

**LINTON ON OUSE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING MAY 2020 (cancelled due to Covid-19
lockdown restrictions) - CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Council Members

My thanks to all Council members for their work and dedication throughout 2019 and 2020 to present. A special thank you to Cllr Goodridge who left the parish Council in 2019, for all his commitment and work over the years. On behalf of all Council members I would also like to thank our clerk for all her hard work throughout the year and our litter warden for her dedication and upkeep of the village. At the time of writing this report the PC has no vacancies.

Council Staff

At the time of writing, the council employs 2 members of staff, both are part time positions; this includes Clerk to the Council and our Litter Warden.

Megan Remmer has now been clerk to the Parish Council for almost 3 years and Anna Wray has been patrolling the village for the past 2years keeping all areas within the boundary litter free and reporting any matters of importance regarding the environment to the Parish Council.

Planning

The council considered plans for a number of extensions to properties with the village throughout 2019/2020, with no objections being raised. An outbuilding conversion for use as dwelling and consideration of a school reading shed to be erected at the rear of Linton on Ouse Primary School, again no objections were raised. A certificate of registration was also considered in respect of the 5 new build properties, built on land adjacent and rear of Applegarth Cottages.

Highways

Speeding within Linton On Ouse and neighbouring villages continues to be a concern. Community Speed watch (CSW) has not been operational within the village for 2019/2020 due to North Yorkshire Police policy for sharing the CSW equipment with any neighbouring village that requests to use it. The village of Sessay requested the equipment and are currently still using it. The Parish Council have committed to purchasing a vehicle activated sign (VAS) to mount at 2 advised locations within the village. The sign will alert motorists to slow down if they are exceeding the speed limit. In August 2019 the PC reported to highways the road markings near the hidden dip sign on Moor lane needed replacing as the road was a dangerous stretch. In March 2020 this was escalated to Councillor Patmore (County Council) as the road markings had still not been replaced, despite numerous requests. As of writing this report the markings have been now replaced.

The PC requested that highways replace the school signage (aware children triangles) as they had been noted as not fit for purpose. Highways have replaced the signs for new.

The PC have been in communication with Yorkshire Water throughout 2019/2020 regarding the sewers and in- particular, a foul stench on main street outside the Police House. Yorkshire water have carried out several flushing operations and have placed an odour monitor in the sewer.

Communications are ongoing at the time of writing this report.

Finance

At the time of writing the Council Accounts for 2019/2020 are not yet finalised, the figures to hand suggest a small budget surplus of just over £500.

The precept was set this year at a 4.25% increase. An increase cost associated with wages for the litter warden to reflect the new living wage and playground maintenance and grass cutting costs.

The PC continues to maintain the external of the village hall area and the play park.

A project to refurbish and add new equipment to the play park is currently been discussed however is on hold at the time of writing this report due to Covid-19 restrictions. This project will begin again with public consultation once the Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted.

Much work and expenditure began at the beginning of 2020 in respect of holding a large VE day celebration within the village. This event including food and entertainment was due to be held on Friday 8 May 2020, but had to be cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions. Can I express my gratitude to the VE day committee for all their time and dedication at the beginning of 2020 helping with the preparations and organising what would have been a wonderful day for the village. The PC plans to look at the possibility of holding and funding a VE day 75+1 celebration in 2021. Stone Troughs and plaques with the names of those service personnel from Linton on Ouse that fell in both great wars have been purchased by the PC and will still be placed in front of the village hall this summer.

A vehicle activated sign (VAS) has been purchased by the PC and will be in place once the Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted.

A new notice board has been erected at the end of the village adjacent to Half Moon Street.

Jauncey Way continues to be maintained by the PC.

Environment

Community Speed Watch has not been operational this year, but the PC will be requesting the use of the equipment again for 2021. The vehicle activated sign to warn motorists will be in place this year following the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions.

Dog fouling within the village remains an issue, the litter warden is vigilant and continues to report back to the PC any incidents. The PC closely monitors this problem and is in communication with the local dog warden. The litter Warden has been in position for almost 2 years now and continues to do a very good job removing debris from the village and reporting back to the PC any problem areas.

The front of the village hall will shortly have 2 large stone troughs put in place beside the new benches, these will be planted and maintained by the PC. Two granite plaques will be positioned on the wall of the village hall with the names of fallen service personnel from Linton on Ouse from the two great wars.

The park received further maintenance this year a full clean of equipment took place and some refurbishment of existing play equipment. Further works are planned for this next financial year, but due to Covid-19 restrictions these plans are currently on hold.

The PC continues to work closely with and support Linton On Ouse Primary School and happily this year the long- awaited reading shed should be erected.

Unfortunately, the VE celebrations planned by the PC could not go ahead due to the Covid-19 restrictions. However, my thanks to Helen Kirby for sourcing two VE day wreaths and her assistance in organising a socially distanced wreath laying ceremony. Whilst this certainly was not the plan for the day, it was lovely to still be able to mark the occasion respectfully despite the current unprecedented times. My thanks also to Julian and Virginia Sharpe for their kind generosity supplying the VE day flag and all Julian's continued support repairing and erecting the flag pole.

Thanks also to Andrew Brama for his continued efforts keeping the Cairn clean for such occasions.

The PC continues to communicate with Kevin Hollinrake MP for Thirsk and Malton regarding the closure of RAF Linton On Ouse and Wing Commander (Wg Cdr) Howard Newbold. Communication is also underway with Flt Lt Lumsdon regarding moving the memorial stone from outside RAF station headquarters to the front of the village hall, to safeguard this important piece of history.

The PC continues to meet remotely via Zoom on a monthly basis until Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

Play Area

Repairs continued in 2019/2020 to the play equipment following review of the monthly safety inspections carried out by Park Lane as instructed by the PC. The goal posts were painted and a new baby swing seat replaced. In 2019 due to constant vandalism the PC decided to remove the teen shelter. A small piece of play equipment (surfboard on springs) was also removed due to safety

concerns. A project to refurbish existing equipment and add new equipment was started at the beginning of 2020, but is currently on hold due to Covid-19 restrictions.

CJ Kirby continue to provide contractual services to the PC providing ground maintenance, grass cutting services. The PC are grateful for this continued service provision.

Sam Harris provides grass cutting, hedge cutting and external maintenance to the village hall. The PC thanks Sam for his continued hard work.

Concluding Remarks

On behalf of the Parish Council and the wider community I would like to pass on deepest condolences to District Councillor Rooke's family and wish them all the very best for the future.

I would like to re-iterate my thanks to all members of the PC, to Megan our Clerk for all her support and dedication over the past year. My thanks also to County Cllr Patmore and District Cllr Taylor for their continued support and reporting. We wish departing councillor Goodridge all the very best and thank you. A thank you to Andrew Brama for his continued support and for maintaining the Cairn. My thanks also to Mrs Pearson, headteacher at Linton On Ouse Primary School and the children for all their contributions throughout the year. As always, a very special thank you to Helen Kirby, for the support I receive and in recognition of all her work and dedication to the PC and the wider community.