Statement to Parish Meeting 18th May 2023

The last year has been a very busy year, we lost one of our new councillors Elena McDuff who was an excellent and dedicated Councillor and thank her for her service. Then we gained one, Sally Fox who is also a dedicated and excellent Councillor and we welcome her to the Council.

Our bus working party of Joanne Robbins, myself and Elena McDuff were overtaken by political events, the increase in fuel prices and Thornes losing a contract, the Council don’t have anything like the funds to subsidise the service.
We have not lost contact with Thornes and will keep abreast of the situation.

Another major problem was the closure of the Doctors surgery, our working party of Cllrs Stuart Bennett, Liz Ryan, Joanne Robbins and Elena McDuff worked tirelessly to save the surgery, unfortunately as we can now see nationwide, staffing was the real problem not the building.
What was achieved though was transport to and from the Posterngate surgery via the Association of Voluntary service AVS based at Community House in Selby. Full details of this service is available in the latest Parish Council newsletter.
And most patients are now using Pinfold Pharmacy at Brackenholme.

Hagg Lane Green has also being creating problems, having an overall tree preservation order covering the complete green due to being a conservation area a planning application was required. Joanne and Elena had been working along with the Hagg Lane Green Group to put together a plan to cut back shrubbery and branches that were encroaching the walkway, the Hagg Lane Green Group formulated a planning application that was unfortunately rejected by Selby Planning. So we need to start on a new application and hopefully this next month.

The good news is that we have made a start on Oxbow Green, we started by cleaning the cycle track and footpath on both sides of Hull Road. This allowed us to break into Oxbow Green and make an entrance using the soil cleared from the paths. I would like to thank all the Councillors that turned out to assist in this task and all the local volunteers, from Hemingbrough John Sedman, Mandy Moss, Susannah Foxley and from Cliffe Andy Pulleyne and Mick Dunham. Just while I am thanking our volunteers I would like to thank Liz Carstairs, Mandy Moss and John Sedman for assisting Cllr Les Stebbings in pruning the Memorial Garden rose trees and Peter Parish for refurbishing the benches there, thank you all.
New Councillor Sally Fox who some of you will know, is active on litter, Sally has organised two litter picks in the village with local residents volunteering to assist. Unfortunately when litter picking the Oldways she encountered Dog mess in bags hanging from the bushes. Sally wants to stamp out dog mess in the village. So Sally has put herself forward to spend time solving this problem. She has been given a stencil to paint a reminder on the pavements around the village, if you would like a dog poo reminder stencil near where you live please contact Sally our Dog Mess Tsar.

The Village Green between St Marys Avenue and Ferry Close fondly known to Councillors as The Land with No Name, is as you may notice being tidied up by Cllr Stuart Bennett, he is formulating a Hedgehog friendly wild meadow at the north end, which I think will spread over the whole area?

The Oldways is used by everyone in the Village, we can see this by the fact that it needs mulching again and again, trouble is keeping up with it. I think the Council need to look at something more substantial and hard wearing. In the meantime however we do have a limited supply of mulch and hopefully we can get organised to spread it over the next month.

Tomorrow afternoon 19th May Councillors will be holding a site meeting with Dykes and Drainages at Oxbow Green. The meeting is to formulate a way forward over the dyke which runs through the Green from Main Street to the fields in the West.
This is a major dyke which accommodates all the water from the North side of Hull Road, we need to come up with a plan that alleviates any danger to the public when entering the Green.

Finally I would like to thank all of the residents that I haven’t mentioned Including Colin Chilvers who cuts the grass in Oldways and Inner Moor Lane, Stuart Barber who repaired the door on the library and all who have assisted in some of our ongoing projects including Pam Dorsey who looks after our venue and of course Julie the Parish Clerk.