

**Parish Council Chairman’s Report 2020 - 2021**

To put it mildly, this has been a very strange year, with Covid 19 restricting meetings and normal day to day activities. As a Parish, Bellerby has tried to remain active in local affairs and contribute to the wider community. The Chairman is also Chair on the Richmondshire Partnership Forum for Lower Wensleydale, (despite activities currently being curtailed) and all Councillors and the Clerk attend events and training as needed in line with strategic priorities.

Despite the constraints and restrictions we have managed to make a limited amount of progress

**Main items of note for the Year**

* **Flooding**

* A number of site meetings have been held with representatives of NYCC, their consultants WSP, the MoD and local landowners to consider flood alleviation works. One local landowner has already improved water retention on the catchment by installing ponds, while constructing a new access to their site.
* Leading on from this, the Parish Council have been offered the transfer of ownership of Quarry Heads field, by the Freeholder Trustees. A parish wide consultation on the transfer is currently being undertaken. The intention if transferred is to include this site in flood alleviation works.
* Shelving and Emergency equipment has been purchased, and is in the storage unit kindly provided free of charge by Scott’s Storage.
* **Councillors** Councillor Frank Rycroft retired after over 20 years’ service to the village, and has been replaced by Councillor Jane Dilworth, who will take the lead on some of his responsibilities.
* **Grant Funding** Over the last financial year the Parish Council has received an additional £22,110 in grant funding (on an annual precept of £8,765). An additional 2.5 times over our original budget. The Parish Council will continue to apply for additional funds for the village on identified projects.
* **Memorial Bench** A memorial bench has been installed near the bus stop, and a replacement village bench purchased and is ready for installation. A further memorial bench has been approved for siting on the top green.
* **Telephone Box** The refurbished ‘phone box has now been installed on the village green, and the electricity supply is on-site ready to be connected. This will also enable the connection for the Christmas tree lights to be installed.
* **Unitary Authority.** A response on behalf of the Parish has been submitted regarding the various proposals for a Unitary Authority.
* **The Community Garden** Work on the Community Garden has been slow due to the pandemic (and some adverse weather) however the site is cleared, gates and a noticeboard are ready to install, and the Greenhouse has been delivered and is to be erected the week commencing 24th May.

* **Notice Board** A new noticeboard has been ordered for installation in the Memorial Hall Porch. The village will therefore have two points of notice, along with the newsletter, Village and NYCC websites and Social media, to inform the Parish of relevant information.
* **North Yorkshire County Council -**  Highways have again been approached to improve the level of gritting in the village. Unfortunately they are not able to assist and any contractors that the Parish Council employs will need prior approval by Highways.
* **Best Kept Village** Bellerby will again enter the Rotary Club ‘Best Kept Village’ competition, if it goes ahead this year. A litter pick and general tidy will be arranged before judging for this and any ‘Open Garden’ event that may be organised.
* **Annual General Meeting** This will be an ‘actual’ rather than a ‘virtual’ meeting to be held in the Memorial Hall on Monday 17th May at 7.30 pm.

John Hutchinson 3rd May 2021