



## **SKIDBY PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT**

### **April 2019**

Including today's meeting, Skidby Parish Council has met thirteen times since the 1st April 2018. The Finance Committee has met twice (in April and November 2018) and the Cemeteries Committee has met once (in June 2018).

At the Annual Meeting held on 1st May 2018, members agreed that Cllr. P. Browning should act as Chairman and Cllr. P. Roustoby should act as Vice Chairman of the Parish Council until the date of the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2019

The full complement of Parish Councillors in 2018-19 has been:

Cllr P Browning (Chair);

Cllr H Crane;

Cllr G Foster;

Cllr M Hall;

Cllr T Hasnip;

Cllr S Hooker;

Cllr A Hunsley;

Cllr P Roustoby (Vice-Chair);

Cllr L Varey;

Cllr P Woods;

Cllr P Young.

Clerked by Mrs E Ashley until the end of December 2018

Clerked by Mrs F Tate from the end of December 2018

It was further agreed that Councillors Browning, Foster, Hunsley, Roustoby, Varey and Young shall continue as the Finance Committee until the date of the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2019. That Councillors Browning, Foster, Roustoby, Hunsley and Young are authorised to sign cheques on behalf of the Council.

It was also agreed that Councillors Crane, Hall, Hunsley and Young (Chair) shall be the Cemeteries Committee until the date of the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2019.

Although there is no constitutional requirement on the part of the of the Skidby Village Hall and Institute to have a representative on the Parish Council, Lynda Varey has been our representative during year but the Clerk also liaises between the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee on matters that may arise.



It was agreed that Alan Johnson Accounting Services should continue to act as internal auditor until the date of the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2019.

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee the Parish Council has once again agreed to maintain the Parish Precept at £19400. This has now remained the same for a number of years.

The 2017 – 2018 Parish Council Accounts were returned from the External Auditor in which it was reported that the records were well maintained and free from material error. The Annual Governance Statement was also completed.

Monies have been reserved for repairs and renewals, election costs, playing field safety surfaces and winter weather work.

Grants have been given to the following Village Organisations:

- a) Skidby Village Hall & Institute towards the cost of new secure doors - £700;
- b) Skidby School PFA towards purchasing plants and materials to create a new sensory garden and reflection area at the school - £300.

We had another successful Christmas Light 'Switch On'. This has become an important date in the Parish's year. An event was held in the Village Hall, involving a hymns and Christmas songs which were sung by pupils from Skidby Primary School, a tombola and refreshments. These were organised and run by Parish Councillors. The hall and subsequent 'switch on' ceremony were well attended. Owing to the awkward shape of the tree, which makes it difficult to decorate, even with the use of the cherry picker, the Parish Council had considered felling this and replacing it with a new tree. The revised plan is to keep this tree but purchase a new one, of a variety which will be more easily managed.

The General Data Protection Regulations have now come into force and the council has responded to the requirements of these.

The Parish Council has maintained the Playing Field and Pavilion as required, which has included repairs to vandalised doors and roof fixtures.

The Children's Play Equipment has been maintained to the necessary standard and is inspected on a regular basis for general condition and safety issues.

One cricket club is operating from the Playing Field.

The Parish Council has maintained the village cemeteries as required through the work of the Cemeteries Committee.



Councillors have dealt with a range of local planning issues and our comments have been forwarded to ERYC for consideration by the Planning Committee. The number of applications dealt with through the year is as follows:

- 1 (compare with 0 for the previous year) in April 2018);
- 0 (3) in May;
- 4 (2) in June;
- 2 (1) in July;
- 4 (4) in August plus 1 tree application;
- 4 (2) in September plus 1 tree application;
- 5 (5) in October;
- 4 (4) in November;
- 2 (3) in December plus 1 tree application;
- 2 (1) in January 2019;
- 1 (1) in February;
- 0 (1) in March.

We have dealt with 29 planning applications compared with 27 in the previous reporting period.

The Parish Council liaises with the Highways Department of the ERYC, on issues relating to the maintenance and repair of footpaths, and roads within its boundaries, as well as other issues which are brought to its attention by parishioners, such as surface dressings; speeding vehicles; speed limits; grass verges and footpaths.

We have had site visits with Highway Department officials to consider issues on Riplingham Road and the crossing of the A164.

A Steering Group, including Cllrs L. Varey, A Hunsley and led by Cllr. P. Woods has been continuing work on the Skidby Neighbourhood Plan during the year, and this has now become an agenda item with the whole of the Parish Council discussing this matter. A survey was conducted for residents and the results have been analysed and used as part of these discussions. I would like to thank Cllr. Woods for the time and work spent on this project.

The Village Hall Committee organised their 8<sup>th</sup> Scarecrow Festival in July, which was very successful. The Ferriby 10 Mile road race once again went through the village.

We had a major sporting event in the village with the Tour de Yorkshire Bicycle Race on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018. This was the first time that Skidby has welcomed this prestigious event. Both the ladies' and men's races passed through our village. This was highly successful. Many residents took time to decorate their properties with bunting and painted bikes. Pupils from Skidby Primary School and Kingswood Primary School joined with crowds of people to cheer and



wave as the cyclists passed through. Mr Varey produced some Hollywood Hills-styled Skidby letters which adorned the roundabout to the village. It was certainly a highly memorable event. The Tour will again pass through our Parish on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May, although it will only be the men's event.

In November, Parish Councillors attended the Remembrance Sunday Service at St. Michael's Church and laid a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council. This was provided by Cllr A. Hunsley. We were delighted to welcome the Deputy Lord Lieutenant at this event as it marked 100 years since the end of WWI. Many residents joined us for the ceremony. I took part in the church service with a reading on behalf of the Parish Council and read out the names of parishioners who had lost their lives during the Great War.

Open Forum & Communications. There have been some occasions when residents have raised issues either in the open forum during our council meeting or via other communications. These have included parking in Trinity Garth; flooding in Orchard Road; changes in bus timetables; the width of Riplingham Road; maintenance of the road under the old railway bridge; work on the Methodist Chapel and a wooden statue in the village.

The Parish Council has dealt with various consultation documents from ERYC and other bodies.

Members of the Parish Council have welcomed ERYC Councillors Galbraith, Meredith and Smith to their meetings as a source of information and advice. This has included updates on flooding issues: apprentice levies; trees on council land; winter crisis ad flu crisis; dementia helpline; potholes; ERNLLCA; A164 alterations; Skidby Mill; EYFS committees; Council Tax; Broadband; Tourism; Community Safety fund; The Ark Project; Rough Sleepers in the Parish; fracking; wind farms; NHS winter plans; draft budgets and speed restrictions on roads;

Furthermore, Cllr Parnaby, the leader of the ERYC, joined us to inform the council about the plans for Skidby Windmill.

No officers of Humberside Police Service have attended our meetings to report on Crime, Traffic and Antisocial Behaviour issues in our community. The Clerk has to search for crimes reported in Skidby Parish on the website [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk) but there is a lapse time of approximately four months between when crimes are committed and when they are put on this site. My last report ended with the crime reports for December 2017, which were reported in the March 2018 meeting. I am continuing the practice of reporting incidents for calendar years.

Police statistics continue to show relatively low rates of crime within the Parish – and the numbers of incidents, including violence offences have fallen during the last year. Below are



the number of crimes per month (the figure in brackets shows what it was at the same time last year)

5 (8 in 2017) incidents in January 2018;

7 (1) incidents in February;

7 (7) in March;

2 (5) in April;

3 (3) in May;

0 (3) in June;

2 (4) in July;

7 (2) in August;

2 (5) in September;

2 (3) in October;

4 (3) in November;

7 (8) in December;

This is a total of 48 (compared with 52 in 2017) incidents.

**No further crimes updated at time of writing this report.**

The defibrillator which had been supplied by the British Heart Foundation and installed on the outside wall of the Village Hall has been used during the year. Its battery and pads have also been replaced to ensure it is kept in full working order.

Details of Parish Council proceedings have been published as required and are all available on the Parish Council website - paper copies are available for inspection in accordance with Council Policy.

In conclusion, I would like give my profound thanks to my Vice Chairman, Peter Roustoby, my fellow Councillors, and our ERYC Councillors for their help and support during my third period as Chairman.

In particular, may I thank Mrs E Ashley for her work as Parish Clerk. It is a role she has performed extremely well: taking precise notes and keeping accurate minutes and finances as well as dealing with correspondence and communications from a variety of individuals and organisations. Full and completed details of the events that I have reported on, may be found in the Parish Records that our new clerk, Mrs F Tate is the custodian of.

Paul Browning – Chair

Skidby Parish Council.

April 2019