

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY 4th April 2018

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Planning –

An issue during 2017 to 2018 which has concentrated our minds having to deal with a large number of proposals put before us. Despite every effort to oppose planning applications they were approved by the Planning Committee. Currently planning consent awarded within the Parish is 1251+ – this number excludes the smaller number of units applied for on other sites. These major plans are only a part of the large number of other applications which are considered by us; they include extensions, alterations, conversion of farm buildings and plots for smaller numbers of new builds.

Many hours have been spent assessing plans, making representations and holding consultations with developers in an attempt to get the best for our Parish and to prevent errors being made, some due to lack of local knowledge. We have continued our efforts on getting the best possible provision of green space and landscape design. In addition we have addressed the comments passed to us by residents and including them with our observations.

Work undertaken this year has included -

- replacement noticeboard at Killinghall Village (Church Lane)
- maintenance work to improve Church Lane and The Glebe.
- continued to take responsibility from NYCC for highway verge grass cutting within speed limited areas 40mph and less.
- arboriculture inspection of trees within the Glebe
- investigating possibility of installing adult outdoor gym equipment
- preparing for new responsibilities under the GDPR
- training for processing new election procedures
- training for planning procedures
- training for future development of parish council procedures
- attending and making representations at HBC planning committees
- discussions with planners and developers
- trouble shooting complaints and vandalism
- attendance of representatives to YLCA CPRE and Village Hall Meetings.

Highways –

- As stated last year the ever increasing traffic use of the A59, B6161 and A61 continues to give cause for concern. Despite NYCC having carried out traffic surveys they have unfortunately produced results not giving a full picture, as the figures given only cover peak periods. As we all know from experience traffic movements can be a problem any time of the day.
- We recently heard the good news that there will be a light controlled crossing installed on Otley Road near the School. This has been sought for many years by our PC and the school Governors, but the welcome support of parents has resulted in this successful outcome.
- Regular reporting by residents of concerns regarding road maintenance and parking problems are valuable and, where possible, are dealt with as soon as they arise. An example of this is street lighting which the Clerk can report or if preferred an individual can visit the NYCC website and the portal for reporting street lighting faults. The information we receive from residents is very important to us and in most cases which we can direct to the relevant official sources via our Clerk
- The proposals to develop a northern relief road for Harrogate and much needed bypass for Killinghall has concentrated minds of the public, both within and without the Parish. Whether being for or against, only when a decision to go forward and a more definite line on a map are available there is little more that can be done. When and if more details are known, public consultation will take place. Hopefully a suggested route is identified

during the coming year. It must be emphasised that whatever individual views are – either for or against – they must make their voices heard.

- Parking issues in the area of the School have received close attention and resulted in a request for double yellow lines on the access splay to Moor Close. There are serious safety issues concerning egress and access to the estate. The situation may be relieved since approval given for school parking at Manor Farm.

Future topics for attention are :

- proposals for route of by pass
- obtaining additional play equipment on the Glebe
- continuing to absorb and deal with new government legislations

Dog fouling:

- as well as the continuing need to remind folks that there is a ‘dog ban’ on the Glebe, which should at all times be adhered to, albeit there have been reports of folks ignoring ‘the ban’,
- there is a need to identify those who fail to comply with picking up and remind folks that public foot paths and anywhere there is a highway speed restriction – failing to ‘pick up’ is a criminal act
- it would be helpful to remind new neighbours (who may have a dog) of the ruling.

The Glebe

- In addition to dealing with regular maintenance of the Glebe to keep within the Health and Safety Guidelines – it is now becoming obvious that after 12 years of use and the anticipated increased future use, it is in need of upgrading
- it is believed there is a need to further protect the area and there are plans to carry this out, subject to availability of funds
- the care of the Glebe has a financial implication which is a major part of our budget and would require more funds if it were not for the generosity of volunteer input by Cllrs and our residents who assist with keeping the area tidy and weekly emptying of the bins. Their input is much appreciated.

Annual Expenditure

I remind those with access to the internet that financial details are recorded in our minutes and annual statement of accounts on our website: www.killinghallparishcouncil.co.uk
I can confirm there are a number of commitments requiring finance which are essential to meet our responsibilities and set the precept accordingly. For the year 2018-2019 the precept has been increased by 3%. As our Parish grows – doubled by 2035 – there will be more demands on resources.

Acknowledgements

I cannot close this report without mentioning my thanks for the support I have received from council members, my Vice Chairman, and those who represent us on other committees; our County Cllr Michael Harrison, who has been serving as an Executive member of the CC, who regularly keeps us informed, and last, but not least our new Clerk, Mrs Jane Greenwood, her baptism of fire took place August 2017 taking over from Michele Wadsworth who had decided to retire and we wish her and her husband well for the future. Jane has made an enormous contribution to the activities of the Council, developing its admin procedures and is no mean hand when helping out with the number of chores undertaken by the Council. Hopefully she will be with us for many years to come.

Last but by no means least I wish to recognize the amount of work done by our willing volunteers: those on the bin Rota, those who do running repairs and regularly tidy up Church Lane. All of which provide a great saving on resources.

Anne Holdsworth - 4April 2018