit your views on the site disposal to the County Council. In our response, the Parish Council reiterated the need for some public parking to relieve traffic problems in the village, and requested that sufficient parking be provided within the site to accommodate the new residents and avoid an adverse impact on Claver Close. We also reminded the Council that residents expect a further public consultation on any draft plans.

We are pleased to advise, therefore, that the project team intend to hold a **Public Forum on Thursday, 6th March from 3-6.30pm in the Village Hall**. This will be a public drop-in session, further information to follow.

The Parish Council received a generally favourable response from residents without off-street parking for a public **electric car charge point**. Grant funding is available. The most appropriate location would be a public site rather than commercial premises, so we intend to await the outcome of the school development before progressing this project.

Traffic speed and parking. We previously notified the monitoring of traffic speeds. Black Horse Lane logged an average 26-32 mph so no further actions are proposed. Results for Shepherd Hill and Church Lane are still awaited. Proposals for more parking at the Rusty Bike are now waiting for a response from the National Park authority.

The Pinfold is in urgent need of a revamp. Paving and stone planters are crumbling, weeds take control in spite of valiant efforts by volunteers to maintain it, particularly thanks to Chris and John Forth. The PC intend to make this our next main project, using our newly restored financial reserves. Were you involved in the original plans or know its historic context? Do you have a view on a design? We need suggestions for a simple structure that will be easy to maintain, and volunteers to help.

Whorlton Castle is much loved by residents but continues to suffer from antisocial behaviour. The PC met with the owners and representatives from Historic England(HE) in the summer to devise a management plan. HE suggest that the best way to discourage abuse is to create a place that appears cared for, a pleasant and meaningful place which makes the most of the historic environment. The proposal is to clear the building and earthworks of rubbish and weeds – elder, thistles etc. As no digging is permitted on site, spraying should prevent regrowth. Then establish green pathways through the long grass of the flat area and remove vegetation from the Moat to increase visibility of the Gatehouse. The owners also propose new fencing at the entrance and to lock the gate at night, and HE could provide Interpretation Boards to explain the Castle's historic context. Could you spare a spring afternoon among the stones to help? All that is needed are gloves and stout footwear, and secateurs or loppers if you have them. The intention is to form a 'Friends' team of residents who would visit 2-3 times a season to work with the owners. Please let any Councillor know if you are interested and we will notify you of a suitable start date.

Local Footpath Network

The PC has been notified of the launch of the Ramblers Association campaign '**Don't Lose Your Way 2026**' to record rights of way. Paths that go unrecorded by 1st January 2026 will be lost forever.

Many of you will be aware that the PC is already ahead of this initiative after investigating complaints from users - walkers, riders, runners and cyclists - that paths they have always considered public are gradually being closed to them. Users provided sufficient evidence for us to support an application to the County Council to record these routes and the County has now given notification that they will review. We are aware some residents consider they have local permission to ramble and believe the actions of the Parish Council are leading to these closures. However,

restrictions were reported long before our involvement, users came to us for assistance and not the other way round. Our position is to take a strategic long-term view, giving consideration to all residents and including, given that action is now time limited, future generations. Evidence provided to the PC justified an application to have these paths properly investigated and the County Council is the proper authority to make this judgement. The final decision will be determined probably some time next year, most likely by an independent Planning Inspector through a Public Inquiry. If you are interested to learn more, the Ramblers Don't Lose Your Way Campaign can be found at:

www.ramblers.org.uk/get-involved/campaign-with-us/dont-lose-your-way-2026.



We are urgently seeking more volunteers to help with the 3 major annual village events. There are lots of different ways you can help to make them a success and your firm offer of help now will greatly relieve the pressure on organisers as the dates approach:

20th May - The Whorlton Run - a sub regional event in the Fell Runners calendar, organised by the Esk Valley Club with much needed local support for traffic control and car parking on the playing field; registration of participants in the village hall; and stewarding along the course.

4th July -The Village Sports - help setting up on the Friday night (usually followed by a pint!) Saturday needs volunteers to man the bar, the tombola stall and to register prize winners. Help is also needed for the BBQ, contributions of salads are also appreciated. On Sunday marquees need dismantling and the site tidied up, usually an hour or two suffices.

“5th November” Village Bonfire - we anticipate this year on Sat 7th. Collection of material the weekend before - traditionally children were welcome to come along to help with parents, culminating with a drink and hot pie in the pub, it would be nice to re-introduce this. People are also needed for the door-door collection of money to fund the firework display- this is held in a separate PC account, currently amounting to just over £900. Contact Howard Tribick (07785572707) to help with this event. Finally, on the night, help is required to staff the food stall and bar.

By volunteering for these valued events, not only are you helping to keep them alive but its a chance to get to know others and strengthen community spirit. Contact Mick Hannon (01642 700838) to join in

Finally, a tidy up of the Field has commenced with pruning of trees and hedges. The rest of the annual maintenance programme will be completed before summer grass-cutting.

VILLAGE HALL

Congratulations to the VH committee for a memorable Centenary Weekend, and to the imaginative residents contributing to the Scarecrow Competition.

The ‘**Cinema Club**’ shows films between October and April. Members pay a reduced rate. Non-members can drop in and see any performance for £5, licensed bar.

On March 27th is a Murder Mystery evening with all the hallmarks of a fun event with local people playing the characters. Supper included in ticket price of £8. Licensed bar.

May 2nd is annual Coffee Morning and Plant Sale. This is a popular event with refreshments and food inside and a good selection of plants and shrubs outside.

September 25th sees the ‘Yorkshire Shepherdess’, Amanda Owen giving a talk about her life and experiences and will be signing copies of her book afterwards. Tickets are £12. Licensed bar.

Our website will keep you up to date with events swainbyvillagehall.com

Swainby Emergency Plan

The current plan is getting out of date and the Environment Agency are helping the PC with a review, with a particular focus on flooding.

As a start, the EA offer residents the following advice:

Flood Alert Service. In the last few years, we have witnessed devastating floods across the UK, particularly in 2019. Communities must be prepared to respond to flooding both at home and in the community. We have seen the benefits of advanced warning with those receiving flood warnings able to respond quicker to protect their families and homes.

You can better protect yourself and your home by following these quick and easy steps:

1. visit www.gov.uk/check-flood-risk to see if your property is in an at risk area
 2. sign up to Flood Warning Service at www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings
- You can also call Flood Line on 0345 988 1188 to register by phone. Flood Warning Service is a free service, your details will not be passed on.

Our new Plan will require flood warning volunteers to cascade information, please advise any councillor if you are willing to help.

Whorlton Parish Council: www.whorlton-pcswainbyvillage.org.uk

Councillors are **Dolly Hannon** (Chair) **Alistair Wright** (Vice Chair), **Steve Brisley**, **Howard** and **Jenny Tribick**. The **Clerk is Angela Livingstone** – all contact details on the website and on the notice board.