

Church Fenton Parish Council

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18

Councillors and Staff

1. The composition of the Council in 2017-18 was as follows:

Cllr Sarah Chester (Chair)

Cllr Stephen Newbould (Vice Chair) – to August 2017

Cllr Jo Mason

Cllr Andrew Mason

Cllr Craig Blakey

Cllr Rebecca Hunt

Cllr Stuart Spensley

Cllr Ross Higham - from October 2017

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

Activities in 2017-18

3. Parish Council activities fall into 4 main of categories – projects, service delivery, advocacy and representation and finance and administration.

4. **Projects**

- a. **Community Shop** – the Council supported a community group who were able to reopen the village shop as a community shop in May, leased from the current owners. The group submitted a business plan to the Council, and a consultation exercise undertaken which demonstrated overwhelming support from the village. In the light of this the Council agreed to buy the premises to secure the future off the community shop, funded through a Public Works loan. Contracts are due to be exchanged shortly. Once the premises are acquired it is anticipated that it will be possible provide Post Office services again.
- b. **White Horse** – the Council submitted a successful bid to get the White Horse designated as an Asset of Community Value to protect it as a pub and community asset. Shortly after the owners announced that they intended to sell the site. The designation gave a 6 month window during which a local group were able to develop a viable business plan which was supported by the Council. A further loan has been agreed to provide funding for acquisition and refurbishment. An offer from the Council has been accepted by the owners. It is anticipated that the pub will reopen later on this year.
- c. **Play Area** – “planning Gain” funding for the enhancement of play provision in the village has been confirmed, and the Council have agreed in principle to allocate this to provide an “all weather” games area at Main Street Play Area.

5. **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. Grass cutting of the Parish Council owned sites and highway verges (formerly

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cut by NYCC) is undertaken by a contractor appointed jointly with Sherburn-in-Elmet PC and South Milford PC.

- c. The Council owns 34 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. During 2017-18 five lighting columns were replaced, and 1 removed as it was very close to an NYCC column. A further 6 columns need replacing. In addition 12 lanterns are obsolete and will also need replacing.
- 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 has been given to the new community libraries in Sherburn-in-Elmet and Tadcaster.

6. Advocacy and Representation:

- a. **Neighbourhood Plan** – good progress has been made on the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan, supported by a consultant funded through a government grant. A number of themed consultations have been undertaken together with community meetings. The process has been led by a group including Councillors and community representatives. A number of themed policy papers have been completed.
- b. **Planning** – the Council has submitted comments on the latest Selby DC consultation on its proposed Sites plan. This seems to have accepted the Council's argument that existing consents means that there is no need to make any additional allocations for housing. The Council has also included to monitor and comment on planning applications, notably the proposal next to the Parish Church which received outline consent last year.
- c. **HS2** – the Council has continued to engage with HS2 Ltd. Whilst opposed in principle to the proposal it has recognised that there was a need for engagement to protect the interests of the village should it go ahead. Main areas for discussion have been the compensation arrangements and the potential for reducing the impact of the line.
- d. **Leeds East Airport** – the Council has continued to monitor proposals for the Airport, and when relevant raise concerns with the operators. Selby Council have been lobbied to oppose the possible designation of the site as "brownfield".
- e. **Assets of Community Value** – following applications by the Council the Village Shop and White Horse were designated as Assets of Community Value. Unfortunately an application for the Restaurant was rejected as it is operational rail land. The Council has agreed to submit further applications for the Methodist Hall and Cricket Ground.
- f. **Footpaths** – with the support of a local resident problems with local footpaths have been highlighted to North Yorkshire County Council, and local landowners.

7. **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.

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Priorities and Challenges in 2018-19

8. **Community Shop and White Horse** – the acquisitions should be completed fairly early in the year to protect the assets for the village. Rental income will cover all the costs of the loans.
9. **Neighbourhood Plan** – the Plan will be completed in 2018-19 and will then proceed to referendum. If supported it will become a formal part of the Selby Local Plan.
10. **Planning** – the Council will continued to monitor planning applications (including the anticipated application on the site next to the Parish Church) and the Selby Local Plan process.
11. **HS2** – the Council will continue to monitor announcements and comment on consultations.
12. **Leeds East airport** – it is anticipated that a proposal for a media based development will come forward. In addition the Council will monitor and comment where necessary on current activities that are subject to time restricted planning approvals.
13. **Street Lights** – a further phase of lights replacement will be carried out.
14. **Play Provision** – consultation will be undertaken on the proposal for a multi-use all weather play facility. The Council will then consider whether to proceed.
15. **Data Protection** – the Council will need to amend its procedures to meet the requirements of the new Data Protection rukes.

Finance

16. The Council's total income in 2017-18 was £32,963.40 and expenditure was £28,959.15. The Expenditure includes £1,190.41 on Sandwath Play area which is funded through a S106 endowment that now has a balance of £26,841.00.
17. Expenditure was on the following items:

Salaries	£5,386.90
Administration	£1,842.02
Audit	£320.00
Insurance	£828.97
Repairs and Maint	£7,560.70
Projects Reserve	£4,299.00
Electricity	£1,442.52
Sandwath Play	£1,347.12
Neighbourhood Plan	£4,477.00
Community Shop	£1,442.92
White Horse	£12.00
TOTAL PAYMENTS	£28,959.15

18. Due to the unexpected expenditure on the Community Shop development the reserves have fallen and will need to be built up in future years, particularly as overall expenditure will increase due to the loan costs.
19. The approved budget for 2018-19 is as follows. This budget was approved before the decision was taken to purchase the White Horse.

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General Funds		Budget Head	
Carry forward	£8,037	Revenue reserve	£5,000
Precept	£20,500	Salaries	£5,280
Selby DC Grant	£379	Administration	£1,750
Recovered VAT	£2,000	Audit	£350
Interest	£350	Insurance	£1,000
NYCC Grant	£175	Repairs and Maintenance	£8,200
Shop rent	£13,804	Projects	£7,761
CIL	£5,408	Electricity	£1,600
Other		Loan Repayment	£13,514
		Shop Insurance	£290
	£50,653	Neighbourhood Plan	£500
		Unallocated CIL	£5,408
			£50,653
Sandwath endowment			
Funds		Budget	
Carry Forward	£26,800	Insurance	£450
	£26,800	Grass cutting	£300
		Inspection and maintenance	£500
			£1,250
		Sandwath Balance	£25,550

Jeremy Sherlock
Parish Clerk