

Cliffe Parish Council

Chairman's Report 2024

Good evening and welcome everyone, including Parish and North Yorkshire Councillors, and especially any members of the public present.

This Chairman's report covers the last year since the Annual meeting in May 2023.

The Parish Council undertakes a number of services within the Parish and I would like to look back at what has been achieved over the last year through the efforts of all our councillors and members of the public, as well as looking forward to the future with planned projects and objectives.

I have compiled the list of brief highlights below to give an overview of the projects, challenges and achievements the Parish Council has made over the last year:

- Continued utilisation of the village speed sign (with survey facility), including four installation locations (A63 eastbound, A63 westbound, York Road northbound & York Road southbound). This has been used to good effect, highlighting areas of concern for speeding vehicles, and providing data to the authorities for consideration in future speed monitoring efforts,
- Village website, which continues to be an essential source of informative information,
- Maintenance of the parish street lighting network, including upgrading to the new LED type whenever an old type fails.
- Grass Maintenance, ensuring the grassed areas within the Parish are maintained in a healthy condition, are free from litter and competition from weed growth.
- Monitoring of public footpaths throughout the parish, ensuring landowners are reminded of their responsibilities to keep them clear,
- Liaison with Highways on issues such as road surfaces, signage and pathways,
- We have provided funding to a number of organisations within the Parish in recent years, including:
 - Cliffe VC Primary School
 - Cliffe Pre-School
 - Cliffe Playing Fields Association
 - Cliffe Village Institute
 - Cliffe Community Fundraising Group
- Monitoring of issues regarding water drainage in the village, collating comments from residents and approaching authorities/utility providers with the aim of resolving issues,
- Monitoring of HGV traffic along York Road, contacting local businesses and haulage contractors, reminding them of the 7.5t weight limit through the village and offering alternative routes to be taken.
- Maintenance of the footpath through Broad Lane Wood,
- Completion of the village green extension to the village institute, including rectification work on the new culvert, re-routing of pathway, grassing the newly created space and adding fencing/gates etc We have had teething issues with the culvert end wall needing to be re-built by the contractors a couple of times, but all seems to be fine now.
- Additional space provided for the 'little library' on the village green, allowing for larger children's books to be included.
- Clearance of overgrown pathways alongside the A63 from Lund to Cliffe & onwards towards Hemingbrough (with traffic control provided by North Yorkshire Highways)
- Surveying local residents regarding numerous issues over the years regarding noise/vibration from speed bumps on York Road. These will be replaced with 'ghost' type within the coming year.
- Incorporated (PC funded) Primary School artwork projects into a commemorative area, including a bench, for the King's Coronation within the new village green extension.
- Begun work on improving the surface of Oxen Lane, initially by clearing overhanging trees.

As evidenced from this list of highlights, a significant amount has been achieved over the last 12 months. There are also a number of additional activities which are 'ongoing', and which are mentioned later in this report.

The Police Community officer reports rarely mention Cliffe due to there being no crimes reported. Whilst not claiming credit for this, it is important to note that the Parish Council plays a big part in helping to tackle local crime by facilitating information sharing, making sure the police reports are accurate and representative and in supporting members of the public who are experiencing local issues such as antisocial behaviour. The Chairman has met with the community officer on several occasions this year, including the Parish Council hosting a drop-in' event at the Village Institute which provided residents with the ability to speak to officers and raise any concerns or receive any crime prevention advice.

Thanks go to Andrew Pulleyne, who over the last couple of years has provided valuable practical advice on a number of projects undertaken, and especially his volunteer work utilising his plant equipment on projects such as the pathway clearance along the A63. He decided to step down as a Parish Councillor at the beginning of 2024 but is still as willing as ever to help the Parish Council practically in any way he can (already evidenced by his continued help/advice regarding Oxen Lane drainage).

Thank you to Cllr Howard Cross for his ongoing commitments to the Mary Waud Trust and Cliffe Combined Charities, together with collation of documentation regarding the land owned by the Parish Council.

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Thank you to Cllr John Jewitt, who has also provided manpower and equipment/vehicles to aid in a number of projects this year, planting/watering of new/replacement trees.

Thank you to Cllr Jon Wallinger for maintaining the excellent village website (www.cliffevillage.com) which provides the Parish with news, updates, links, parish council minutes, councillor details etc. This is a fantastic resource and a huge amount of personal effort has gone in to keep this updated to Jon's high standards. Jon has also done many pieces of research for a number of ongoing issues, including recently liaising with Yorkshire Water regarding drainage issues in the village.

Thank you to Cllr Andrew Holman for his continued work on the Drax steering group and for supporting me in his role of Vice-Chairman;

Thanks to Councillor Ralph Woodall for his work with the village flag pole on the village green, still ahead of the game when it comes to having the right flag for the right occasion flying in the correct manner;

Thank you to Cllr Paul Maw for representing the council at Cliffe Village Institute and Cliffe Playing Field Association Committees and always voicing the opinions of residents whenever he has been asked to do so;

The Parish Council has been strengthened this year by the addition of two new councillors, Cllr Emma Yates and Cllr Simon Gummerson. Already they have both shown how their pro-active approaches and positive attitudes will be an asset to the Parish Council, bringing knowledge and skills from their professional careers to benefit the community. Welcome both.

I'd like to thank North Yorkshire Councillor Karl Arthur for his hard work and support for our Parish, including providing funding from his locality budget for Parish Council projects.

Thank you to our clerk Julie Leighton-Eshelby for all her hard work and dedication to this Parish Council, I appreciate your knowledge, guidance and help. On behalf of the Parish Council and the Parish, thank you Julie.

I must also thank our 'handyman', Alan Parker, who helps us with his practical craftsman skills repairing and maintaining fences, bridges, notice boards & seats etc.

Thanks also go to John Wedgwood, who decided to step down from his role as grass maintenance contractor. During his tenure the grassed areas of the village were cut and well maintained. His successor has a hard act to follow. As such, I wish the new contractor, Jeremy Massey, all the very best in his endeavours this year keeping our village looking smart.

The next year promises to be as challenging as ever, with a number of new and existing projects and objectives on the list, including (but not limited to):

- Continue working with North Yorkshire Highways in order to resolve the two main issues of speeding and illegal HGV use along York Road.
- Implementation of the replacement of York Road speed bumps with the 'ghost' painted type,
- Conduct work on improving the surface of Oxen Lane and prevent future flooding, which has been a regular occurrence during the winter months for many years. Following overhanging tree clearance, drainage will be installed before finally improving the lane surface itself.
- Reviewing & resolving water / waste / flooding issues throughout the village, especially around the village Institute / Pre-School area,
- Ensuring Highways issues such as road surfaces, signage and pathways are maintained,
- Ensuring public footpaths are clear and available to all whilst ensuring they are used properly and responsibly by raising awareness of where the public can and cannot walk, whilst respecting the land, land owners and wildlife (follow the country code),
- Continue to support groups, organisations and charities in the Parish and those representing the parish,

That concludes the Chairman's report for this year. If I have missed anything or anyone then please accept my apologies. I look forward to working with you all going forwards in the future for the benefit of the Parish and its Parishioners.



Gary Wilson (Chairman, Cliffe Parish Council)
13th May 2024