

WHORLTON NEWS

Produced by your Parish Council to keep you up to date with what is happening in Swainby
October 2021

Whorlton Parish Council

Welcome to the autumn edition of our newsletter. Firstly, we have some changes to report – Mr & Mrs Tribick have retired from the polemics, many thanks for their contribution to the work of the Council. If you are interested in filling their place, please step up – we would be delighted to encourage residents with new and positive ideas to join us.

As life gradually returns to normal we are delivering our community projects:

Green Lane Footbridge has been successfully installed (with Potto PC) and well received. A visitor writes: *“I am a regular walker around the Potto area along with my disabled daughter...the width of the original footbridge across the beck precluded us travelling further as her wheelchair would not fit ...It is particularly commendable that a relatively small parish council have the foresight to try and open up the countryside to the less able like this and we would like to express our gratitude.”*

School Site: build work is delayed until the Spring due to “material and labour shortages”, although the demolition may start sooner. We have negotiated with the developer to secure a **public car park** on the site, including **electric vehicle chargers for 4 cars**. A lump sum of £15,000 towards future maintenance and annual charging fees has also been agreed, although all these have still to be confirmed through legal agreements.

Beckside trees. All necessary approvals have now been given to do the works recommended by our Arborist. A registered Northallerton company, Rennison's, won the tender and will start in early November on the first phase between Maynard & Middle Bridges. They anticipate the work will take 3 days. As a precaution, residents of 2 – 28 High St are advised not to park your cars on the street while the roadside trees are removed – we will post a flyer through your door to let you know exactly when. Felicity

has very kindly agreed that on those days you may leave your cars in the Black Horse pub car park.

Green Benches are now nearly all freshly painted, just a couple left to do. Grateful thanks to the many volunteers, it gives councillors a big lift when you step up to get actively involved in our projects. No room to mention you all by name but special mention to Jonathan Skidmore for carrying on to others after his assigned bench until his paint pot was finished!

Community Fibre Partnership will cost £287,000 to supply the whole village – which equates to £1,489 per house. Vouchers can be claimed for £1,500 but it would need every single household to claim one or the price will increase proportionately and become uneconomic. Households would also have to sign a contract for internet supply even if they do not have a computer. We will revisit this project next meeting but many more residents would need to express an interest for it to progress.

Swainby footpaths in Clain Woods and Scugdale – NYCC have at last determined our application to classify these as Rights of Way. We are delighted to advise that County have decided that our case is justified and support the claim. The Parish Council did not initiate this action but we felt we should respond to overwhelming evidence presented to us, 130 claim forms submitted by users who would have made an application even without Parish Council support. NYCC support now justifies our action regardless of the eventual outcome. Many thanks to those who took the trouble to get involved. **This does not mean that the paths are now Rights of Way** The landowners first have a right of appeal which will be heard by a planning inspector at a public inquiry, probably in the village hall. If you submitted a form, please see it through and assist in this process if you are called upon to do so, it would mean that the paths would be accessible to future generations in perpetuity.

Local Govt Reorganisation means Hambleton will disappear into a new single tier North Yorks County Council for which elections will be held in May 2022. It is not yet clear what the impact will be at Parish level, there may be opportunities to take on local facilities if we have the resources.

Swainby Playing Fields Association

After an intense period of maintenance last autumn, Covid impacted on our plans for further work by the specialist contractor on the meadow

areas as his workforce was decimated by the virus. The resulting weed infested beds have now been flailed thanks to Mark Kerr's kind intervention. We still hope to establish wild flower meadow areas and would welcome any advice/help on this matter.

We have had similar problems with the hoggin path which volunteers had resurfaced. You may have noticed a high degree of grass encroachment, an order has now been placed for this to be sprayed. An order has also been placed for the hedge to be cut and for the first pedestrian gate to be repaired. A replacement swing seat and chains will be installed shortly. Finally, Lottery funding for an outdoor fitness trail was resubmitted. This would have completed the field's development but unfortunately the assessors were looking for more recent community consultation to support the proposal. The idea is not dead but in hibernation pending a further consultation exercise.

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The Village Hall has re-opened its doors to all hirers and is working up a programme of events. Dates in the diary:

Christmas Coffee Morning on the 4th of December, and the annual Burn's Night Supper on the 28th January. Tickets will be available for Burn's Night when the posters go on the noticeboards.

The agent of Amanda Owen (The Yorkshire Shepherdess) tells us that,, due to her many other commitments, she is unlikely to be available to speak at the Village Hall for the foreseeable future. Those of you who paid for tickets will be contacted for a full refund.

A band are hiring the hall for a concert on the evening of the 4th December, look out for advertisements.

The Film Club started a new season of 7 films with 'Military Wives'. 'Little Voice' is on Friday 12th November. Check out the film page on our website swainbyvillagehall.com for a full list and synopsis of each. If you would like to come along, just turn up on the night, it only costs a fiver and with the added bonus of a licenced bar.

Numerous classes currently run in the hall, Zumba, Wellness, Local History, WI, Dancing, Knit and Natter etc. and don't forget the Hambleton Audiology Clinic. Contact details on the noticeboard or the website.

To contact the Village Hall, send an e-mail to swainbyvillagehall@yahoo.com or call 01642 700 302.

Terry Andrews

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

Dolly Hannon (Chair) **Alistair Wright** (Vice Chair), **Steve Brisley**.

The Clerk is Angela Livingstone – all contact details on the website and on the notice board.

DID YOU KNOW.....?

Local Government is a complex business and evidently unfamiliar to some residents. Here are some facts that you may not know about the workings of the PC:

- the number of councillors is determined by the population of the parish, we have 5.
- it is always an odd number to enable majority decisions when voting. Councillors should bring forward views from all parts of the community not just the prejudices of a few. Unanimous decisions could suggest councillors are not doing their job properly!
- regardless of whether they voted for or against a resolution, councillors must all respect and act on the agreed decision.

- Minutes of meetings are recorded by the Clerk and agreed as a true record the following meeting, the website is consequently always a month behind.
- Notice of meetings/cancellation must, by regulation, be posted 3 working days before the meeting (we post on the Thursday prior)

- the Clerk is much more than a minute taker. Most Councils, including ours, employ a clerk belonging to a professional association who often manage several councils (#Jackie Weaver's everywhere!) Angela keeps us on track with ever-changing regulations and financial requirements.

- residents are welcome to speak in the 'public forum' at meetings but councillors are not permitted to discuss or make resolutions on a matter brought up then. This is because, if it is not on the agenda, the wider community have not had the opportunity to comment. Councillors need time to engage with residents to get alternative views. If you want councillors to discuss an issue, it is better to contact the Clerk/Chair in advance and get it on the agenda so that everyone else can have a say.

- and finally, did you know...**
- the Council is not empowered to intervene in neighbour disputes (we have very few powers over anything). If a mature and respectful approach does not resolve matters for you, it may be necessary to refer it to another authority but not the Parish Council. Councillors are, however, always happy to direct you to the appropriate authority if you are suffering problems, and the police regularly liaise with us.
- further, by law set out in the 2011 Localism Act, when councillors are not engaged on council business, they are "off-duty" and residents just like everyone else so cannot be held to account as councillors.