

Chairman's Report for 2021-22

Almost two months after all government-mandated COVID restrictions ended in England, I feel our sense of community is getting stronger. Events are starting to appear on calendars and people are taking up activities and interests both old and new.

I remain immensely grateful for the efforts made by all key workers, volunteers, and many others who have contributed to help residents of our parish over the last twelve months.

In regards to parish council business, I am delighted the council continued with a full complement of councillors up to February this year. In February, Cllr. Whiting tendered his resignation and I thank him for his work and commitment to the parish whilst serving as a councillor. I am hopeful the vacancy will be filled by co-option this month.

On the 24th June 2021 the parish council returned to in-person meetings. 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 generally held on the last Thursday of each month in Burstwick Village Hall. Meeting notices are posted on social media and the village noticeboards. Everyone is welcome.

In September 2021, Mrs Blackbourn the parish clerk and responsible financial officer, resigned from the council after six years of employment. Mrs Blackbourn consistently delivered with professionalism and commitment. On top of the various projects we as a council delivered, she researched and implemented numerous policies and procedures, to ensure this council met its legal obligations. As chairman, from a personal perspective, it was a privilege to work alongside her.

On the 1st November 2021 the council appointed Mrs Dawson as the new parish clerk and responsible financial officer. I look forward to Mrs Dawson continuing the legacy of previous parish clerks whilst bringing her knowledge and experience to existing parish services.

In February 2020 the parish council formally agreed to the nomination of Rosalie Angell for the Honorary Freedom of the Parish civic award. As reported last year, this award was in recognition of her long voluntary service to various groups in the village and in appreciation to her fund-raising work. Rose had demonstrated outstanding commitment and contribution to the wellbeing of the residents of Burstwick. Unfortunately, due to COVID the framed certificate could not be presented. Finally, on the 28th July at a Village Hall Management Committee meeting the certificate was presented and she received a very well deserved round of applause. The appreciation on social media in support of this prestigious award was very positive and she even appeared in the Holderness Gazette.

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 as

required maintenance work. The replacement kissing gate at the play area which was deemed unsuitable by the parish council, was subsequently altered by ERYC and now meets DDA requirements. More recently the parish council successfully secured £4,000 funding from the Burton Pidsea Community Wind Farm Fund to contribute towards the replacement of worn play area equipment with a new Ben Nevis climber.

Road safety remains as a key agenda item. Funding has been secured to supply Burstwick with equipment to set up its own Community Speed Watch. Humberside Police have received the equipment and training is being arranged for May. There are currently 12 registered volunteers. If you would like to volunteer to be part of the team, please contact the parish clerk.

Unfortunately, due to COVID all community events during 2020/21 were cancelled. That said, it was really good to see the village hall recently restarting its fundraising events by holding a quiz night. Subject to volunteers it is hoped, race nights, pudding nights and other events will be making a return over the coming months.

One key event for 2022 which I hope everyone is aware of is the Queens Platinum Jubilee. A working group consisting of parish councillors and residents have arranged a number of events over the jubilee bank holiday period. Please keep a look out for the May newsletter, updates on social media and the village noticeboards.

For the next financial year 2022/23, the council have a number of planned projects, some carried over from previous years. These include but are not limited to:

- Developing the war memorial garden project to improve accessibility to the memorial and create a landscaped garden and seating area
- Best kept allotments competition
- 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
- Creation of a memorial rose border in the cemetery

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

I would like to thank Mrs Dawson, Clerk to Burstwick Parish Council. Albeit only 5 months, your dedication and flexible working ethic is appreciated. Following completion of the year end accounts, I look forward to full steam ahead with various planned projects.

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. As the village hall clerk he attends all village hall management committee meetings and delivers agreed actions and projects. Most recently, he agreed to manage the village medication and prescription service. This initiative is wholly funded by the parish council to ensure residents

continue to have a local collection point, following the pending closure of Burstwick Village Stores & PO.

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. Walt will soon be planting flowers adjacent to village cenotaph to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. I look forward to his design and offer my sincere thanks for his continued service.

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

Burstwick Village Stores & PO will soon be closing. It has been owned and operated by Jane and Mark for 25+ years. Many are sorry to see this local loss of amenity. I thank them for their community support, particularly during COVID and wish them all the very best for the future.

Burstwick All Saints is a Grade I listed church built early in the 12th Century. Unfortunately due to very low attendance and significant work building work required, the small PCC is facing increasing challenges. With sadness the PCC feel that the current situation cannot continue and that the problems are of such a level that the closure of Burstwick All Saints should be progressed. It is anticipated the church will close by the end of 2022. I thank all PCC representatives, both past and present for their tireless efforts. Additionally, although they remain actively involved with village fundraising events and have most recently started up Messy Breakfast at the village hall, I offer my sincere and heartfelt thanks to Mr & Mrs Netherton, Burstwick All Saints Churchwardens.

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 my Vice Chairman, Cllr. Brown for her help and support.

Thank you.

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

28th April 2022