Chairman’s Report Annual Parish Meeting 2022

Last year’s report started by explaining of the problems created by coronavirus and although things have got a little better, we are still faced with some of the problems of the pandemic.

However our working party dealing with the bus issue are continuing to hold meetings with Thornes and the other Parish and Town Councils in the hopes of retrieving some extra services.

At the moment though the subsidy would be £35 for every extra journey or £70 to Selby and back to Hemingbrough.
We are aware that the majority of our residents who use the bus have bus passes, but what you may not be aware of is that Thornes are not reimbursed by North Yorkshire Council for that fare.

It can only be a temporary measure for all the Councils to subsidise the extra services which cannot be continued unless passenger numbers are such that it pays for itself.

If the fact of the bus service wasn’t bad enough, we have had to contend with the closure of the Doctors Surgery, a working party was formulated to try to counter this but despite their valiant efforts unfortunately failed.
Most of the residents who use Posterngate Surgery have transferred their prescriptions to Pinfold Pharmacy at Brackenholme who deliver to the door free of charge and as yet the council have not heard of any complaints.
The working party are still in talks with York Clinical Care Group, who are looking into the feasibility of new premises for a Branch Surgery, after all the surgery was closed because it was not fit for purpose?

Last year I spoke about registering the Memorial Garden, Hagg Lane Green, Water Lane Pond Green and several pieces of land around the village all as village assets we also registered Oxbow Green and are still awaiting for the registration of Oldways.
All these Greens need to be maintained by the Parish Council and local volunteers, I would like to thank all those who come and assist, and your help is very much appreciated. During lockdown these areas have been worth their weight in gold, the amount of residents using them has more than trebled. The new footpath laid in the Oldways urgently needs resurfacing with mulch, we have an amount of mulch and hope to make a start shortly, and volunteers will be welcomed.

The Parish Council formulated a further Working Group to work alongside the new secretary of the Hagg Lane Green Conservation Group (HLGCG) and hopefully the Council will be in a situation to restore their yearly grant. The Working Group along with the HLGCG will be formulating a ten year maintenance plan which will also be in conjunction with Selby Planning. There are several diseased trees we are aware of that need to be replaced during this period.

Finally over the last year, two of our Parish Councillors Liz Carstairs and Jane Freaks have left due to other commitments, although they have both volunteered to help pruning and mulching. I am sure it goes without saying that the whole Council thank them for their commitment and friendship, and we also extend these thanks to Julie our long serving Clerk of over ten plus years and hope that she will continue for many more years.