

BURSTWICK PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2024

In a year of change the parish council welcomed two new parish councillors, David Gelder and Zuzana Hovorka who were co-opted following the uncontested elections in May 2023, where we were left with two vacancies. Both David and Zuzana are familiar faces to the parish council with their involvement in community events.

Parish gardener Mr Beadle retired in June following twenty years of exceptional service. During that time, Mr Beadle meticulously provided horticultural tasks to develop, enhance and conserve the parish cemetery, village cenotaph, Festive Field and the various open spaces in ownership of the parish council. Mr Scarlett was appointed as new parish gardener in August.

In July, Peter Paragreen resigned from the parish council creating one vacancy. This was filled in January 2024 with the co-option of Neil Fairbank.

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. Meeting notices are posted on social media and the village noticeboards. Residents with questions, queries or requiring support are welcome to attend.

Finance

For 2023/24 the parish council precept was £31,500. Due to increased costs the precept for 2024/25 has increased by £3,000 to £34,500. Precept is a tax, included within the local council tax, which enables the parish council to perform its functions. Year-end accounting reports and documentation will be available on the parish council website once approved by the external auditor.

Road Safety

The local Community Speed Watch group has four active members, consisting of three parish councillors and one resident. Of the traffic surveys conducted during the last 12 months 7.5% of vehicles were noted as exceeding the limit. Highest speed recorded within the village 30mph zone was 54mph. I am pleased to report the numbers of volunteers will be increasing soon. Road safety is important, and we must try our best to educate drivers passing through our village to lower their speed.

Play Area

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. In 2023 the parish council secured grant funding from Burton Pidsea Wind Farm Community Fund (£4,441) and ERYC Commuted Sums (£861) as a contribution to replacing basketball hoops and nets at the Multi Use Games Area.

Kings Coronation

To celebrate the coronation of King Charles III, grant funding was secured from ERYC to hold an afternoon luncheon with entertainment from Miss Vintage Twist. The village hall was decorated and the event well attended.

Parish Council Community Grants

The parish council allocates a sum of money from its budget each year that can be used to support local groups and organisations. Grants are paid using the statutory power of Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972. This act permits expenditure up to a certain limit on anything which in the opinion of the council is in the interests of the parish, or any part of it, or is in the interest or all or some of its inhabitants and which would produce a benefit in line with the expenditure involved.

For 2023/24 the parish council awarded £50 to Burstwick WI in relation to their 100 year anniversary. £41.53 was awarded to Burstwick Messy Breakfast to purchase supplies for the craft table at the Christmas event.

Village Hall

I would like to thank all village hall management committee members for representing their voluntary groups and organisations, attending meetings and making active decisions on the running of the village hall. The management committee continues their focus on refurbishment of this essential village amenity. The village hall is a registered charity and solely relies on fundraising, community and private hires. The village hall committee were recently successful in securing funding from the Humberside PCC Community Safety fund and Burton Pidsea Wind Farm Community fund to replace fencing around the village hall and Festive Field.

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, with prizes kindly donated by Kingston Tools (AJMC Trading LLP)
- 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 and seating in the cemetery

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 dedication, commitment and support is very much appreciated.

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. He also manages the weekly parish council funded village medication and prescription service.

As I reach the end of my report, I offer my last thanks and appreciation to all parish councillors 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 read 'DJ', with a flourish extending to the right.

Cllr. Dean James
Chairman – Burstwick Parish Council
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30th April 2024