

## *Sinnington Parish Council*

### **Chairman's Annual Report 2018**

**The Annual Open Meeting is to be held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April  
at 7.30pm in the Main Village Hall.**

**Everyone welcome.**

#### **1. Introduction**

I am pleased to report that our new Clerk, Faye Snowden has settled into her job and proving to be a valuable asset to the Parish Council. Faye can be contacted at [sinningtonpc@yahoo.com](mailto:sinningtonpc@yahoo.com) or on 07584623166 for all Parish Council matters. Please also remember to visit the Parish Council web site at <http://sinnington.ryedaleconnect.org.uk>. for meeting agendas, minutes, planning applications and Council news.

#### **2. Flood resilience and emergency planning**

The need to address flood control measures and community resilience remains, in spite of the upstream natural measures to slow the river flow of the River Seven. In August, the village was visited by the Flood Minister, Thérèse Coffey, along with representatives from the Environment Agency, Forestry Commission and North Yorkshire County Council and others to see the natural flood measures with a view to the village benefitting from a £50,000 fund for the Derwent Villages project. The natural measures including upstream woody debris dams resulted from our membership of the 'Slowing the Flow' partnership project which has now finished. It is planned that further work will be carried out by a residual committee with links to similar regional projects. The Parish Council will continue to be involved to consider maintenance issues for existing structures and additional measures.

I am very appreciative of the work of the Sinnington Flood Alleviation Group under the chairmanship of Martin Baxter. The group is addressing all flooding risks to the village and with the support of the Parish Council linking with other organisations such as DEFRA, Natural England and the Environment Agency to explore options for flood control and funding opportunities.

Also addressing village flood resilience is the new 2018 Community Emergency Plan led by Helen Browes in conjunction with North Yorkshire Council. This easy to use plan supersedes the 2012 Community Resilience Scheme and describes the local flood risk and gives guidance for action.

#### **3. Village hall extension project**

The new village hall extension building to provide integrated storage and meeting rooms has been completed. This much needed improvement was managed by the Village Hall Committee and a project steering group and the excellent result was delivered by Mitchell's builders. Other improvements to the hall were carried out by many local volunteers to bring about a fresh interior with new facilities. The effort of all involved is to be commended.

#### **4. Village upkeep**

Various trees have been pruned back for safety and the green spaces kept in good order during the summer months with the help of residents. Volunteers have also cleared litter and removed algae from road and information signs. Those involved are much appreciated in their efforts to keep our village in good order.

Two village seats have been improved to ensure that they remain safe to use. The 'round the tree' seat on the green has been replaced with oak sections supplied through David Brown and assembled by Nick Staley and John Johnson. The bench seat at Friars Hill bus stop has been strengthened with new wood.

The parking area near to the village hall extension is to be resurfaced subject to cost when the weather is more favourable.

It is noted that the very wet weather over the winter period has left the green and grassed verges vulnerable to extensive damage by vehicles. Drivers are requested to take more care by driving and parking considerately.

The footpath section of the Stripe bridleway has been made walkable again by the installation of plastic grid panels removed from the old village hall car park and filled with gravel. This was made possible by volunteers working with Bill Baldwin over a few weekends.

We have received several reports of horses being ridden along public footpaths. Riders are advised to keep to the bridleways.

#### **5. Finance**

In addition to our Precept and income from the parking honesty box, we have benefitted from small local government grants to enable us comply with the Transparency Code which is obligatory. Collectively, these have helped us to meet insurance, employment, village green and river bank cutting and other maintenance costs. The Council thanks Rana Sharrock for being our internal auditor and verifying our financial position. Although we would like to spend more on maintenance and improvements, our budget is small and the achievement of larger scale projects can only be realised from grant funding.

#### **6. General**

I thank my fellow Councillors for their support over the last year particularly in addressing new legal regulations imposed upon us.

The Open meeting is your opportunity to raise questions and to discuss any concerns, queries or issues that you may have. Alternatively, you can email the Clerk or complete a form available at the Open meeting.

We look forward to seeing you there.

*Roger Hudson, Chairman, Sinnington Parish Council*