Chairman’s Annual Report

“It was the best of times; it was the worst of times”

Introduction

The Covid-19 pandemic has posed many challenges for the PC in the past year, but the PC has adapted accordingly to ensure that it was “business as usual”.

Hopefully this will be the last of the “Zoom” meetings and in May we will be back meeting on home ground in the village hall.

Councillors

In the past year the makeup of the PC has changed. We welcome Steve and Lindsay Shaw and said thank you to Julie Walker.

Julie gave many years of service to the PC and I, on occasion, tap into her fountain of knowledge of all things Egton.

The PC is now functioning with its full complement of seven councillors. Your councillors are: A Jackson, M Lonsdale, T, Boulton, S Harrison, I Rigby, S, Shaw, L Shaw.

Finances

The upside of the Covid-19 pandemic was that the PC was awarded a “Small Business Rate Relief” of £10.000 against the Egton Bridge Toilets. This was a most welcome addition to our monetary reserves.

Review of Policies, Procedures, Codes and Regulations

The PC is governed by a set of compliance documentation. The documentation has to be formally accepted by the PC at a PC meeting. Over the past year the Clerk, has been putting the documents out for review by the PC for formal acceptance at the PC meetings.

Egton Bridge Toilets

When the Covid-19 lockdown was relaxed, the PC agreed to open the toilets over a weekend. During this period, Cath Dowson kindly agreed to open up and close the toilets as well as cleaning them. The PC advertised for a new cleaner and in September the PC accepted the tender of Maggie Rich who is doing an excellent job of cleaning the Egton Bridge Toilets.

The Covid-19 pandemic required the cleaner’s “Risk Assessment” to be drawn up along with the installation of “Hand Sanitisers” and additional Signage.

The “Donation Boxes” were modified to stop the ingress of rain into the boxes through the money slots. The “Donation Boxes” were also repaired after an attempted break in.

Pete Mesley, the Plumber, has been called out on two occasions to address the soap dispensers and the flushing of the gent’s urinal.

The PC now has a set of spare keys for the toilets.

Monument Field

The fencing on one side of the field was replaced and the fencing on the other three sides, repaired. This made the fence “stock proof”.

A licence was drawn up for Jack Hallam to use the field for sheep grazing.

Village Improvement Scheme

The PC agreed to renew the village entrance signs for Egton and Egton Bridge, after being advised by NYMNPA that costs would be covered through the Village Improvement Scheme. Two signs have already been replaced and the other signs are in the pipeline. They are a vast improvement to the entrances of the village.

Recreation Field

The PC have been looking into the “Fields in Trust” process and this is “on hold” at present, awaiting the approval of the new EPRA lease. If this went ahead a “Deed of Dedication” would be drawn up and this permanently safeguards outdoor recreational spaces, thus providing a tangible legacy for local communities in the knowledge that the site is securely protected for future generations.

The EPRA lease is being prepared by Pinkney Grunwells, who are responding to comments by EPRA on the draft issue of the lease.

Sponser a Seat

All seats in the parish are being sponsored through the “Sponsor a Seat” campaign.

Anglo American – Woodsmith Mine

Anglo American has commenced work at Lady Cross Plantation as part of the Woodsmith Mine project.

The PC has requested a presentation by the NYMNPA covering the Woodsmith Mine S106 agreement in order to identify any projects in the parish that may qualify for funding through the S106 agreement.

Showfield Car Park

The Showfield Car Park was leased by the SBC from Egton Estate up until April 2020, when the operation and maintenance of the car park reverted to Egton Estate.

Egton Estate has indicated that they are looking for contributions towards the annual business rates from the regular users of the car park. This is ongoing.

Egton Egton Bridge Footpath

The deteriorating condition of the Egton Egton Bridge Footpath has been commented on by members of the public.

The PC walked the footpath and took a number of photographs of the critical areas. The photographs have been sent to NYCC Highways who have responded in a positive manner and are in the process of planning a course of action to bring the footpath up to an acceptable standard

Cemetery Path

Complaints from funeral parties as to the condition of the pathway to the cemetery and the Mortuary Chapel were made to the PC. However St Hilda’s PCC are the owners of the pathway and have since agreed for the pathway to be repaired by a local contractor.

The PC are to discuss making a contribution to the path.

Notwithstanding the challenges imposed upon the PC by the Covid-19 pandemic, the PC continued to carry out its responsibilities and dealing with the usual problems.

I would like to put on record my thanks to Christine Harrison, all the Councillors and Maggie Rich for their contributions in the “worst of times”.

Anthony Jackson

Chairman Egton Parish Council April 24th 2021