

Whittingham, Callaly and Alnham Parish Council

Chairman's annual report.

The last AGM was held by a Zoom meeting in May 2021 and the following works were in progress.

1. A new footpath along the riverside to replace a previous path which had semi collapsed was to be constructed. This was to continue further than the previous path as there being no footpath either side of the road above.

A risk assessment would then have to be done for the users of the path.

Gravel and hard core has been promised by Harden quarry to construct the path which was organised by Cllr Steven Bridgett.

We are still awaiting the contractor.

2. The scout group were requiring storage for their equipment. Parish Councillor Andrew Whincup has found a site for a container.

3. Alternative school parking to try and make the delivering and collection of children safer was being considered. Various options were put forward but as yet no solution found.

During May we had the elections for councillors and we were left with three vacancies. Lord Ravensworth and Harry Sordy deciding not to stand again and Ian Lepingwell was moving out of the district.

It was agreed to put feelers out for three volunteers to be councillors.

Professor Jonathan Clark, Elidh Gardener and Nick Riordan volunteered for the positions and were Co opted on to the Parish council in October.

The June meeting returned to the Hall where a presentation was made to Ian Lepingwell for his many years as chairman.

We were advised by the council of various bridleways being made into BOATS. ie. Byways Open to All Traffic. This was a 'fait Accompli'.

A ray of hope appeared with the Gleam consultation and Glover Landscapes review which proposed to ban all motorised vehicles from Green lanes in the National Parks.

The village notice boards were in a bad state of repair and it was proposed to get quotes for new ones. The quotes were expensive due to the cost of timber and plastic was to be considered due to requiring low maintenance.

Maintenance is to be carried out on the various seats and benches.

A tree survey has been authorised for the trees on the village green.

It was noted that most of the Sodium street lights had been changed to LED. Two Sodium remained on corners of buildings. The council has been informed.

Also a number of dilapidated road signs were noted, just the posts remaining. The council has been informed of these.

A Neighbourhood plan has been activated, a notice of intent sent to the council. Parish Councillors Chris Durie and Professor Jonathan Clark are being advised by Sarah Brannigan of the NCC Planning Department on the procedure. The committee for this should be made up from inhabitants of the Parishes not just parish councillors.

A vehicle activated speed sign has been ordered by Cllr Steven Bridgett for use at one of the approaches of the village. Whether it can be easily move around to any of the four approaches into the village we will have to wait and see.

Our Parish clerk resigned due to family matters, councillor Karen Armstrong is filling the position until another can be found. The position has been advertised.

The telephone kiosk has been adopted by the Parish council. The RSPCA has offered to put some leaflets in it. We are open to suggestions as to how it could be used.

Brian Wood. Chairman