

CLERK'S ANNUAL REPORT
MAY 2019 – MAY 2020

Parish Council elections took place in May 2019 & Cawood Parish Council had an uncontested election as 9 candidates stood for the 9 places. At the Annual Parish Council meeting, Cllr Lesley Dennon was elected Chairman & Cllr Ron Wharmby elected Vice Chair. Sadly, Mrs Shelagh Elcock's resignation was brought before the August meeting & following the vacancy being advertised, Mr Martin Ward was co-opted on to the Council.

Throughout the year Councillors have attended several training courses: New Councillor and New Chairman training; Budget & Finance; Council Duties, Powers & Policies; Internal Audit Processes; Employment; Risk Assessment & Management. Latterly, training courses have been online or webinar courses.

The PC appointed the services of a Payroll Provider & Autela Payroll Services Ltd now produce all payslips & deal with tax & NI payments.

The Clerk registered the Parish Council with NYCC's Parish Portal. This is a new system of reporting any problems within the Parish, such as faulty streetlights, flooding issues, overgrown vegetation, highway or pavement difficulties, etc.

An ongoing highway problem is that of HGVs coming through the village from Sherburn in their attempt to get to the A19. Cllr Dickinson produced a report and the PC has suggested NYCC adopt this as a solution to the issue, including putting signage before Long Lane and also Biggin Crossroads, both with instructions to turn right for access to the A19 and A63 and M62 to avoid the village and create an escape route.

Tree surveys have been carried out on PC owned trees in the following areas of the village: the Cemetery, Gill Green & Playing Fields. Issues raised are addressed over time having due regard to bird nesting season and other constraints.

Councillors carried out a survey of PC assets, creating an up to date Asset Register.

Earlier in the year, the school approached the Council asking if Year 6 pupils could be involved in looking after the Castle Garth as part of a community incentive. In May the Guardians of the Garth & Gill Green was successfully launched. Cllrs Dennon & Dickinson liaised with staff and the project continued with the new class in September.

The Parish Council thanks all the volunteers who took part in the village litter pick & the volunteers who helped display the bunting to celebrate the Tour de Yorkshire coming through the village. Cawood looked wonderful with many residents and organisations all decorating the village for the latter. The Spring Litter Pick was cancelled due to the pandemic and high water levels meant the Garth pond wasn't cleared of Reed Mace this year.

The Parish Council adopted all necessary statutory policies including the Disciplinary Policy, Sickness & Absence Policy, Equal Opportunities Policy, Freedom of Information procedure, Website Policy, Records Management Policy, Model Publication Scheme, etc.

Villagers are reminded that placing gates from private properties on to the Castle Garth or Playing Fields must be considered as trespass. Any villager who has placed a gate on to these areas is asked to remove it.

As a member of the Parish Transport Initiative, the Parish Council agreed to continue to contribute towards the Arriva 42 bus service to enable Saturday evening and Sunday services to run. Flooding and the pandemic have seriously impacted on the scheme this year with services being suspended.

The new Rural Housing Enabler for the Selby District has involved the Parish Council, with reference to a report produced early last year which identified the need for approximately 12 properties across a mixture of tenure, to identify possible sites in Cawood.

The retiring Cawood in Bloom Committee asked the PC take over the running and organisation of Cawood in Bloom, including its finances, taking effect from January 2020. The launch of Cawood Grows Together had to be postponed due to the pandemic.

David Jones and the Liddle family were thanked for decorating the sycamore in front of the Banqueting Hall as the village Christmas tree. The Parish Council also expressed thanks to Mr & Mrs Barker Grimshaw for allowing use of the tree in their garden on Thorpe Lane and for supplying electricity for the lights displayed there.

Thanks to Mike Cowling for organizing the New Year Firework fundraising quiz on 30 December and for organizing the New Year firework display which took place on 31 December on the Foreshore with the assistance of several volunteers.

The Parish Council Website has had a successful first year following its launch last April, with over 16,000 visitors having made over 66,000 visits. It was particularly well used during the prolonged flooding in Spring, with over 1000 hits in a week. <https://cawoodvillage.org.uk/>

Owing to the Coronavirus pandemic, closure of the Old Boys' School, Pavillion, Play Area & Skate Park (with some since re-opening) have been managed in response to the situation and a grant was given to facilitate setting up a village food bank. Following national guidelines for social distancing the Parish Council meeting due to be held on 19 March 2020 was cancelled and since then meetings have been held online, with fortnightly conference calls in between meetings. The annual Parish Council meeting in May was held virtually but the annual Parish Meeting was unable to take place. This Clerk's Annual Report will be posted in lieu and it is expected the next annual Parish Meeting will be held in May 2021.