

Appendix 1

1. Chairman's Welcome

Welcome to the Garton on the Wolds Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting. This meeting is a chance for me to update you on the recent activities of the parish council and to explain our plans for the future. It is also an opportunity for you to raise any issues you would like to discuss in the public open forum section of the meeting.

I would like to thank Catherine, our parish council clerk for all her hard work this past year, assisting the councillors, preparing the agendas and minuting the meetings, but also all of the work behind the scenes to help realise this council's plans and ambitions and ensure that we comply with all applicable regulatory, insurance and audit requirements.

I would like to thank Councillor Botten for keeping the notice board and the Parish Council's Facebook page updated, including posting the Parish Council's notices.

I would also like to thank our councillors for their hard work and dedication to the village and to this council, without whom there would be no parish council.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank 3 long-serving parish councillors, Ian Bell, Steve Poessel and Jonathan Watson, who have served the council for many years but have decided not to stand as councillors this year. I am grateful for their contribution to this council and the many hours of hard work they have contributed to the development, maintenance and upkeep of the village amenities.

However, with every door that closes, another opens, and I am happy to report that 3 new councillors recently joined the parish council maintaining our numbers at 6, with 3 vacancies remaining. (technically at the moment we only have 5 councillors as I understand that Mick Briggs is having to be co-opted as there was a problem with his nomination form)

2. Chairman's Report on Past Activities

The parish council continues to maintain the pond area, war memorial, bus shelter and the former telephone box, including the defibrillator. We have recently purchased an additional Union flag to fly above the bus shelter.

Over the past 4 years we have purchased Christmas lights and a lit tree to give the village a festive feel at Christmas.

The parish's Green Lanes had been steadily deteriorating over the past years, in large part due to the activities of 4x4 vehicles on the lanes. We have repeatedly brought the deteriorating state of the lanes to the attention of the highways department with support from the Joint Local Access Forum. In May 2021, the county council levelled and re-seeded the worst sections of the Green Lanes and introduced a temporary closure to protect the lanes to allow the new grass to establish and stabilise the ground. The lanes are now much safer to navigate and look fantastic, and it is noted that the lanes are being used more by walkers and cyclists, who have given positive feedback. The lanes also form an integral part of the Wolds Rangers walks introduced in August 2021 by Driffield Town Council.

Following a further meeting between the Joint Local Access Forum and the Highways department in April 2023, the Highways department have confirmed that Garton Balk North and York Road from the memorial down to Station Hill in Wetwang parish will remain closed for the time being to allow the lanes to recover and to permit additional work. The section from Garton Balk to Station Road has now reopened to traffic but will be closely monitored for further damage.

Councillor Botten is our representative with the East Riding and North Lincolnshire Local Council Association and represent our interests at ERNLLCA meetings. Councillor Botten also sits on the panel at the Joint Local Access Forum.

At the end of March we conducted a spring litter pick throughout the village as part of the Great British Spring Clean, helped by a number of villagers, removing over 35 bags of rubbish discarded onto the grass verges and green lanes. ERYC kindly donated a good supply of litter picking equipment and we are very grateful for residents who have offered to continue to litter pick in their own time.

Recently, following a project idea put forward by the parish council, members of the community payback team have been working in the village, cutting back overgrown verges and roadside areas, which are now looking very good.

Unfortunately, there has been a problem with a large number of rats breeding at and around the pond, encouraged in part by a member of the public over-feeding the ducks and leaving excess food. ERYC pest control services are assisting with the rat problem and the police are aware of the individual concerned.

Since the last Annual Parish Meeting, we have conducted Jubilee Celebrations, including presenting children in the parish and pupils at Garton Primary School with a commemorative Jubilee mug and Councillors Botten and Bell judged an art competition at the school, for which the Parish Council supplied prizes. Councillor Poessel replanted the planters with seasonal flowers and planted flowers in the shape of the late Queen's royal cipher.

We have recently provided commemorative pin badges to all pupils at the school and have provided prizes to the school in celebration of the King's Coronation.

We continue to support the Book Swap in the bus shelter kindly set up by two villagers, and we are grateful to them for running this facility and assisting to keep the bus shelter clean.

3. Planned Activities

With 4 new councillors having joined in the past year, we hope to have some good ideas for developing the village amenities. Two of our new councillors Fiona and Philip Nixon run our village Neighbourhood Watch scheme, and this link with the parish council will be very beneficial. We will continue to be on the look-out for any grants that would allow us to purchase things for the village or improve the village facilities. We also look forward to the outcome of the Yorkshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty consultation.

Speeding through the village continues to be a problem day and night. In the run up to the first national Coronavirus lockdown, Councillors Watson and Bell were meeting with representatives from neighbouring parish councils to discuss traffic issues and present a case to the Highways department for further measures to tackle speeding and to improve road safety around the village. Whilst unfortunately it does not appear that some of the other parish councils are interested in taking this forward, we will continue to press for further traffic-calming measures in the village, including the possibility of taking part in Community Speedwatch activities and this is something which will be discussed in future meetings.

We will continue to press Highways for a response to our concerns over the capacity, suitability and condition of our sewage and drainage facilities following localised flooding on the main road near the old shop following extremely heavy rain.

As a council, we will continue with our core function of representing the village in our dealings with the county council and others, working to improve facilities, maintaining the appearance of the village and pushing for improved local services from the county council.

We are interested in any ideas for village projects and activities and parishioners are always welcome to attend our monthly Parish Council meetings which are advertised on the noticeboard, Facebook page and website. We currently have a number of councillor vacancies and would love to hear from anybody interested in sparing a few hours every month to be part of the Parish Council.

Thank you for your time. Now is a period of time when the public may raise any questions or issues.

4. Public Open Forum

Thank you for joining us here tonight. Please feel free to join us at our monthly council meetings. Our regular meetings are usually on the first Thursday of every month at 7.15pm, with the next being 1 June 2023 in the Church.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive letter 'D' followed by a horizontal line.

8.6.23 .