

REVIEW OF THE YEAR May 2024 Annual Parish Meeting

Opening remarks

Thank-you all for coming along tonight, it is appreciated by us all. We are lucky in Shipton that we have many willing, talented and enthusiastic volunteers who take an active part in village life, helping to enrich the experience of everyone who chooses to live in or visit the village.

Your Parish Councillors are the first rung in our local democracy, and I thank them for their work and diligence in ensuring everything runs smoothly (or as smooth as we can make it!). In particular, I would like to thank our Parish Clerk, Megan Remmer, who tirelessly actions our legal obligations – and there are many – and acts as a lynchpin for keeping us all on the ‘straight and narrow’.

A big thank-you as well to the organisations and individuals we have here this evening, and who have agreed to update us on issues which impact the village in one way or another.

I'll just focus on a quick review of some of the main themes which have occupied us in the last 12 months or so, my first year as your Parish Council Chair.

Highways / Road Safety:

Road safety and speeding is a perennial issue which we look at virtually every meeting.

In June last year, we met with our North Yorkshire Cllr and Highways representative from North Yorkshire Council for a village walk through to outline some aspects of work required. We have told NYC our priorities, and we confirmed the request for a pelican or zebra crossing.

We wrote to Highways in November, to request that the traffic Island near garage development is not removed. Sadly it was of course, and Highways provided evidence that large vehicles like refuse lorries would have run over the pavement if it were left in place when exiting the new Townsend Close (incidentally, named after the architect of our Parish Church).

In February, the Clerk provided information received - following an online seminar attended with North Yorkshire Council - that confirmed the bypass for Shipton was not going ahead.

Public Transport

In January, the Parish Council RESOLVED that we would show support for the letter written by Easingwold Town Council and would also ask Reliance to come to speak about the issues with the bus service. Clerk to also ask other PC's if they will also be looking at the issue of the loss of bus services.

The following month the Clerk outlined the letter written in response by North Yorkshire Council and the information provided by Cllr Taylor regarding this matter. The nationwide £2 maximum price for a bus journey has impacted on Reliance's profitability and ability to provide certain services, in particular the Sunday and other services that are not subsidised. MP Kevin Hollinrake has taken up the matter with central government with regards to the issue of how the fare ceiling affects rural bus services adversely compared to city bus services. Item to be carried, with Clerk reporting any further information or responses.

Airfield Plaque

June last year, the PC agreed (after much deliberation and several different suggested locations) the siting of the Airfield Plaque to commemorate Shipton Airfield, in use during WW1 and 2. We made contact with the airfields society, and in July discussed combining the scarecrow event with the unveiling of plaque.

The memorial stone is mounted on the outside entrance of the village Community Centre and was kindly supplied and funded by the charity Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust (ABCT).

Sunday 24th September 2023 saw an enthusiastic community turn-out for the annual Scarecrow Festival, which last year was combined with the unveiling of the plaque to commemorate Shipton Airfield, and a talk to mark the 125th Anniversary of plain 'Shipton' becoming 'Shipton by Beningbrough' (due to the arrival of our railway station to avoid confusion with the other Shiptons on the network).

A press release written and published in York Press amongst others, thanks to everyone involved.

Village Hall

The Parish Council decided to get quotes for re-painting / replacing barriers. In October, Galtres Fencing were appointed to undertake the work. This was done late last year at a cost of £2150

We received a request from The Bakehouse Yorkshire to locate weekly trailer on Community Centre car park – to consider and agree response to request, and we RESOLVED van can sell from the car park on Thursday mornings starting with a 6 months trial. They are currently considering their options.

Clifford's Way / Footpaths

September - Clifford's Way – to discuss quotes received for retaining barrier; to consider offer by Wernick's for help. We RESOLVED to accept Wernick's for help.

By January, Clifford's Way was looking very good, the PC would like to extend our thanks to Wernick's, and to the MoP's that have also helped.

March - MOP Public footpath query, following fencing of the field being erected. We RESOLVED to write to footpath officer explaining new footpath not been done to safe standard.

In April this year, our Clerk outlined response received from footpath officer, which is that they are aware of issues and will monitor / act accordingly. We RESOLVED for Cllrs to check footpath periodically and report if problems occur due to hedge overgrowth.

Trees / Wildflowers

Community Woodland – September - a report received from Chair of Wildflower Woodland Committee who confirmed they are poised to receive trees and will organize community planting session. Hopefully ½ term but not sure. Tea Towels – to consider and approve purchase of fundraising tea towels to sell: £850 RESOLVED: Unanimously approved.

Tree report – December – we requested some quotes for a Parish tree survey, however, as our Clerk confirmed only 2 quotes had been received, which were very different. We RESOLVED: To request more quotes and carry to January.

March - Key Tree Solutions has been appointed to undertake the survey, which has now been received. This enables the Parish Council to ensure the safety and well-being of the trees on PC land, for which the Council is legally liable.

Playground

July – agreed inspection routine, carried out regularly by volunteers PC members and an official quarterly report by external company.

September - ROSPA Inspection – The PC reviewed the ROSPA report and will consider actions required for playground maintenance.

Also that month, we were delighted to receive a fantastic £1843.90 from the Scarecrow Festival, which has been placed in our playground fund.

In November, we talked about the future of the 100 Club, which provides additional funds for the playground. Our Clerk outlined the finances and responsibilities and we RESOLVED to continue for one more year, but with Cllrs undertaking the majority of the work involved in running the club, to alleviate some of the burden which has fallen on our Clerk.

January this year we considered a Lottery Funding Application and RESOLVED to start putting together consultation to find priorities for action. The recent Big Breakfast and indeed this meeting form part of this consultation.

March - Quotes for new play equipment – to update on quotes and funding application and agree budget for works RESOLVED after consideration it was agreed that Shipton would commission Creative Play to install new playground equipment, subject of course to a successful funding application, and agreed that £10,000 of PC's total holdings for playground

budget would be used towards improvements. The total budget for this project is therefore £30,000.

Parish Council

September - RESOLVED: It was unanimously agreed to welcome Danielle Wheatley onto the PC as a Councillor

Affordable Housing / Broadacres

In September, our Clerk read a brief report update from Broadacres and confirmed a delay in public consultation.

November – Broadacres are hoping to get the planning application submitted before Christmas, otherwise it will be submitted in January, with a decision in late spring, looking to 2025 summer for handovers. Fiona Coleman, overseeing the project for Broadacres, announced her retirement and was wished well by the PC.

Allotments

December - Cllr Smith confirmed an allotment holders working group have cut the hedge along the drive, and that the group are planning to meet again at the end of January. Clerk to update regarding payments and empty plots. A request has been made for the school head to rent an available plot and to bring small groups of children onto the site to work on the plot. RESOLVED: After discussion it was agreed that the plot could be rented with the idea that the children come onto site to work on it after details have been confirmed with the head and allotment working group. It was also agreed that some plots will have to be removed from holders that are not maintaining their plot.

March - Cllr Smith outlined discussions at last informal allotment meeting; query was raised regarding hedgerow along drive with Broadacres development; also mention that 5 allotments flooded by ditch this winter; also reported ditch water contaminated again; reported there was a car parked in front of access gate for several days. RESOLVED: Clerk to action ditch clearing; to report water is contaminated; to purchase signs re parking and to contact dog warden re dog waste being left in allotments and Shipton in general.