

# BURSTWICK PARISH COUNCIL

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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2023

It has been an honour to preside as Chairman of Burstwick Parish Council for another year, a role which I tremendously enjoy.

The council continued with a full complement of parish councillors for most of the year. Cllr. Boynton was co-opted April 2022 but sadly resigned January 2023. Thereafter, following the subsequent resignation of Cllr. Waddingham in May 2022, Cllr. Paragreen was co-opted onto the council in June. This leaves the council with one vacancy, which following the parish and local elections on the 4<sup>th</sup> May will increase to two. Over the coming months both vacancies will be formally advertised, and I invite anyone interested in joining the council, to register their interest with the parish clerk.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind residents that all parish councillors are volunteers and do not receive any remuneration, payments, or allowances whatsoever. They are all committed to representing the community and strive to meet challenges and improve Burstwick for the benefit of all its residents. Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of each month in Burstwick Village Hall, unless otherwise agreed. Meeting notices are posted on social media and the village noticeboards. Everyone is welcome.

Road safety remains a monthly agenda item. As reported last year, the parish council secured funding to supply Burstwick with equipment to set up its own Community Speed Watch. Further to training by Humberside Police the local speed watch group have conducted six roadside surveys. For these checks a total of 1,273 vehicles passed with 86 (6.8%) exceeding the limit including permitted variance. Highest speed recorded within our village 30mph zone was 49mph. For the last three roadside surveys alone, the average percentage of vehicles exceeding the limit increased to 10.3%.

The community speed watch group has limited numbers consisting of residents and parish councillors. If you can spare a couple of hours a month and would like to register an interest in joining, please contact me directly or the parish clerk. Road safety is important, and we must try our best to educate drivers passing through our village to lower their speed. This initiative cannot just be left to parish councillors. To the residents of this group, you know who you are, and I thank you for your commitment.

Burstwick play area continues to be an important village amenity. The parish council renewed the agreement with the contractor to continue regular grass cutting and maintenance work as required. The parish council plans to seek grant funding for the development and maintenance of equipment within the play area.

One key event for 2022 was the Queens Platinum Jubilee. With funding from both ERYC and Burton Pidsea Windfarm Community Fund, a working group consisting of parish councillors and residents arranged a number of events over the June jubilee bank holiday period. Each event was well attended, and feedback was positive. Sadly, no less than a few months later the nation was united in its grief following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Village hall fundraising events restarted last year with a return of a race night followed by a number of quiz nights. I express my thanks to all involved, who do so by volunteering time with the aim of raising funds for the village hall and other local user groups/charities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all village hall management committee members for representing their voluntary groups and organisations, attending meetings, making active decisions on the running of the village hall and for working tirelessly to support those who struggle. The management committee is focused on refurbishment of this essential village amenity and have a number of projects planned over the next 18/24 months. The village hall is a registered charity and solely relies on voluntary user group, organisations and private hires. The village hall committee was successful in seeking funding to offer a warm open space as we battle with the ongoing energy crisis.

Last year, Burstwick held its very own Party in the Park event, raising over £4,000 for Life for a Kid. The sold-out event was organised by local residents Dave Gelder and Rachel Carr. It was a tremendous success. Events of this nature and size are challenging, and whilst everyone who attended made it a success, I thank both Dave and Rachel for arranging. Burstwick Party in the Park returns this year and I look forward to this event being even better!

In August 2022, the parish council resolved to sign up to the Civility & Respect Pledge. In collaboration with SLCC, NALC and other associations, the parish council believe now is the time to put civility and respect at the top of the agenda and start a culture change for the local council sector.

For the next financial year 2023/24, the council have a number of planned projects, some carried over from previous years. These include but are not limited to:

- Best kept allotments competition
- Purchase and installation of a Role of Honour board, to officially record names of people who have been awarded the freedom of the parish by the Parish Council
- Completion of a memorial rose border in the cemetery
- Installation of a flagpole at the village hall

Prior to closing my report, I have a few thank-yous:

I would like to thank Mrs Dawson, Clerk and RFO to Burstwick Parish Council. Your continued dedication, commitment and flexible working is appreciated and does not go unnoticed. I have been impressed on how you have embraced the legacy of previous clerks and continually drive the services the council provides. Sincere thanks and appreciation for all you do.

Appreciation is extended to Mr James, Village Hall Clerk. Andy is employed by the parish council and is in place to manage the village hall, help and support user groups. As the village hall clerk, he attends all village hall management committee meetings and delivers agreed actions and projects. He manages the weekly parish council funded village medication and prescription service. His latest initiative is the village hall 100 club, this is raising much needed fundraising for the village hall.

Mr Beadle, the parish gardener, continues to be a valued employee of the council. Apart from maintaining Festive Field, the Hedon Road brick planter and various flower beds, he also looks after the council cemetery and the area around the village cenotaph. I thank Walt for all he does and for the lovely planting in recognition of the jubilee.

To mark the closure of Burstwick All Saints church, a final service was held on the 26<sup>th</sup> January. This church is a Grade I listed church built early in the 12<sup>th</sup> Century. Unfortunately, due to exceptionally low attendance and significant work building work required, the small PCC was faced with no alternative but to close its doors. It is hoped a church charity or trust will take on the responsibility of the church, arrange and oversee the much-needed repairs.

As I reach the end of my report, I offer my last thanks and appreciation to all parish councillors, past and present for their commitment and time, with particular thanks to the parish council Vice Chairman, Cllr. Brown for her continued help and support.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DJ', written in a cursive style.

Cllr. Dean James  
Chairman – Burstwick Parish Council  
E: [djames@burstwickpc.co.uk](mailto:djames@burstwickpc.co.uk)

25<sup>th</sup> April 2023