Cawood Parish Council Annual Report, May 2019

The Parish Council’s work this year commenced without the involvement of the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, Mrs Robina Burton, whose long-term absence prevented her from attending. We are pleased to report she has since made a welcome recovery and return.

“Communication” was reviewed and actions in response to that encompassed “The Cardinal” ceasing publication, the launch of a new website (cawoodvillage.org.uk), a new Facebook page and the proposed replacement of the main Parish Council noticeboard outside the Pickled Postie. A grant from NYCC has enabled the Parish Council to commission two noticeboards, one of which will be for community use.

The 42S bus service contract changed providers in April 2019. A new Parish Transport Initiative has enabled underwriting of a 42 service for Saturday evenings and Sundays to guarantee the service for another two years. The Parish Council are part of the consortium co-ordinated by Selby District Councillor, John Cattanach.

Bridge works were undertaken in the Autumn involving major repairs by N.Y.C.C. over an extended closure period. The contractors finished within their time frame and the Parish Council thanked them for their courtesy and consideration during a job well done.

Ongoing matters of concern relate to dog fouling, parking and anti-social behaviour. The Parish Council annually spends several hundreds of pounds on the provision of biodegradable dog poo bags and bins. Another new bin is currently on order, to be placed on Ings Lane. Double yellow lines have finally been applied opposite North Terrace entrance. Residents are reminded to report any anti - social behaviour to 101 to enable community police to establish a village profile.

On a more positive note, volunteers helped clear bull rushes from the Garth pond and joined litter picks in the Autumn and Spring. It is hoped to establish these as regular community initiatives run by the Parish Council. The Parish Council now owns litter picking equipment to facilitate the latter. The Garth has also had tree works undertaken and the grass cut and removed.

The Old Boys’ School has had gable end repairs, been re-painted internally, new chairs purchased and storage issues addressed. Parking for users however continues to raise problems.

The Parish Council were unsuccessful in persuading Selby District Council to agree to the re-siting of a mast for smart meter technology outside the immediate village.

Cemetery regulations have been re-visited following several local enquiries. Whilst the Parish Council owns the cemetery, Selby District Council administers it.

Local children’s groups were involved in an autumn daffodil bulb planting initiative across areas of the village. The village community has also been brought together in the commemoration of the centenary of the end of the First World War when the beacon was lit and a plaque, provided by the Parish Council, with names of the fallen not on the original roll of honour was installed in All Saints Church.

The Parish Council was pleased to support the Christmas Tree Festival organised by the Church, and more recently the Tour de Yorkshire saw the Parish Council instigate village decorations involving many metres of bunting.

Throughout the year, the village continues to be ably looked after with grass cutting, work to trees owned by the P.C. and general maintenance undertaken through the diligence of Mr Martin Bates. A tree survey of Gill Green has been commissioned by the Parish Council and works will re-commence on the Garth after the bird nesting season.

A housing needs survey undertaken by S.D.C. was supported by the Parish Council in order to identify whether there is a need for affordable housing within the village.

The Parish Council continues to deal with planning, highways, footpath and health and safety issues within the village and has repeatedly asked for clarification on the Environment Agency’s flood defence survey but has received no response to date.

This year was an election year which saw an uncontested election take place. Councillor Jeremy Noott resigned earlier in the year, in August, and Councillor Martin Ward retired in May after eight years on the Parish Council. The Parish Council thank them both for their hard work.

L.D., C.S. May 2019