

Sinnington Parish Council

Chairman's Annual Report 2017

**The Annual Open Meeting is to be held on Monday 10th April
at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

Refreshments available before the meeting. Everyone welcome.

1. Introduction

As from November 2016, we have a new Clerk. Faye Snowden from Pickering was appointed as successor to Derek Waters who helped us to become fully compliant with the Government's 'transparency code' whilst acting as Clerk in 2016. Faye can be contacted at sinningtonpc@yahoo.com or on 07584623166 for all Parish Council matters. Meeting agendas, minutes, planning applications and Council news etc., plus other village news can be accessed on-line at our dedicated web site: <http://sinnington.ryedaleconnect.org.uk>.

2. Flood control, land drainage and resilience planning

The upstream natural measures to slow the river flow in the River Seven appear to be working well, and even though there was a flood warning on the 21st November 2016 when the river rose to just short of 2 metres, no properties were affected. However, high levels of rainfall can cause surface water from neighbouring fields to threaten some village properties. Mitigation measures to minimise flooding by a joint approach involving North Yorkshire County Council, the Environment Agency, Natural England, DEFRA bodies including the Forestry Commission are worthy of exploration. There is an opportunity for land owners to work with such organisations who can fund such schemes. To this end, a special flood alleviation support group chaired by a member of the Parish Council is to be set up with the objective of seeking affordable improvement measures to reduce flooding from land surface water.

The Village Resilience document first compiled in 2010 now needs to be revised and updated and will form part of the flood group's remit.

Anyone interested in joining the group to benefit the village and its community, please contact either Councillor Martin Baxter or the Clerk.

In the event of a flooding emergency when the exit/entrance through Elmsall Farm barn yard is needed, the padlocked security gates may be opened, by obtaining the codes from either the Clerk or any Councillor.

There are accessible stocks of sand bags at Elmsall House farm, Riverside farm and Strawberry Fields if needed.

3. Village hall extension project

Work is scheduled to start on this project in July when the hall will be closed until completion which is expected by September. More information can be obtained from the Village Hall Committee.

4. Roffe and Stables woods

Discussions have been held with the Woodland Trust to review the condition and future management of these woods for the community. Of particular concern is the poor state of the low footpath and some of the trees. The Trust provides a limited resource to these woods and there needs to be a stronger links between the Parish Council, the community and the Trust. Anyone interested in helping to plan and discuss resourcing improvements and upkeep of the woods please contact the Clerk.

5. Village trees, assets and grassed spaces

All the major trees have been inspected and a report on their condition provided. Only one needed immediate action, several required medium term attention whilst most were found to be in good order.

An update of the village asset register has been made after an inspection of all listed and new assets including the upgraded village hall car park, the new all-purpose waste bin sited on the green and a donated grass cutter.

We are increasingly concerned about the damage caused to the village green by vehicles some with trailers bringing horses for exercise. It is difficult to keep the green in a suitable condition for all to enjoy safely and for this reason vehicles are not allowed on the green except in permitted parking areas.

We very much appreciate the work put in by all volunteers who maintain the grassed areas of the village and elsewhere when the need arises. There are always occasional clear up jobs and anyone who wishes to be listed for 'callout' please contact co-ordinator, Norma Rees.

6. Roads, pavements and street lighting

Pot holes are often a problem in the village and can be a risk to safety. They are only deemed for intervention (patching) if they are 40mm (1.6") or more deep. Pot holes and street lighting requiring attention can be reported directly on line.

See the Parish Council web site; Self-help-report a problem.

7. General

In addition to our web site, we place news items in the village newsletter which continues to keep residents informed. We appreciate the time given by Farrell Burnett in the role of editor.

Finally, this is your village and we endeavour to keep it a pleasant place to live and enjoy.

In the coming months there will be new opportunities and challenges that can impact upon the village. For example, community led housing schemes, road safety improvements and maintenance initiatives may well be considered.

The Open meeting is your opportunity to raise questions and to discuss any concerns, queries or issues that you may have.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Roger Hudson, Chairman, Sinnington Parish Council