

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY – 3rd April 2019

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I start by stating that reporting on the first year of a Parish made up of 3 Wards is a landmark for me. However, following the 2018 election, we do not have a full complement of 10 Councillors and a vacancy remains open for nominations.

The make up of ward representation now is:

Oakdale Ward

(no residents to draw on – one co-opted resident of Killinghall Ward)

Killinghall Moor Ward

(no nominations from the ward – Killinghall Ward residents elected)

Killinghall Ward

(all nominations from Killinghall Ward)

Albeit this report will seem like a repeat of my 2018 Report with updates – unfortunately it is proof of the length of time that actions and decisions take to come to fruition. In particular, issues concerning planning applications that create additional meetings; utilising man hours and causing 'planning fatigue'. It would good to be able to spend more time and effort on innovative benefits for our Parish.

Planning –

A number of applications for large numbers of housing units have now been approved but the planning process continues for each of them with applications to amend Planning Conditions prior to discharge; some include approval of landscape plans, amendments to layout, boundary treatments, drainage, etc. Many of these issues have concentrated our minds, having to deal with the gallimaufry of a large number of proposals and changes put before us. In addition to major applications, there have been a large number of individual and smaller numbers of housing and changes of use being applied for. Applications from both Killinghall Moor and Killinghall Wards for extensions and conversion of garages to residential use have increased.

Another reason for the increase in councillor time spent is the principle for developers to hold informal and non-binding consultation meetings with Parish Councillors. As I stated last year, time spent assessing plans, making representations and holding consultations with developers is an attempt to get the best for our Parish in the event that approval is given and to prevent errors being made, some due to lack of local knowledge. We have continued fight for best possible provision of green space and landscape design. In addition, we have addressed the comments passed to us by residents and included them with our observations. However, not all of our recommendations have been heeded!

Work undertaken this year has included -

- Approximately 60 planning applications considered
- maintenance work to improve The Glebe.
- continuing to take responsibility from NYCC for A and B main highway verge grass cutting within speed limited areas 40mph and less within the parish boundary
- continuing with arboriculture inspection of trees within The Glebe
- working towards and funding for installation of outdoor gym equipment
- resolving new responsibilities under the GDPR
- training for planning procedures
- continuing 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
- appointment of Parish Clerk

Highways –

- As stated last year, the ever increasing traffic use of the A59, B6161 and A61 continues to give cause for concern. After consultation meetings, at which I was invited to participate, the NYCC will be publishing its findings and a survey to seek public views on the way forward. It is essential that everyone makes their views known. I cannot emphasise enough that views are made known – whether for or against – regarding possible new routes which may be designed to improve the whole of our parish and the wider community, then residents must take part.
- We now have the much called-for light controlled crossing installed on Otley Road for the benefit of children attending school and for the safety of all pedestrians. Acknowledgement for this achievement should go to our County Councillor, parents, Governors, Head Teacher and Parish Cllrs, for this much needed facility.
- Regular reporting by residents of concerns regarding road maintenance and parking problems are valuable and, where possible, are processed as soon as they are received. An example of this is street lighting failures which the Clerk can report or, if preferred, an individual can visit the NYCC website and the portal for reporting street lighting faults. In addition, it is now possible to report any highway fault or concern direct, using the NYCC website.
- Drainage issues on the A61, believed to be due to blocked drains, have been a battle for at least 3 years – every time we have heavy rain, water collects and causes distress for pedestrians who usually arrive at their destination in need of a change of clothing! It is believed also that there is a need for damaged underground pipework to be replaced.
- Most recent calls for action are the constant dispersal of dust and mud on the road since the start of the development off Ripon Road. After reporting to Enforcement Officers and drawing attention to Highways, there is little more our Council can do – we have followed procedure and the problem is in the hands of the District Council and NYCC. The constant movement of soil on development sites and HGVs carrying away soil and clay via public highways are seen as health and safety issues – especially for those with respiratory issues.

Future topics for attention are:

- proposals for route of by-pass and awaited results of public consultation
- improved surfacing of The Glebe play area
- continuing to absorb and deal with new government legislation
- provision of additional funding
- continuing to monitor trees with Tree Preservation Orders

Dog fouling:

- as well as the continuing need to remind folks that there is a ‘dog ban’ on The Glebe, which should be adhered to at all times, there have been reports of folks simply 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
- Regulations can be found on the KPC website

The Glebe

- We have been fortunate in securing grant support from The Lottery and our County Councillor's community funding allocation for expenditure within his Division for the installation of adult gym equipment. It is recommended the equipment should not be used by children under the age of 14 years.
- 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 Councillors and our residents who volunteer to assist with keeping the area tidy and weekly emptying of the bins. Their input is much appreciated.
- It should be noted that grant funding is not available for maintenance and replacement equipment, therefore there is a need for funding through our annual precept.

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 Statutory commitments requiring attention which are essential to meet our responsibilities and the need to set the precept accordingly. For the year 2019-2020, the precept has been increased substantially. Albeit over the last 5 years, every effort has been made to maintain our precept, the time has come to build up reserves to pay for renewals and health and safety projects. As our Parish grows – doubled by 2035 – there will be more demands on resources.

Acknowledgements

During 2018 our Clerk found it necessary to resign which was accepted with regret. She left us in November and we wish her well for the future. In December we welcomed the appointment of Helen Strachan and, although on a serious learning curve, we are grateful for her assistance.

My thanks for the support I have received from all council members:

My Vice Chairman, Val Blackburn, who has taken on board the management of the Glebe and is the driving force with the members of the working group;

Those who represent us on other committees;

Last, but not least, our County Cllr Michael Harrison, who has been serving as an Executive member of the CC, he also serves as our District Councillor and regularly keeps us informed and proffers advice.

Finally – hot off the press – congratulations to the Glebe Working Group for securing funding for and the completion of installation of outdoor gym equipment on Monday 1st April (no, not an April Fool's gag!).

Anne Holdsworth – 3rd April 2019