

Chairs Annual Report 2025

2024 /25 has been a very busy year for the parish council. We have achieved a lot in the last 12 months.

1. Following a structural survey of the walls of the cemetery we agreed and appointed a contractor to repoint and rectify any issues with the walls. This has made the walls secure for hopefully a number of decades or longer. I must add that although this was a significant expense we managed to complete this without and loans or additional charges to the council tax precept. This was part funded by the sale of some farm-land that the Parish council owned on the outskirts of the village to the farmer who had been renting it for a number of decades.
2. We improved the allotments with footpaths and a new access gate. With this we managed to secure grants to fund this so the benefit of the few was not paid for by everybody. This has made the allotments more accessible for everybody. A review has also been carried out by the clerk and we have managed to reduce some of the size of the plots to allow more people to have use of them.
3. We have continued with our Streetlight replacement programme in the village. This is replacing the old style streetlight heads with modern LED type. This gives better light but in addition also reduces the ongoing running costs by using less electricity. In the medium to long term these new lights are actually self-funding. We have had a disappointment in the Battery powered lights we provided down convent walk a couple of years ago were stolen. We will be looking into options for this area in the future.
4. We initiated the formation of the Carlton Neighbourhood Development plan. The aim of this plan is to shape how we as a village wish Carlton to develop over the coming years. Once finalised and agreed this will sit with North Yorkshire planning and has to be included in planning decisions made for the village. There have been a series of meetings and an open event in the village hall which was very well attended to get everyone interested. This project is being chaired by Cllr Andrew Palmer who is doing a great job of keeping it all on track and hitting the milestones required. Well done Cllr Palmer. Please keep an eye out for future events to involve everybody from the village.
5. We have supported the village hall with funding over the last year as they have had a change in committee members and have been going through a large number of improvements. I won't go into detail as I am sure they will be highlighting their successes in the local groups update.
6. In addition to the funding we have provided to the village hall with have supported local groups with funding for projects just short of £1000. However, I would like to take this opportunity to state that we do budget for more than this and would encourage groups to continue to look at anything they would like funding for. We have an allowance of £250 twice a year for each group so £500 across 2 projects. Please don't be afraid to ask for funding for things you may need to improve your groups. If in doubt about what you can or can't request funding for then please talk to the clerk or myself.
7. We have also supported a number of events at the Golden garden including remembrance Sunday and carols around the Christmas tree.
8. We have also had a change to the power supply in the golden garden. Previously we took a supply from the network with the electricity supplied by Npower however we then experienced a massive hike in prices which considering we only used it for Christmas lights and for a speaker on remembrance Sunday it was incredibly expensive. We discussed it with the owner of Frying Nemo and she kindly agreed to provide us a supply

from the shop. We funded the groundwork but she paid for the electrical work, which was greatly appreciated and although we have mentioned it in minutes of previous meetings I would like to thank Keely Richardson of the Frying nemo for this.

Noting that should Frying Nemo cease to trade the original electricity supply point is still in place and the supply can revert to that should it be required.

9. We have had a little change of councillors over the last 12 months with Michelle Deller stepping down. (I would like to thank Michelle for her many years of service to the council). We have had 2 new councillors join us (1 to replace Mark Holmes who left just over a year ago) Cllr David Hawe and Cllr Malcolm Hancock. They both come with an varied background and a wealth of experience to bring to the council and would like to officially welcome them.

10. Finally, I would like to highlight 2 people:

Firstly our clerk Helen who has worked incredibly hard over this last year project managing the projects we have had ongoing and the invaluable support to both me and the other councillors.

I would like to mention Mr. Richard Everett, who for a number of years served on this Parish Council, and even after stepping down still attended the Council meetings as a member of the public and fed relevant information into the Council from time to time. Richard also did a lot for the cricket club and the village as a whole.

Richard sadly passed away this month. He will be missed by us all, and I wanted to mention him here in my report to recognise his commitment and passion to this village.