

ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING REPORT 2014-15

Friday 24th April, 7.30 pm

Huggate Parish Church

REVIEW OF HPC ACTIVITIES IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS

Who we are The current councillors are: Linda Davies, Alan Barnett, Jane Leaver, Jacquie Lazenby, Jenni Shields and Phil Duggleby. Audrey Johnson is the Clerk. The council meetings are held in the meeting room at Juliarnos.

From 11th May 2015 your new councillors will be: Jane Leaver, Jacquie Lazenby, Jenni Shields, Philip Duggleby, George Fuller, Barbara Lambert and Gerry Whelan.

Emergency Plan and Snow Clearance The new salt bins have been installed. We had a mild winter so did not need additional purchases of grit/salt. There were no changes to the emergency plan and snow clearance plans. In response to requests, HPC has asked ERYC to extend the gritting route along Pocklington Road to the York Road junction, covering the Island Cottage bend.

What else is needed to help everyone get about in bad weather?

General maintenance We have arranged and paid for grass cutting and general maintenance of verges and open spaces, as well as liaising with ERYC Village Task Force to help ensure work planned by ERYC for 2012-13 and 2014-15 was completed. We met with Mike O'Connor from Village Task Force, ERYC in July at 09:45, for a walk around the village to identify maintenance work to be done. We are pleased to say that the road between the sewage works and Northfield farm has been resurfaced – maybe our repeated requests had some effect! Still outstanding is the installation of a pedestrian/vehicle refuge between the sewage works and Glebe Farm to improve the safety of pedestrians and other road users and we will be following that up.

Are there any other areas we need to focus on for general maintenance. Let us know if anything is broken or needs repair

Maintenance plan for trees and village amenities This is ongoing. The first phase of work to improve and maintain the greens and trees in the village is now complete. This included removing a section of the hedge between the road and the lower green pond, providing a viewpoint from through to the pond, clearing out the old hedge and scrub along the boundary of the lower green and Eastlands, removal and pruning trees on the old play area and the lower and top greens. HPC applied twice for a free pack of trees from the Woodland Trust. Unfortunately those applications were unsuccessful, so we are applying again in this round. The trees will be used to replace the hedging along the boundary of the lower green and the Eastlands yard.

There is still a lot of work to do over the next year or so and the next phase of the work is being planned to develop these areas of the village to promote tree and plant diversity and encourage wildlife.

The Play Area Committee Members proposed a cradle/basket swing for children to play on. HPC was keen to support this and it was agreed that the bottom corner of the upper green would be the best position. The Play Area Committee will be getting firm quotes and exploring the different sources of funding to take this forward.

The pit area is still closed whilst the Japanese Knotweed is being eradicated. The area has been sprayed and cleared, but work is still continuing.

It's important to get your views and we would welcome your ideas about how to maintain and improve the open areas in the village.

Noticeboard We now have a new noticeboard, funded out of the under-spend on a severe weather grant from ERYC. The new noticeboard will be sited on the front wall of the village bus shelter on Church Street and will allow display of 16 sheets of A4 or a combination of A4 documents and posters, allowing a greater range of information to be accessible to all.

What else can we do to help HPC communicate what we do and help you to let us know what you want/what is important?

Planning There have been few planning issues to consider for residential and/or commercial buildings.

However, we have spent a lot of time over recent months considering the plans for a wind farm at High Wood. We managed to make sure that HPC was formally listed as a consultee since this directly affects people who live here and some of the houses in the parish are close to the planned wind farm. We held an open village meeting to consult with people in the village and provided detailed comments on the Scoping Report. We now have the full application to consider and have made this available for anyone in the village to see. We were successful in getting an extension for the submission of comments. These are now due on 1st June 2015. We have prepared an overview of key issues based on the EDF application and comments from independent agencies. This will be included in a postal survey of all households in Huggate Parish, to get a view of what the majority of people think. The council decided in advance that a NON RESPONSE to the survey would indicate a neutral opinion, with no strong feelings for or against the proposed wind farm.

So if you do have an opinion, please do complete the survey – that will make sure your view is taken into account.

Social events

The village quiz night was well attended and it was good to see people. HPC also organised an informal evening with a pie supper, at Julie Arnos. The evening was well attended and gave people the chance to meet new faces and have a natter.

Should the council organise more events. These two were funded by donations. Should the council pay for this kind of activity?

Finance A brief summary of expenditure and income is below, along with planned expenditure for 2015-16. The final detailed report for 2014-15 will be displayed on the notice board.

Bank Reconciliation For Audit

Huggate Parish Council
Financial year ending 31 March 2015

Opening Balance 1 April 2014	7272.33
Add: Receipts in the year	4355.86
Add: VAT claimed but not received	879.33
Less: Payments in the year	<u>6633.85</u>
	5873.67

Balance per bank statement at 31 March 2015: 4994.34
(excludes VAT claimed but not received)

We kept the precept for 2015-16 at the same level as 2014-15 (£4000), in line with the expected budget. The precept is used to fund a range of items the Parish Council is responsible for and has to pay for directly. These include maintenance of the village greens and ponds, provision of salt and grit for use in bad weather, public liability insurance and payment of Clerk fees. There was an underspend for the year 2013-14, this combined with grants we won, meant we started with an opening balance of nearly £7300 in addition to the annual precept. Overall we spent just over £6,600. This year we have also paid for the additional maintenance work on the village greens. Total expenditure on the village greens was nearly £4700. We have budgeted for additional village green maintenance and improvement over the next year.

HPC agreed to provide financial support (£100 per year) for the production and distribution of Huggate News. The editors (Jenny Zarek and Theresa Purdy) have struggled over recent years to get sufficient sponsorship to cover the costs of production. HPC felt that this was a good use of resources that benefitted people living in Huggate.

HPC also agreed a grant of £200 to the Huggate Parochial Church Council to support maintenance of the churchyard.

Are there other things we need to plan for?

PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE NEXT 12 MONTHS

1. Revise the emergency plan and snow clearance plans as needed
2. Continue to liaise with EYRC about improvements and maintenance of the local roads and possible measures to help reduce vehicle speeds in the village
3. Continue general maintenance and replenish salt bins
4. Continue to develop and implement tree maintenance and replanting plan

Planned expenditure for 2015 - 2016

Green & Pond Maintenance	5000
Clerk's Fees	1200
HMRC PAYE	300
Insurance	250
Churchyard Grant	200
Huggate News grant	100
Donation to British Legion	18
Internal Audit	30
Meeting Room Hire	140
SLCC Subscription	70
Website Annual Fee	11
Salt Bins & Snow Clearance	400
Election Costs (planned for but not needed)	600
Bus Shelter Repair	100
Total	8419