Hayton & Burnby Parish Council

Chairman’s Report 2015-2016

The year began with the Annual Parish Meeting and AGM on 21st May. There were no changes made to the make up of the Council. Cllr Bettison was re-elected as Chairman and Cllr Sedcole as Vice Chairman. Councillors are: Mrs C.Wagstaff, Mrs EThackray, Mrs M.Drewery, Mr D.Smith and Mr D.Nicholson. Internal Auditor, Cllr Sedcole. External Auditor Mr S.Young. Cheque signatories remained as Cllrs Drewery, Thackray and Nicholson. The Parish Council Clerk is Mrs Jo Green. The Annual Audit was approved.

As in the past few years the main issues being dealt with throughout the year revolved around Flooding and Drainage alongside the perennial problems of roads and traffic. Ragwort and the failure of ERYC to treat it was also an ongoing issue.

Despite numerous complaints, inspections and the promise of a feasibility study into improving the performance of the culvert near Blacksmiths Cottage in Burnby, nothing has been done by ERYC.

At the May meeting it was agreed that the PC Clerk should become a counter signatory for PC cheques. This was to prove difficult to achieve due to the machinations of Barclay’s Bank!

The PC agreed to fund a replacement bench for Burnby. This would be installed by a Burnby resident, Mr Rob Mills. In view of the historic but increasing problems caused by the beck, it was decided that we should try to work together with adjoining PCs to keep these problems to a minimum. The Clerk was to contact Nunburnholm and Kilnwick PC to seek their co-operation and Cllr Sedcole was to write to the Flood Liaison Group re flooding problems in Burnby.

In June it was noted that the PC still had no feedback from ERYC regarding the re-siting of the tip or on providing passing places on the road between Hayton and Burnby. Cllr Bettison was to contact ERYC with a view to doing some of this work ourselves. Some work was done on the drains in Burnby, the gullies were flushed and one broken gully was repaired. Still no action on ragwort. The Streetscene Taskforce schedules were reviewed. It was found that all the minor works undertaken by the taskforce had been completed, but none of the larger Highways issues had been completed in the previous two years. The PC received a notice from the newly elected Ward Cllors to say that they would be much too busy to attend PC meetings in the future !!

Cllrs. Bettison and Nicholson attended a Planning Liaison meeting in Beverley to get some information on the setting up of a Neighbourhood Plan. Details were presented to the PC and a decision was made to look further into the idea. At the same meeting it was announced that in the near future the issue of paper Planning Applications would cease and that all Town and Parish Councils would need to purchase laptops, projectors and access to the internet to inspect local applications. This would be a great financial burden to some of the smaller PCs and more thoughts were called for on this issue.

July. The new Burnby bench was installed by Rob and this looked wonderful. He had also made a start on converting the old bus shelter into a ‘visitor centre’ Some highway repairs were carried out around the two villages but the state of the roads was still causing concern. Cllr Bettison met with Rob Brown, ERYC Highways Engineer to discuss the required passing places on Burnby Lane. Rob undertook to provide these. Cllr Bettison also attended a Highways concerns meeting in Shiptonthorpe. This was run by Nigel Leighton, and Ward Cllr. Andy Burton. An undertaking to carry out a feasibility study into the re-siting of the Council tip was given. No action on ragwort. Cllr Bettison attended a ‘Code of Conduct’ training session.

Jo Green, the PC Clerk, had done much background work on the new electronic working for Planning Applications. This would need to be operational in the near future.

Cllr Wagstaff became the PC representative on the A1079 Action Group.

August. Owen Robinson, Senior Strategic Planning Officer with ERYC gave a presentation on ‘ Light Touch Neighbourhood Plans’ This was to fit in with the limits of a small PC, and is more affordable. Even so, there would be an extra workload for Cllrs to deal with.

Rob Brown had used road planings to provide one passing place on Burnby Lane. This was very badly done and totally inadequate. However it did prove to be useful over the next few months.

An ERYC Officer had contacted the PC to inform us that there was no sign of ragwort along the A1079. Cllr Thackray told him what ragwort looked like and the Council have undertook to mow and spray the affected areas. The PC adopted the ERYC Code of Conduct. Mrs Carol Gray asked the PC to look at the possibility of providing a defibrillator for the village of Burnby. This was to be investigated. Following a theft in Hayton the PC agreed to discuss the set up of a Neighbourhood Watch for the Parish. Some Highways concerns arose in Burnby concerning a blind corner caused by an overgrown hedge. The Clerk was to write to the resident regarding it’s trimming.

September. A meeting was arranged with Nigel Leighton on 21st Sept to assess the work needed on the Parish roads. This led to NL agreeing that the re-cycling Centre should be moved to a more suitable location. A feasibility study was to be arranged. He also agreed to provide suitable passing places on Burnby Lane and the road to the quarry. Cllrs Bettison and Nicholson were to look at suitable sites. The results of the traffic survey were received. They showed a 175% increase in HGV movements in eighteen months. Ragwort had seeded and no action had been taken by ERYC,

The owner of the hedge obstructing the road in Burnby objected to the involvement of the PC and in particular to Cllr Nicholson’s involvement. The matter was passed to ERYC Enforcement Officer.

It was agreed, in principle, to provide a defibrillator for Burnby.

October. Cllr Bettison had attended a training course with the Dog Control Partnership Scheme and was now the official liaison contact for the Parish.

Costing had been obtained for the provision of a defibrillator. An initial cost of £1270 plus VAT could be covered by a Local Grant Fund but this was not currently available. It was agreed that a suitable site would be found and funding sought.

Ward Cllr Rudd had been roped in to the ragwort saga. He reported that the ragwort would be mown in October and sprayed in Spring.

November. Maureen Yates, the Community and Crime Reduction Resilience Officer for ERYC (they do so love long titles in ERYC) gave a presentation on the setting up of a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

The PC applied to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area as a first step to forming a Neighbourhood Development Plan. ERYC would now carry out a four week consultation with residents. Cllr Bettison had attended a Public Transport meeting and was now our Public Transport Champion.

December. Rob Mills of Burnby became our Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator with Mrs Carol Gray as his Deputy. Rob had also completed work on the conversion of the old bus shelter.

Cllrs Bettison and Nicholson met with Carl Skelton, ERYC Highways Maintenance Services Group Manager and agreed the siting of passing places on Burnby Lane. The PC reduced the Parish Precept for 2016 to £4,500

Following long periods of heavy rainfall large parts of Burnby were flooded on Boxing Day. Rainwater was flowing off the Wolds and down Nunburnholme Road into the village. The drainage system could not cope. The Syke was very close to overflowing. This situation was repeated following every period of rainfall into January. Despite the efforts of ERYC staff, the drainage system continually failed. It became obvious that some drastic measures were needed for the long term maintenance and repair of the drainage infrastructure. A Flood Committee was set up under the Chairmanship of Cllr. Sedcole and the help of Ward Cllr Stathers was enlisted. Work on this issue will carry on until a positive result is achieved.

January. Due to new Government regulations the PC appointed Autela Ltd to deal with the Pension Auto Enrolment for the employment of the PC Clerk. All the Neighbourhood Watch launch material was delivered to residents in the two villages, the take up in Burnby was significant but the Hayton interest was minimal.

Work on the flood prevention measures in Burnby progressed with various Officers of ERYC making inspections and looking for ways to make improvements. Steve Roberts agreed a major overhaul of the drains and gullies was needed and a relief outflow should be installed from the manhole at the road junction down to the beck.

By now the extension to the quarry was generating much higher volumes of HGV movements and the Clerk received a letter from Nunburnholme PC highlighting their concerns regarding the volume and size of the trucks on the narrow country lanes.

February. The Neighbourhood Development Plan Area was approved by ERYC. A rep from HWRCC was invited to talk the PC through the next stages. Following the break up of the Community Partnership, the Wolds Weighton Ward Cllrs organised a Liaison Group to form a bridge between the Town and Parish Councils and ERYC. Cllr Bettison and Jo Green, the PC Clerk attended the first meeting which proved to be less than useful, being largely taken over by Market Weighton Town Cllrs. At this time the issue of’ FRACKING’ was raised following the granting of exploration licences covering the bulk of East Yorkshire. Cllr Bettison attended a meeting in Pocklington to gather some information. The main objections to the industry in this locality centred on the dangers posed to water supplies from the main aquifer, the environmental impact and the huge increase in HGV movements forecast on already overloaded country roads.

The first meeting of the Hayton & Burnby Flood Committee was held on 17th February. The Committee was formed from Cllr Sedcole (Chairman), Cllr Nicholson, Cllr Thackray, Mrs C. Gray and Mr N. Marston. Mrs Jo Green, The PC Clerk, took minutes. A list was made of the major problems and a strategy was formed for future projects. Minutes of the Flood Committee meetings are on the PC web site.

March. Peter Hirschfeld from HWRCC gave a presentation on the setting up of a ‘Light Touch’ Neighbourhood Development Plan. This proved to be helpful and confusing in equal measure! However, it did show us the way to take the next step, which would be to appoint a Steering Committee made up of Parish Cllrs and other residents. The PC is still pondering whether to take this next step.

Highways issues began to take centre stage this month with Kirby Transport receiving a Certificate of Lawfulness in regard to their hours of operation and numbers of vehicles used. We are still trying to gain some clarification on this but, at present, it appears that the company can now operate at any time, on any day and have no restrictions on the number of vehicles operated at all. In spite of the one concession requested by the PC that some consideration be given to residents in terms of driving through the villages during the night, Kirby Transport have made no changes to their hours of operation. Again, contrary to the information given on the Planning Application for the extension to Partridge Hall Quarry that no increase in traffic movements would take place, quarry traffic has increased alarmingly. We have had numerous complaints of reckless driving, the bridge in Burnby has been damaged and one truck has over turned. We had letters from Nunburnholme PC on the same topics.

April. Following many e-mails to Nigel Leighton at ERYC Cllrs Bettison and Nicholson met Dave Sach, ERYC Highways Engineer and marked out four substantial passing areas on Burnby Lane. Work is conditionally scheduled to start in July. At last Councillors met with Andy Harper of ERYC and walked the verges of the A1079 and agreed a spraying strategy to control the ragwort. A site had been agreed for the Burnby defibrillator but sources of funding were scarce. The Clerk is looking for means of funding this project.

To sum the year up, we have had a very busy time dealing with the perennial problems of flooding and highways. We have formed a Flood Committee to concentrate on that particular issue.

We are in the process of forming a Liaison Group with the surrounding PCs, ERYC and Ashcourt to try to alleviate some of our highways problems

We have a rep. on the A1079 Action Group

We have a rep. on the new Pocklington and Market Weighton Liaison Group.

We have formed a Neighbourhood Watch Group.

We have a commitment from ERYC to provide more passing places and improve roads.

A feasibility study has been carried out on the re-siting of the Council Tip

There is a firm commitment to spray the ragwort this year.

We have reached a stage when we need to decide whether or not to go ahead with our Neighbourhood Plan.

I’d like to thank everyone who has contributed to the work of the Parish Council and I hope that even more residents will take an active role in our work in the coming year.

Mick Bettison