

BURSTWICK PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2021

COVID-19 has had a profound and pervasive effect on our communities. Most of us have experienced sadness or health concerns within our own families, among friends or work colleagues. Many things have changed and some of these changes will last. I do feel our sense of community is stronger and with the vaccine roadmap, there will soon be opportunities for people to meet again and take up activities and interests old and new.

I am immensely grateful for the efforts made by all key workers, volunteers, and many others who have contributed to help residents of our parish and further afield. Special mention and thanks to Burstwick Village Stores for arranging home deliveries to residents including those shielding. Also to Archie's Eggs of South Slope Farm, for their shed of fresh produce, eggs and other items.

In regards to parish council business, I am delighted the council has continued with a full complement of councillors. With the exception of March and April 2020, all parish council meetings have been held remotely. I would like to take this opportunity to remind residents that all their 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. At the time of writing my report, the council are preparing to move to in-person meetings commencing 24th June. Thereafter, meetings will generally be held on the last Thursday of each month in Burstwick Village Hall. Meeting notices will be posted on social media and the village noticeboards.

During 2020 the parish council worked with the East Riding Food Poverty Alliance to provide access to emergency food parcels to people in need who live in the village. Details of this initiative are in the most recent community newsletter. If you are aware of someone who needs to access an emergency food parcel for any reason, please contact us in strictest confidence. All we ask is for the name, contact phone number and address of the recipient, this must be shared with the Shores Centre in Withernsea, who are coordinating the scheme locally.

In February 2020 the parish council formally agreed to the nomination of Rosalie Angell for the Honorary Freedom of the Parish civic award. This award is in recognition of her long voluntary service to various groups in the village including the village hall, Friends of Burstwick, WI, Darby and Joan and Over 55's club and in appreciation to her fund-raising work. Rose has demonstrated outstanding commitment and contribution to the wellbeing of the residents of Burstwick. Unfortunately, due to COVID the framed certificate is yet to be presented. I hope to be able to personally present this at a future meeting.

Burstwick play area is an important village amenity, particularly as restrictions are lifted and the warmer summer days arrive. The parish council has appointed a contractor to provide regular grass cutting and to do maintenance work involving cleaning all the equipment, repairing the surfaces, clearing weeds and applying a safe wood preservative to the kit. The council are aware of the issue with the new gate to the play area, in so far as not all prams and wheelchairs can get through. This has been raised with ERYC and I am hopeful a site visit will be arranged soon to agree a resolution, to ensure everyone can access and enjoy the play area.

The council continues to lobby ERYC to improve road safety in the village and has agreed to set up a Community Speed Watch. It is hoped this will be up and running by the summer. If you would like to volunteer to be part of the team, please contact the parish clerk.

In November and due to last-minute tightening of the lockdown rules, the remembrance service was cancelled. Residents were encouraged to take part in a doorstep silence and display a poppy poster in their windows. Limited representatives from local organisations complied with social distancing and laid wreaths at the cenotaph. It was an honour to be invited by All Saints Church Wardens to join them in reading out the names of those lost.

Unfortunately, all community events were cancelled, this included the race night, quiz nights, afternoon tea events including a VE 75th anniversary event, pudding nights, the summer gala and the annual Christmas event. However, the community came together following a social media post from Michelle Storey for residents to create a festive themed window display trail. This brought some very much needed happiness. I remember walking around the village one night with all the displays and Christmas lights twinkling. For one night, I seemed to forget we were in the middle of a pandemic. Thank you to everyone who took part.

For the next financial year 2021/22, subject government guidelines if applicable, the council have a number of planned projects. These include but are not limited to:

- Organising a community litter pick
- Developing the war memorial garden project to improve accessibility to the memorial and create a landscaped garden and seating area
- Best kept allotments competition
- Organising a community health and wellbeing event
- Funding of LED bulb conversion of parish council owned street lamps
- 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
- Noticeboard for allotments
- Organise community speed watch sessions

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

First and foremost, I would like to personally thank Mrs Blackburn, Clerk to Burstwick Parish Council. Rose, your dedication, knowledge, development and flexible working ethic during the last 12 months has been exemplary. You have ensured this council continues to run as smoothly and as effectively as possible, including the council's transition to remote meetings which was virtually seamless.

Appreciation is also 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.

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. Most recently Walt planted flowers in recognition of and spelling out NHS on the triangle flower bed at Back Lane/Station Road.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all village hall management committee members for representing their user groups, attending remote meetings and making active decisions on the running of the village hall.

I offer my thanks and appreciation to all parish councillors for their commitment and time, with particular thanks to my Vice Chairman, Cllr. Brown for your help and support.

As some of you may know, Reverend Susan Walker delivered her final service at Burstwick All Saints on Sunday 3rd January, before taking up her House of Duty post in North Holderness. For your kindness and support at all of the events over the years, thank you and best wishes.

In closing, it almost goes without saying, please stay safe and continue to follow Public Health England and government guidelines.

Cllr. Dean James
Chairman – Burstwick Parish Council
E: djames@burstwickpc.co.uk

22nd April 2021