

Church Fenton Parish Council

ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17

Councillors and Staff

1. The composition of the Council in 2016-17 was as follows:

Cllr Sarah Chester (Chair)

Cllr Stephen Newbould (Vice Chair)

Cllr Jo Mason

Cllr Andrew Mason

Cllr Craig Blakey

Cllr Nick Mossman (resigned April 2017)

Cllr Rebecca Hunt

2. The Council staff comprised Jeremy Sherlock – Parish Clerk and Stephen Fisher – Lengthsman.

Activities in 2016-17

3. Parish Council activities fall into 3 main of categories – service delivery, advocacy and representation and finance and administration.

4. **Service delivery:**

- a. The Council is responsible for the 2 Play Areas, the Village Green and the old school playing field. This includes ensuring that equipment is safe, tidying and grass cutting. Repairs were carried out on both Play Areas during the year.
- b. A new contract was let for the grass cutting g of the Council owned sites and highway verges (formerly cut by NYCC). The Council worked with Sherburn-in-Elmet PC and South Milford PC to let a joint contract achieving economies of scale. This contract will run for 4 years.
- c. The Council owns 35 street lights, paying electricity and repair costs. A programme of replacements was recommended by an engineer, and this has been phased over a number of years. 6 Council owned street lights in Church Street were replaced during the year and these have been adopted by North Yorkshire CC. This formed phase 3 of a replacement programme. Works are needed on a further 11 street lights.
- d. The village Lengthsman continues to carry out general maintenance which has a positive impact of the appearance of the village.
- e. The Council owns the boundary highway signs and Millennium signs, together with a number of benches, a bus shelter and defibrillator.
- f. Support for village activity which this year included the Christmas Lights, and Pensioners' Christmas Party.
- g. Modest support has been agreed for the new community libraries in Sherburn-in-Elmet and Tadcaster.
- h. The Council has considered adopting the 2 traditional phone boxes in the village, but, for the moment BT have decided to retain them.

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5. Advocacy and Representation:

- a. **Neighbourhood Plan** – work has progressed on the development of a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish. The parish area has been designated as the Plan boundary, a consultant has been appointed (funded by a government grant), and consultation activity undertaken highlighting main priorities.
 - b. **Garden Town** – during the year the Council became aware that Selby DC had submitted a bid proposal to government for a Garden Town to be focused on the Airfield site. Following a number of Freedom of Information submissions the full extent of the proposal was determined. After representations from the Council and local councillors the submission was withdrawn. The Council have raised serious concerns with Selby DC about the process that had been followed, and recently met with the Council Leader to discuss these issues.
 - c. **Planning** – despite objections raised by the Parish Council Selby DC have approved a number of new housing proposals in the village which significantly exceed any likely allocation in PLANSelby. Particularly disappointing was the approval granted for the site next to the Parish Church despite a substantial number of objections, including reservations expressed by Historic England. These decisions have been largely driven by a lack of a 5 year supply of housing land in Selby, rather than planned consideration of appropriate developments within the community.
 - d. **HS2** – remains a significant issue affecting the village. During the year there was a formal announcement regarding the preferred route which showed no changes from the original proposals, and consultation regarding compensation arrangements. The Council is continuing to monitor and comment on consultations, as well as lobbying for changes to reduce the impact on the local community.
 - e. **Leeds East Airport** – the Council continues to monitor activity at the Airport and liaise with the owners. As yet the Airport has not progressed commercial flights, and Selby BC have advised that this would require planning consent
 - f. **Rail Bridge** – the Council has met with Network Rail regarding progress on electrification, though there are no detailed proposals at present
 - g. **School Bus** – the Council lobbied North Yorkshire CC regarding changes to school bus provision for Tadcaster Grammar.
 - h. **Shop and Post Office** – the Council has considered options for the local shop which is threatened with closure
 - i. **Assets of Community Value** – it has been agreed to submit a number of assets in the village for formal designation which allows a community proposal to be developed should they be threatened with closure
6. **Finance and Administration** – the Council has to operate legally and efficiently. Additional information is now included on the website. The Council continues to receive few Audit comments.

Priorities and Challenges in 2017-18

7. **Neighbourhood Plan** – the Plan will be substantially progressed during the year with further rounds of local consultation. Further rounds of grant applications will be submitted to support this process. Once approved there will be much more local influence over future decisions.

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8. **PLANSelby** – the consultation draft of the Plan is due to be published by Selby DC in the summer. This will be closely scrutinised by the Council with detailed comment submitted.
9. **HS2 and rail electrification** – the Council will continue to monitor announcements and comment on consultations.
10. **Leeds East airport** – proposals for Airfield development will continue to be monitored including the proposal to develop commercial flights which can be controlled through a planning approval. The Council will continue to work with the site owners to seek to protect the amenity of the village.
11. **Street Lights** – the 4th phase of the column replacement will be concentrated at the east end of the Village with 5 new columns to be erected. It is anticipated that the remaining works will be undertaken in 2018-19 to complete the replacement programme.
12. **Community Shop** – proposals will be progressed to explore the establishment of a community shop in the village as there is a desire to retain this important local amenity. It is intended that a temporary arrangement is put in place whilst further feasibility work is undertaken.
13. **Play Provision** – S106 funding is available for further play provision. A scheme is being developed to provide a multi-use all weather play facility.

Finance

14. The Council's total income in 2016-17 was £29,778.78 and expenditure was £34,485.93. The Expenditure includes £858.78 on Sandwath Play area which is funded through a S106 endowment that now has a balance of £28,031.41.
15. Reserves remain above the minimum recommended levels, and it was possible to freeze the precept for 2017-18.
16. Expenditure was on the following items:

Salaries	£5,140.12
Administration	£1,105.98
Audit	£235.00
Insurance	£881.84
Repairs and Maintenance	£6,445.43
Projects	£13,384.97

17. The approved budget for 2017-18 is as follows:

Income		Expenditure	
Carry forward	£7,400	Revenue reserve	£5,000
Precept	£19,970	Salaries	£5,190
Selby DC Grant	£420	Administration	£1,600
Recovered VAT	£2,000	Audit	£300
Interest	£300	Insurance	£1,000
		Repairs and Maintenance	£7,860
	£30,090	Projects	£7,540
		Electricity	£1,600
			£30,090

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Sandwath Endowment			
Carry Forward	£27,978	Insurance	£400
		Grass cutting	£250
		Inspection and Maint.	£500
		Sandwath Balance	£26,828

Jeremy Sherlock

Parish Clerk