

CLAPHAM cum NEWBY PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING TUESDAY 27th MARCH 2018

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting. The Parish Council is required by law to hold this meeting between 1st of March and the 1st of June each year. This meeting will be followed by the regular Parish Council meeting.

The Parish Council has had another busy year, holding ten regular meetings plus an Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and this, the Annual Parish Meeting. In addition to me, the Chairman, there are five Parish Councillors. The Council is assisted by a clerk. Gillian Muir, the previous clerk resigned at the end of the last financial year. Her replacement, Nigel Harrison was appointed a couple of months later at the beginning of May 2017.

The Council continues to maintain the closed churchyard of St James', Clapham. Messrs J. Hartley and son of Ingleton have been cutting the grass there to good effect and will continue to do so in the forthcoming year. In September 2017, the Parish Council supplied a red ensign flag which was flown from the church to commemorate Merchant Navy Day.

Although the Parish Council had hoped to appoint a new parish caretaker in the year 2017-18, this proved difficult with no candidate remaining interested in the post. In the forthcoming year, any required maintenance work will be carried out by local contractors engaged on a job-by-job basis.

At each of its regular meetings, the Council receives updates in relation to local initiatives in which it has an interest, namely, the hyper-fast broadband project, the community defibrillator and emergency plan and latterly, the issue of neighbourhood planning. The Yorkshire Dales Millenium trust has offered funds to restore the ornamental drinking fountain on Riverside in Clapham. The restoration has so far proved more problematic than initially anticipated and the Parish Council is still seeking a viable means of connecting the fountain to a water supply. This matter is also the subject of regular updates at Council meetings.

The Council receives some funds from the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. In the past year some guttering and ditching work has been carried out in the Keasden area. It is anticipated that further works will be carried out in the forthcoming year.

Regular reports from the police are received at Council meetings either from a police representative in person or in writing if the police are unable to attend. The Council is also kept informed of relevant police information via the North Yorkshire Community Messaging Service.

The Council makes regular requests to North Yorkshire County Council for action on highways matters. These can be generated by complaints from members of the public but are often raised by Councillors themselves. The Council is similarly in regular contact with Craven District Council in relation to matters within its remit such as fly-tipping or leaves on roads and pavements.

Planning applications to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and Craven District Council are received by the Parish Council to enable it to make comments. This issue forms a regular and substantial part of the Council's business. Comments are usually submitted in writing by the clerk but Councillors have on some occasions attended at Planning Committee meetings.

Councillors Lis and Ireton are regular attendees at Clapham cum Newby Parish Council meetings

and are able to assist with valuable insight and advice in relation to planning and a range of other matters.

Representatives from the Parish Council attend meeting of many local bodies. These include Clapham Village Hall Committee, the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the Yorkshire Local Councils Association, the Clapham Development Association, Craven District Council Parish Liaison Forum and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Forum.

In 2017-18, the Parish Council made donations to Settle Swimming Pool, Craven and Harrogate Citizens Advice Bureau and Clapham Park Association totalling £400.

The Council's finances are healthy. Auditing showed that its accounts were well maintained and accurate. The precept last year was £7899. This year it will be £7994. This includes the cost of a potentially contested election in May.

Minutes, agendas, accounts and audits are published by the Council on the Clapham North Yorkshire website and can also be inspected at Parish Council meetings.

Thank you for your attendance at this meeting. The regular Parish Council meeting will take place shortly and anyone who wishes to stay for that meeting is welcome to do so.