

Egton with Newland, Mansriggs and Osmotherley Parish Council

Chairman's Report 2022-23

The Council

The Council has completed its final year of office. During the year Councillors Thomas and Richardson resigned. The vacancy created by the resignation of Councillor Thomas was filled by Co-option of Cheryl Douglas but there was not sufficient time to fill the other vacancy.

The new Council, elected unopposed on 4th May, is:

Brian Campbell

Denise Edmondson

Ian Green

Philippa Hartley

Tony Mayo

Sheila Hobson

The three unfilled places on the Council will be filled by co-option.

Meetings & Activities

We have held 6 meetings since the last report and our Working Groups have met to develop budgets and make further progress on implementing the Woodland Management Plan management adopted by the Council in 2021.

We have considered all planning applications made within the Parish and where appropriate 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 and are particularly concerned about the lack of enforcement action on the unauthorised operation in Plumpton.

The Council maintains two defibrillators (at Broughton Beck and Spark Bridge) and we have continued to maintain and improve the four bus shelters provided by the Council (Penny Bridge, Spark Bridge and two at Greenodd). Noticeboards have been upgraded and new ones installed in Penny Bridge and at Tarn Close in Rossie.

Cumbria 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.

We understand that the proposed parking restrictions at Greenodd will be implemented by the new Furness and Westmorland Council later in 2023.

Egton with Newland, Mansriggs and Osmotherley Parish Council

Last year we reported that the Council was promoting the restoration of a footpath to link Spark Bridge to Greenodd. We have established the feasibility of restoring this path and have left implementation in the hands of the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNP). We will continue to press for this path to be re-established.

The Council has completed purchase of the allotment land at Spark Bridge so ensuring that they remain a long-term community asset. To further this aim the Council will investigate registering the allotments under the Allotments Act 1922.

At Sheriff Well Wood, at the end of Main Street, we have now planted trees in the area cleared last year all in accordance with the terms of our Forestry Commission Felling Licence.

We have also felled some diseased ash trees on the land opposite Sandhills Wood. We will shortly be placing a bench on this land at a position that offers a view down to the Leven.

Finances

The Council is in a good financial position with a capital reserve fund standing at £31,000 and other reserves of around £10,000. The Precept for 2023/24 held at the same level as last year.

We have now had the final payment from Nigel Lord's bequest to the Parish taking the total amount received to £12,150.

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

Chairman's Thanks

I would like to thank our Clerk for all the good work she has done over the past year and my fellow Councillors for help and support.

Councillor Brian Campbell

Chair Egton with Newland, Mansriggs and Osmotherley Council.

May 2023