CAWOOD PARISH COUNCIL CLERK’S ANNUAL REPORT, MAY 2022

The year has been busy for the Parish Council. Following the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions a lot of the work that had been delayed or put on hold has now been organized, or is in the process of being organized.

Following her first year in post, Mrs Gowlett has completed two Nimble courses, GDPR and Freedom of Information, along with the role of internal audit webinar, and finding, understanding and applying legislation webinar. She is now enrolled on the ILCA course and will move on to the CILCA on completion of this. Throughout the year councillors have attended AGAR training, Committees and Delegation Webinar, and Public Rights of Way Webinar.

The Parish Council continues to use online banking for all transactions, and Autela Payroll Services Ltd to produce all payslips, and deal with tax and National Insurance payments.

The longstanding highway problem of HGV’s coming into the village has now improved, thanks to North Yorkshire County Council agreeing to new and improved signage, with all signs now in place, and the Parish Councils request for an additional one accepted and ordered. The Parish Council thank Mr James Dickinson, a village resident, and ex-councillor for his assistance in this matter.

A speed survey on both Bishopdyke and Wistowgate has taken place. Councillor Andrew Lee, and North Yorkshire County Council have kindly supplied funding towards a speed sign. The best location is currently being discussed for this, with the help of North Yorkshire County Council highways department, along with other measures that may help calm traffic into the village.

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. In particular the construction of a new fence at the playing fields has very much improved the area.

Tree works throughout the village continue, with permission sought from Selby District Council where necessary. The Horse Chestnut trees on Broad Lane and the Silver Birch on Chestnut Road are all due works at the end of the summer, as per advice from the Royal Horticultural Society as to the best time to complete work. A large Ash tree at the Playing Fields sadly has Ash Dieback, Selby District Council refused the Parish Council permission to remove the tree due to concerns for public safety.

The Guardians of the Garth & Gill Green continue to involve children from Cawood CE Primary School with the care of the land. The rubbing plaques have now been placed to make a nature trail, and seed bombs provided to allow wildflower growth.

Following the sad loss of use of the Sycamore in front of the Banqueting Hall, the Parish Council again erected a tree near the mini-roundabout off Broad Lane. 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 the lights donated by Mr Smales in 2020 were used again in 2021. 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. The Parish Council are investigating the possibility of planting a tree in the area for future years, and are awaiting an updated quote from North Yorkshire County Council for an electricity supply.

Support was sought from Mr Nigel Adams MP to resolve the issues within the pumping station, following flooding at the beginning of 2021. Thanks to Mr Adams, and Dr Howard Ferguson the situation that had gone on for some years has now been resolved, ownership clarified and maintenance completed.

Reports of anti-social behaviour to the Parish Council have reduced in the past year, although sadly the monthly police reports have ceased even though the Parish Council requested that they continued, so any reports made to the Police Force are no longer shared with the Parish Council or community. Residents are reminded to report any anti-social behaviour to 101.

Dog fouling continues to be a concern, with over £1500.00 spent over the year on the provision of biodegradable dog waste bags and bins. An additional bin has now been ordered through Selby District Council, and fitting is imminent. The Parish Council has also ordered and received stickers for the waste bag dispensers to encourage people to only take what they need, in an attempt to reduce the cost.

A meeting with Cawood Feoffment Estate Charity took place, following it being deferred due to Covid-19, and agreement has been made that works to the Old Boys’ School will be completed by them. This is in the early stages currently but the Parish Council and the Feoffees are keen to work together to ensure the Old Boys’ School is updated and modernized to ensure its use for the community for years to come.

Cawood Grows together continues, with many residents tending their adopted planters, some have sadly been left untended and residents are encouraged to contact the Parish Council if they are able to adopt a planter, and help to keep the village looking lovely.

A third village defibrillator has been ordered, to be sited at the Playing Fields, the Parish Council thanks Councillor John Cattanach, and Selby District Council for their generous funding of both the defibrillator and the cabinet.

In April 2022 Cawood Parish Council took back control and management of the village cemetery from Selby Town Council after many years, the Clerk is due to complete cemetery management training in July, and the Parish Council thank Selby Town Council for their management over the years, and their support in the hand-over back to the Parish Council.

The Parish Council have planned a village celebration for the upcoming Queen’s Platinum Jubilee, with the lighting of the beacon, parade and village garden party. For longer term recognition the Parish Council have planted 3 new trees in the Playing Field, and erected a commemorative plaque, and are in the process of protecting the Garth, Gill Green and the Playing Fields through Fields in Trust.