

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 22nd MAY 2025 – Chair's review

Welcome to our Annual Parish Meeting and thank-you to our guests tonight for their attendance. I do hope that you will take this opportunity to raise any issues you feel are of importance to the village and discuss any pertinent matters with the representatives of the organisations here this evening.

As the first rung on the ladder of our country's democratic system, the Parish Council has limited direct power, but we do play an important consultative role. We are keen to make our voices heard and take a strong campaigning stance to ensure that your opinions and concerns are raised with those that do make the decisions.

It's customary to give a brief review of the activities of your Parish Council during the past year, and you won't be surprised to know that much of our time revolves around just a few main subjects.

Yorkshire Green

This is having a significant impact upon the village, and while we understand the national importance of upgrading the power networks, we want to ensure that our village is not blighted by the development, and that we can accrue any benefits due under the various schemes which are being run in conjunction with the development. Yorkshire Green have been providing updates and information directly to the village and the Parish Council, and representatives have kindly joined us tonight to answer any of your questions.

From a Parish Council point of view, we have been liaising with them and North Yorkshire Council primarily about road safety and traffic concerns, and access to grants and other funding to help mitigate the impact of the new power lines, the sub-station and the construction project. We're pleased that the warning boards by the Overton junction have been installed, and we are promised access to funds for projects that will benefit Shipton.

Highways

Another perennial subject, and your Parish Councillors have been diligent in pursuing this with North Yorkshire Council at every opportunity. We have had a 'walk through' the village with our North Yorkshire Councillor and our local MP and have reiterated our concerns at a North Yorkshire Road Safety Surgery in February this year, hosted by Deputy Mayor Jo Coles. Our main request is for the pedestrian refuge at the south end of the village to be made a safe crossing, and for two 40mph 'buffer' zones at the south and north end of the 60mph zones. Despite continued rebuttals, we continue to raise

these and other road safety issues. The speed figures from our two VAS (vehicle activated signs) are regularly recorded and downloaded to the Shipton web page. Your Parish Council has also signed up to the '20's Plenty' campaign, specifically thinking of areas like the school. A summary of our activities in connection with road safety, and the responses we have received, has been published this year on the Shipton community website.

Playground

A major achievement for us was the successful bid for Lottery Funding of just under £20 000, which came through in October last year and enabled us to replace and update the structures in the play area. This is now in place and has been very well received. We now need to find funds to repair the ever-popular zip wire. We are grateful as a community to receive funds for the playground from the Shipton Egg Stall and from events hosted by the Dawnay Arms.

Planning / Housing

The Parish Council has no decision-making ability for planning permission, but we do receive notification of new planning applications in our area and can comment on these (within the confines of the relevant planning laws). Obviously most residential applications are not controversial and are usually passed without any objection from the Parish Council, but where matters are brought to our attention, these are raised with the Planning Department. We are also informed of developments which do not require planning, for instance the camping / caravanning area to the south of the village, and if we have concerns, these are raised with North Yorkshire Council. The recent housing developments in the village have, I think, been positive for Shipton and all help to bring in new residents who in turn will, we hope, support our local businesses and community events. The Broadacres Housing plans for new houses next to the school is taking much longer than we hoped and we are requesting an update on this – our latest information is that is held up by legal issues.

Allotments

The Parish Council has responsibility for the Shipton allotments, and our councillors and members of the public have helped in clearing some rubbish and tidying some plots. There are currently 2 vacant plots.

Shipton Wildflower Woods

Shipton Wildflower Woods is a sub-committee of the Parish Council and is collaborating with the Woodland Trust, The Eden Project and local experts from Forest of Flowers to convert a 3-acre field to a Wildflower Woods.

John Farbrother and his team of volunteers have worked diligently to raise funds, plant, maintain and improve this area for the benefit of our community, and I hope you'll agree it is a superb benefit for us. There was a sad incident last year when the noticeboard suffered from vandalism, but this has now been rectified. Everyone is invited to join the volunteers on the first Saturday morning of every month for general maintenance, planting and tidying. Free delicious refreshments are provided!

And finally, our terrific new noticeboard was 'unveiled' at a ceremony during the Scarecrow Festival last September. This was purchased with funds kindly donated from the Shipton Egg Stall and is available for public notices as well as Shipton Parish Council notices. There are usage guidelines on the Shipton website.

In closing, on behalf of myself and I am sure the whole Parish Council, we are very lucky and grateful for the truly excellent support and professionalism that we receive from Megan, our Parish Clerk. She is a vital member of the Team – thank-you!

Thank-you all for listening and enjoy the rest of the meeting.