

Egton with Newland, Mansriggs and Osmotherley Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting

Chairman's Report 2021-22

The Council

The Council is about to enter its final year of office and the election of a new Council will take place in May 2023.

In November we co-opted Philippa Hartley onto the Council to fill the vacancy caused by the untimely death of Howard Graves in March last year. Philippa lives in Greenodd and consequently we now have at least one Councillor from each part of the Parish.

Meetings & Activities

We have held 5 meetings since the last report and our Working Groups have met to develop budgets and make further progress on implementing the Woodland Management Plan adopted by the Council in 2021.

We have considered all planning applications made within the Parish and where appropriate have made comment and representations to SLDC or the National Park. We have also made representations to SLDC about unauthorised developments within the Parish and continue to press for action to be taken to deal with these breaches of planning law. We are particularly concerned about the lack of enforcement action on the unauthorised car wrecking operation in Plumpton.

We have continued to maintain and improve the bus shelters at Spark Bridge and Greenodd and are planning improvements at the one at Penny Bridge. Noticeboards have been upgraded and new ones commissioned for Arrad Foot and Penny Bridge.

We reported last year that the County Council, as highway authority, had agreed to instal new signage and undertake some other minor works to mitigate the problems identified in Spark Bridge and Penny Bridge. This work has not been done and we continue to press for those promised works to be implemented.

As a follow-on from last year's questionnaire survey of residents in Greenodd about parking problems on Main Street and at the Crakeside Industrial Estate we held a public meeting attended by representatives of the County Council. We understand that the County has taken account of the comments made at the meeting and will be consulting on a scheme of parking restrictions later this year with a view to that scheme being implanted by the new Westmorland and Furness Council later in 2023.

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The Council has also had discussions with Colton PC, landowners and the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNP) about the practicability of restoring a length of long-disused footpath alongside the Crake downstream from Spark Bridge and so create a footpath that would link all the way to Greenodd. There is general agreement that the scheme is achievable. We are awaiting further input from the LDNPA about costs and hope to take the scheme forward in the coming year.

Earlier in the year the Council decided to investigate the purchase of the allotment land at Spark Bridge to ensure that they remain a long-term community asset. The Council has agreed terms with the current owner and expect to complete the purchase within the next few months.

At Sheriff Well Wood at the end of Main Street, Greenodd, we have implemented the first stage of our woodland development plan which involved felling dangerous or diseased trees and we will shortly be planting trees to replace all the those cleared in accordance with the terms of our Forestry Commission Felling Licence.

Finances

The Council is in a good financial position with a capital reserve fund standing at some £40,000 and other reserves of around £6,000. The Precept for 2022/23 is £8000 is a small reduction compared with last year.

The Council has also received from SLDC monies as part of its share of the Community Infrastructure Levy on developments within the Parish.

This year, our accounting procedures as regards AGAR (Annual Governance and Accounting Return) have been completed well ahead of the deadline and audited by Julie Hartley, acting as our internal auditor. We would like to thank her for her guidance.

Chairman's Thanks

I would like to thank our Clerk for all the very good work she has done since her appointment and thanks to my fellow Councillors for their help and support over the last year.

Councillor Brian Campbell

Chair Egton with Newland, Mansriggs and Osmotherley Parish Council.

May 2022