CAWOOD PARISH COUNCIL CLERK’S ANNUAL REPORT, MAY 2021

The Parish Council bade a fond farewell last October to Mrs Robina Burton, who was Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer for 30 years. Mrs Susie Gowlett was appointed by the Parish Council as new Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer in January 2021. Sadly, James Dickinson left the Parish Council: his contribution over the years has been very much appreciated. Tony Horsfield was welcomed when co-opted as a new Councillor.

Mrs Gowlett has undertaken induction training, financial year end and AGAR training, and looks forward to completing GDPR and FOI training in the near future. Throughout the year Councillors have also attended several training courses: Grant Funding; Appraisal; Planning; Risk Assessment; New Councillor Induction. All of this year’s training has been online or webinar courses.

The Parish Council now uses online banking for all transactions, and Autela Payroll Services Ltd continue to produce all payslips and deal with tax and NI payments.

The ongoing highway problem of HGV’s coming into the village has now been escalated to the Police Commissioner, following various attempts to obtain a response from North Yorkshire County Council.

Throughout the year, the village continues to be ably looked after by the Handyman, Mr Martin Bates with grass cutting, work to trees owned by the PC and general maintenance undertaken.

Coppicing to the Willow Trees around the Garth Pond has been completed, as per advice from the tree report. Log piles were left to encourage wildlife, and a sign purchased and sited explaining the different wildlife that may be seen. A new tree report is now due and quotes are being sourced for this work. Wood chippings from the Willow coppicing were donated for use at the Allotments.

A lovely new area on the Playing Field has been added next to the play area, by Mr Bates, using the logs left from the Willow coppicing to make toadstools and stepping stones for the children to play on. An additional area has been added with logs for climbing and sitting on.

New signage has been purchased and sited in the Garth, and purchased for the Playing Field, to be sited shortly.

Continuing input from the Guardians of the Garth & Gill Green saw children from Cawood CE Primary School paint log ends, which have been distributed around the Garth, along with a recent purchase of rubbing plaques, which the children will help make into a nature trail. Sadly, vandalism occurred and a number of the log ends have been damaged, some stolen, and some thrown in the Garth pond; the Parish Council is currently working to fix and re-site those which it is possible to save.

Sadly we no longer have use of the Sycamore in front of the Banqueting Hall as our village Christmas tree, but a new location near the mini-roundabout off Broad Lane proved popular. Mr & Mrs Grey were thanked for the use of their electricity for the lights on the village Christmas Tree; the Spinks family were thanked for their donation of the tree, and Mr Smales thanked for the donation of the lights. Mr and Mrs Barker Grimshaw were thanked for allowing the use of the tree in their garden on Broad Lane and for supplying the electricity for the lights displayed there.

Owing to the ongoing Coronavirus Pandemic the Old Boys’ School, Pavillion, Play Area & Skate Park have continued to be managed in response to the situation. Some reopening has now taken place, and plans are underway to continue the reopening as per government guidelines, as soon as it is safe to do so. Many of the community activities, such as the Spring Litter Pick have again had to be cancelled due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. The biggest casualty, however, has been the Parish Transport Initiative which has been unable to continue. Funding is under review, but unless passenger capacity can be increased, its short term future remains untenable.

Flooding occurred following ongoing rainfall at the beginning of 2021, and the Parish Council sent their thanks to the village flood wardens and the Internal Drainage Board for their continued hard work. The PC contacted the relevant companies with regard to issues within the pumping station, the radial gate on Bishopdyke, and to request a gravity feed is installed on Cawood Ings. Correspondence continues.

Ongoing matters of concern relate to dog fouling and anti-social behaviour. The Parish Council annually spends over £900.00 on the provision of biodegradable dog waste bags and bins and investigation over the siting of an additional bin is currently taking place.

A new community police officer has been assigned to Cawood, we look forward to receiving monthly reports again, in time for our monthly Parish Council meetings. Residents are reminded to report any anti-social behaviour to 101 to enable community police to establish a village profile.

The Old Boys’ School has had repairs to the guttering and the roof.

Cawood Grows Together initiated the planting of Snowdrops along the tarmac path in the Garth, running from Broad Lane to Sherburn Street and we look forward to next Spring when they next bloom. Cawood Grows Together also invited the community to ‘adopt a planter’, be a "friend of the Foreshore" and the like. Many of our residents, and their families have taken these on, or shared plants, and we look forward to seeing what has been planted in the coming months. The Family Tree, and Sherwood’s Fire Wood were thanked by the PC for their kind donations of plants and planters.

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic all meetings have taken place remotely, however after May 7th, 2021 the future of remote meetings has not been determined, so we await further information, and are currently unable to advise how meetings will be undertaken following this date.