

CAWOOD PARISH COUNCIL CLERK'S ANNUAL REPORT, MAY 2023

The year has been busy for the Parish Council, and the village. It has seen a procession and whole village celebration for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, a celebration for the 150th anniversary of the opening of Cawood bridge hosted by the Cawood Castle Garth Group and a walking trail "In the footsteps of Kings, Queens and Archbishops" to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. We also suffered the sad passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Jude Bevan-Green left the Parish Council and Chris Lunn was welcomed as a new Councillor. Their input to the Parish Council, and a number of the committees is already greatly appreciated.

Following her second year in post, Mrs Gowlett has completed the ICCM cemetery management training, year end and audit training, and the ILCA course. In 2024, she will undertake the CILCA course. Mrs Gowlett has also now taken over the management of the cemetery, and bookings for the Old Boys' School.

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. A new bank account has now been opened with Lloyds, as HSBC have added monthly charges for their services. The HSBC account will be closed in due course.

Following the speed survey in 2022, the Vehicle Activated Sign is now in use on Wistowgate; thanks to Councillor Andrew Lee and North Yorkshire Council for their funding towards this.

The Parish Council supported action against the proposed new large scale development, "Heronby", which they felt would have a seriously detrimental impact on traffic through the village and consequent bridge usage.

At the Playing Fields an adult gym has been installed; many thanks to the National Lottery Community Funding and Councillor Cattnach's North Yorkshire Council contribution. The Parish Council have also purchased an accessible picnic bench and an additional toddler bench, both of which will be fitted in the upcoming weeks. The Cawood Players kindly provided the funding for a new three-seater toddler springer, and a seesaw was funded by the Playing Fields Liaison Committee and North Yorkshire Council through Cllr Cattnach's locality funding. The Parish Council are most grateful for all support enabling the provision of these items.

A donation of £500 was made to the village by Two Brothers Pictures, following filming in the village. Residents were asked to contact the Parish Council with ideas of how the donation could be spent. The Parish Council received suggestions from two residents and investigation into costs and feasibility is ongoing.

A Deed of Dedication has now been taken out through Fields in Trust to preserve the Garth as a public open space, and a deed is planned for the Playing Fields and Gill Green also, in the upcoming weeks.

Throughout the year, the village continues to be ably looked after by our Handyman, Martin Bates, with grass cutting, work to trees owned by the PC and general maintenance undertaken. The Parish Council values the hard work he completes on behalf of the village and thank him for doing such a brilliant job.

Tree works throughout the village continue, with permission sought from North Yorkshire Council where necessary. Due to concerns for public safety, the Parish Council continue to request

permission for the felling of the large Ash tree at the Playing Fields which has Ash Dieback. To date, North Yorkshire Council have not granted permission.

The Parish Council have recently received permission from English Heritage to plant a new Oak Tree in the Garth, to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III.

The Guardians of the Garth & Gill Green continue to involve children from Cawood CE Primary School with the care of the land. Recently a number of bird houses, and bug and bee hotels have been placed in the Garth, Playing Fields and Cemetery to encourage insects and wildlife.

There have been a small number of reports anti-social behaviour and crimes in the village in the year including the theft of a ride on lawn mower and three bikes. There has also been graffiti on the pumphouse and eggs thrown at houses. The monthly police reports were never reinstated, but the Parish Council has joined the community messaging which shares issues in the local area. Residents are reminded to report any anti-social behaviour to 101.

Dog fouling continues to be a concern, with the Parish Council still providing dog waste bags and bins in an attempt to encourage people to be responsible and clean up after their animals. Dog faeces in the Garth continues to pose a problem. This is officially designated a "Site of Interest for Nature Conservation" and the grass has to be cut and removed annually as part of its maintenance. The use of the grass as fodder is jeopardised by faeces and thus proving costly to manage.

Following the Parish Council's meeting with the Cawood Feoffment Estate Charity, an update is still awaited on the refurbishment of the Old Boys' School. The Feoffees are invited to the Old Boys' School Management Committee meetings and have sent a representative when they are able to.

Cawood Grows Together continues, although repairs to planters will not be completed as sadly a large number of the adopted planters go uncared for. The Cemetery has recently been planted with several hundred spring bulbs. Thanks go to Councillor Dennon and Councillor Shepherd who continue to work tirelessly to help to keep the village looking lovely.