

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT APRIL 2019**

Further to Cllr. Rainforth standing down as Chairman in June 2018, I was nominated and elected as Chairman in July. Subsequently this opened the role of Vice Chairman and Cllr. Brown was nominated and accepted the role. I would like to extend my thanks to both Cllr. Brown and Rainforth for their continued support.

During 2018, two parish councillors resigned from the council. Although the council was unable to fill the positions, it continued to conduct business with a complement of 7 out of 9 parish councillors. I hope these positions will be filled during 2019 to take the council back to a full complement.

I would like to offer my sincere appreciation and thanks to all councillors for their commitment and time, ensuring decisions can be made on issues that affect our local community.

Mr Beadle, the Parish gardener, continues to be valued employee of the council. Parishioners always comment on how well Festive Field and the various flower beds and brick planters are maintained.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Blackbourn, Clerk to Burstwick Parish Council. Her tireless endeavour to ensure the council continues to run smoothly and efficiently is beyond any thanks I can write in a report.

### **What has the parish council delivered?**

In response to concerns about road safety and speeding, the council held drop-in sessions for interested residents, a working group has been formed to look at the issues more closely and work with ERYC.

The council has a strong partnership with the PCSO Bainton and regularly holds community speed watch surveys in the village.

The cemetery has seen some improvements this year, with repairs to loose headstones, a new entrance step and welcome sign. The council has also prepared and planted a new memorial rose border, it is planned for these roses be available to purchase/rent from 2020.

The council held its second best kept allotments competition this year, the allotments continue to be well looked after and are an asset for the community.

The maintenance of Festive Field is an ongoing task, this year the drain ditch at the end of the field was cleared, improvements were made to the surface of the entrance gate and Cllr. Brown and her husband have tended and expanded the flower borders.

In the play area, two new metal benches were installed and the equipment was inspected and maintained regularly. The ripped goal nets at the games area have been removed and replaced by 'weld mesh' goal nets.

The council secured a second grant from the War Memorials Trust to re-cut and re-gild the lettering on the War Memorial, this was completed in time for the WW1 Centenary event on 11<sup>th</sup> November.

The council also secured grant funding from the ERYC WW1 Centenary Fund, to hold a Beacon of Light community event. As featured in last month's newsletter this was well attended with an estimated 200+ people attending. This was an excellent event which saw numerous community groups coming together.

In our role as charity trustees for the village hall, work has been completed to transfer the village hall management committee to a parish council committee, with the support of a new Village Hall Clerk, who is employed by the parish council, to provide the admin assistance to the committee and to manage the running of the hall.

### **Projects for 2019-20**

- New village noticeboard
- Purchase new litter bin/relocate existing bins to the start of footpaths/dog walking routes
- War Memorials gardens landscaping project
- Play area improvements to adventure trail
- Cemetery – extending the memorial garden cremation plots and installation of potting bench for flower preparation
- Best Kept Allotments Competition
- Brick planter for Hariff Lane
- Review Emergency Plan
- Roll of Honour Board
- Allotment plot marker posts

It has been an honour and privilege to have served as Chairman of Burstwick Parish Council during the last ten months. I believe the council's actions and decisions made have a continued positive impact in providing and maintaining local services to parishioners.

Cllr. Dean James

Chairman – Burstwick Parish Council

25<sup>th</sup> April 2019