

Sinnington Parish Council

Chairman's Annual Report 2015

**The Annual Parish Meeting is to be held on Monday 13th April at 7.30pm
in the Village Hall.**

Refreshments available before the meeting. Everyone welcome.

1. Introduction

As you are most probably aware, this year your Parish Councillors will have completed their 4 year term in office and have to stand down. This is an opportunity for new faces to come forward for election to support our village and community. The present Councillors have given their time and effort to manage routine issues and deal with new challenges. I thank each one for their contribution, and particularly I acknowledge the very long term commitment by Ruth Wass, not only as a Parish Councillor for 33 years but for her unflinching dedication to this village.

Each year it is encouraging to celebrate successes and achievements although these can be less attainable in a climate of cut backs and pressure for more stringent economic controls.

2. Flood Control

We have not experienced severe flooding in the village for nearly 5 years now mainly because rainfalls have not been persistently heavy. When there has been prolonged rainfall, the retaining bunds installed up stream of the village appear to have achieved the desired effect in slowing down the flow of run-off water. The 'Slowing the Flow' Partnership project for Pickering and Sinnington is still active and we are maintaining representation on this group.

3. Village Emergency Plan

This document, first compiled in 2010, is designed to help the village cope with a major emergency (mainly flooding) and will need to be updated in the near future to make sure that the contact details for emergency procedures are up to date. Fortunately there has not been occasion to use it.

4. Dog Fouling

There are still instances of random dog fouling in the village. An additional bin has been installed along Friars Hill opposite Leng's yard and the bin located mid-way up Church Lane has been relocated at the top near to the Church gate. However, we still need to ensure that dog fouling is put in the bins and not left around the village.

5. Roads, footpaths and cars

The condition of our roads and footpaths has not gone unnoticed. We are still trying to get Highways to deal with the progressively deteriorating state of surfaces but with limited success. With regard to footpaths, we would request motorists to keep them clear for pedestrians without obstruction and horse riders to keep to the roads.

The footbridge crossing the river at the Southern end of the village has had anti-slip surfacing fitted for improved safety. We have also benefitted from a long awaited footpath now laid up Church Lane. Both of these works have been achieved through the Rights of Way Ranger. Work has recently been carried out to improve the condition of the Stripe bridleway and footpath by the North York Moors National Park Authority and local volunteer effort.

We hope to work with the Woodland Trust to improve the footpaths through Stables and Roffe woods as these paths have become very waterlogged in places and difficult to walk.

6. Grassed Spaces

The very wet conditions have left our 'green' spaces in poor condition and this has not been helped with drivers not taking care, cutting across corners and large vehicles running up and

along the verges. This is becoming a difficult problem to control, however much of the damage can be avoided by considerate driving and parking.

Regular cutting of the main village green, river side and Croft Green by Bill Baldwin during the season keeps these areas in a good order. Again we are fortunate that other grassed areas are managed by Graham Love, Stuart Frank, Alec Thompson and Andrew Hunter. Their work contributes significantly to the cared for appearance of our village.

Routine maintenance of grassed areas in the village normally carried out by North Yorkshire County Council is to cease this year as part of their cost saving measures. This work will now have to be resourced from the village.

A scheme for improvement to the village hall car park is in place but it requires funds to realise it. Grants are being sought either as a single upgrading project, or combined with the planned extension to the village hall as a community facility project.

7. Communications

The village now has Super Fibre Broadband and on-line users can be connected by contacting their supplier. Outline plans have been prepared for a mobile phone mast to be erected just outside the village by the A170. The date for operation is expected towards the end of this year.

8. General

The bus shelter has had the roof tiles secured and an interior wood lining fitted. The walls have been painted and the structure is now weatherproof and welcoming. Thanks to Brian and Lee Mitchell, Jerry Page and Donald Simpson for their skills and time.

The football post has been repainted and a new net fitted and ready for the summer.

A Christmas lights switch-on organised by the newly formed Community Action Group, led by Karen Selby, was held on the village green and is planned to become an annual event.

We have attended meetings of the 'Town and Country Trails' and are involved in their plans for a cycle way connecting local villages loosely following the A170. Possible routes are being considered and local land owners are to be consulted.

The **newsletter** continues to keep residents informed of activities and news. Thanks to Sue Pickersgill (editor) and Melanie Underwood (village blog) for keeping these going.

Occasional **village clean ups** have been enthusiastically supported by volunteers and their work really makes a difference. Some tasks such as litter removal and sweeping up are scheduled by the Parish Council, although volunteers required at short notice for quick response jobs are called up through Norma Rees. Anyone who wishes to join Norma's 'A' team are most welcome.

In conclusion, the village and its community are sustained not just by the Parish Council but also time and effort given by members of the community. Set against budget cut backs imposed by the Government, we shall need to be more resourceful to keep the village in a satisfactory condition for all to enjoy.

Finally, I have already acknowledged my fellow Councillors for their contributions but we could not function properly without our Clerk, Geoff Richardson. Thanks Geoff for helping us along and responding to our needs.

To learn more of what your Parish Council is doing and to raise any questions or make comments, please come along to the Open meeting.

Roger Hudson, Chairman, Sinnington Parish Council