

Carlton Parish Council

Chair's Annual Report – 28th May 2024

This has been my second full year as Chair of Carlton Parish Council.

We have had a few changes to the Council in the last year and have welcomed one new, presently serving councillor, Cllr Andrew Palmer.

We have had one Councillor step down recently after a number of years of service to the Council, Mark Holmes, and as a result there is currently a vacancy if anyone is interested in putting their name forward. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mark for his hard work over the years.

I would highlight the year as a challenging one with a number of situations arising that have required funding from the Council. I am however please to say we have met these challenges, and in addition to some unexpected costs have managed to maintain donations to local community projects as well as other Council projects.

In the last year we have continued with the street lighting replacement project, which not only improves the light around the village, but is also more environmentally friendly as it uses less electricity. This then has another benefit to the Council or reduced operating costs.

We have also been carrying out work on the allotments behind the cemetery to improve them. We have installed a new footpath and gate to make the access easier and safer. This was all achieved through additional external funding that the clerk managed to facilitate, as the benefits are for a small number of people even though it does improve the area.

We have a number of planning applications for and around the village, that have taken up quite a lot of time and discussion. These have varied from applications for large building sites to solar farms. Although the Parish Council doesn't have a definitive say in the outcome of these applications we have highlighted certain issues relating to some of these applications, and feel that those comments have been taken on board by the North Yorkshire Planning Department, who do make the decisions in a lot of the cases.

Things planned for the next 12 months

We are looking to renovate the cemetery walls as it was highlighted in a structural survey that they were in desperate need of repointing. The South and West walls being the worst; these will be tackled as a priority.

We will continue with the street light replacement project however we are governed somewhat by North Yorkshire Council's Highways/ Street Lighting Department with regards to timescales.

We are changing the way the electricity supply is provided to the Golden Garden as the standing charge for this supply has increased dramatically, and the supply gets very little use with only Christmas lights and Remembrance Sunday only. We will be continuing to have the Christmas lights and the supply for Remembrance Sunday, but this will be kindly supplied by the owner of Frying Nemo rather than use our existing supply.

I would like to finish my report by thanking my fellow councillors and the clerk for their hard work and time over the last 12 months.