

## **TPC Chairman Report May 2022**

I would first like to say thank you to all our Councillors who have offered me support during my year as Chair. Its been interesting and sometimes challenging with the multiple issues we have collectively faced as a small Parish Council. Lisa our Clerk has worked tirelessly in the background keeping us informed and working with us to ensure we collectively deal the tasks at hand. I would also like to thank Laura Clarehugh for joining us as a Councillor and her contribution has already made a difference.

COVID is still challenging but we have managed to remain as a collective via zoom. This approach to doing Parish work has worked well and I feel that interaction from members of the Parish has increased. That said, we will soon look at meeting in person and make a decision as to when & where we can base ourselves.

### **Neighbourhood Plan**

This has finally been adopted and now integral to our business as a Parish. Its been a great undertaking with many people working hard in the background to ensure its success. As a small Parish I feel we have set the standard and crossed a very difficult finish line in the County of Northumberland.

### **Planning**

There has been some positive work done on planning and its great to see that our contributions makes a difference. I truly believe that being able to work with NCC makes a difference as we navigate some of the more complex and difficult submissions. With the arrival of planning validation (in consultation) we should be able to maintain our presence.

### **Looking Forward**

#### **New Ideas**

I firmly believe that we can make a difference moving forward and I continue to ask Councillors for ideas and thoughts as we move through the next year.

### **Financials**

The precept did rise for the forthcoming year (3.8%) and as we reduce our costs in relation to the longstanding financial commitments we will have some funds that we can allocate to parish projects.

We have continued to support various charities on an ad-hoc basis and the final donation of the year went to the people of Ukraine and at their hour of need gave me great pride.

### **Bridge Magazine**

I would encourage all Councillors to put together a brief summary of themselves very similar to Councillor Clarehughs article. It's a great way of getting us as a PC out in the community and highlight the good voluntary work we do.

I would like to end my report by mentioning storm Arwen. Out of this destructive force came some positive outcomes and the one thing that came to mind was the sense of community sprit and the need to help each other in our time of need. Giving up free time and machinery with a sense of doing the right thing made me proud to be a part of this community

Simon Allan, Chair Thirston Parish Council

5<sup>th</sup> May 2022