

# **Egton with Newland, Mansriggs and Osmotherley Parish Council**

## **Chairman's Report 2023-24**

### **THE COUNCIL**

The Council has completed one year of its four year term. The Council co-opted three Parishioners to make up its full complement of nine Councillors.

The Councillors are:

Brian Campbell

Ian Green

Sheila Hobson

Denise Edmondson

Tony Mayo

Philippa Hartley

Cheryl Douglas

Cath Hemsall

Barbara Hind

### **MEETINGS & ROUTINE 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.

We have considered all planning applications made within the Parish and where appropriate made comment and representations to W&FC or the National Park Authority. We have also made representations to W&FC about flooding problems in Plumpton and Arrad Foot. Councillors also report highway problems to W&FC using its on-line reporting system.

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)

### **OTHER INITIATIVES**

#### **Parish Plan**

The current Parish Plan was published in the 2006. The Council has decided this needs to be updated so in the months ahead we will begin to work through a process of consultation and community engagement to allow a new Plan to be published next year.

#### **Parish Land**

The Council has several land holdings and seeks to ensure that each is well managed and, where possible earns a fair revenue for the benefit of all Parishioners.

At Spark Bridge we maintain the Village Green and are collaborating with Green Sparks to instal some interpretation boards. We reported last year that we had purchased the Allotments at Spark Bridge using some of the bequest made by Nigel Lord. In recognition of this gift we intend naming them the Nigel Lord Allotments.

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Sheriff Well Wood is the small area of woodland at the end of Greenodd Main Street beside the A590. There we have planted a selection of native trees, some now in blossom.

Last summer a group of students from Sedbergh School, as part the School's community programme, spent a day in the Parish repainting and tidying the Greenodd bus shelter. We hope this will become an annual arrangement.

We have installed a cycle stand beside the Greenodd bus shelter to cater for people who ride to Greenodd and then make an onward journey by bus.

Sandhills Wood is now let and we attend to the area of land opposite and will gradually improve the range of planting on this area of amenity land in and around the bench at the view-point.

In Rosside we maintain the area of land to the west of Tarn Close and are working with Tarn Close residents to manage and improve the variety of the habitat.

### **Heritage Project**

The other major initiative this year is the Council's Heritage Project. We have decided to spend some of the Nigel Lord Bequest on this community development project to help the people living in the area to collaborate in the production of written, oral, and visual records capturing their unique historical past. The records (written text, hardcopy photographs, maps, etc.) are being gathered either by research using many sources including Barrow library archives, or by interviewing residents.

The project has encouraged local people to work together to capture and display the assets on the Council website.

The project is led by Councillor Barabara Hind who has ably engaged an enthusiastic team from across the Parish.

### **Community Hub**

Working with the Greenodd & Penny Bridge Village Hall Committee the Council applied for a grant to fit an emergency generator "plug-in" to the Hall so it could function as an emergency community hub in the event of a major power outage such as happened after Storm Awen. The grant has been received and the "plug-in" will be fitted shortly.

We will then work with the Hall Committee on an Emergency Plan to bring into action should the need arise.

### **Highways and Footpaths**

Earlier in the year we applied to W&FC, under its Village 20mph Policy, to have 20mph speed limits set in Penny Bridge and Greenodd as well as in Spark Bridge. We learned last

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week that we did not succeed in having our proposals included in the first batch of schemes. We will continue to make the case for these new 20mph speed limits.

We have also been advised that the Greenodd parking restriction scheme promoted by Cumbria County Council will be taken forward by W&FC when funding allows.

At previous Meetings we reported on an initiative to restore a footpath link from Spark Bridge to Greenodd. This is now in the hands of the NPA but little progress seems to have been made. We will continue to press the Authority to make progress on this new link.

### **Amended Grouping Order**

The last Parish Meeting resolved that the Parish Council should ask W&FC to amend the Grouping Order that created this Council. That application was made last year, and we understand that the amendment will be dealt with at the next meeting of W&FC on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

### **FINANCES**

The Council is in a good financial position with a capital reserve fund standing at around £30,000 and other reserves of around £2,000. The Precept for 2024/25 was again held at the same level as last year.

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 their help and support.

Councillor Brian Campbell

Chair Egton with Newland, Mansriggs and Osmotherley Council.

May 2024