

MICKLETON PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

It was with regret that the Parish Council had to accept the resignation in June 2018 of Cllr. Mike Gossage owing to ill health. Shortly after his resignation, Cllr M Gossage died.

The Parish Council vacancy was notified to Durham County Council, who then advertised the vacancy. Following election protocol, no names were forwarded to DCC for a Parish Council election. This resulted in the Parish Council being able to make a co-option and Terry Wilson has been co-opted to the Parish Council.

The Parish Council also agreed a leave of absence to Cllr P Thompson, owing to his wife's illness. The Parish Council were sad to hear the news that Sue Thompson had died very suddenly and our thoughts and best wishes were sent to Pat Thompson and his family.

HIGHWAY MATTERS - The Parish Council during the last year has continued to cover a number of topics that effect most parishioners, but the issues regarding the state of our highways continues to be a main topic. Each month any new potholes/road defects, are reported to Durham County Council for action.

The overhanging trees/hedges in both Croft Yokes Lane and Yarker Lane have been reported for trimming and this has been actioned by DCC.

Any damage to Eggleston Bridge Parapet is reported straight away so that DCC can assess the damage and instigate any remedial repairs without the closure of the bridge.

Dog fouling continues to be an issue, not only within the village itself, but also on the Railway Walk. Anyone who sees a dog owner, allowing their dog to foul and not clear up after their dog, can report the owner to DCC, who in turn would get in touch with the offending owner, which could result in a fine. The Parish Council has made a request for additional bins to be placed on the Railway Walk and within the village to try to help to alleviate the problem.

VILLAGE SEATS – All the seats within the Parish have been photographed, the majority of the seats are the responsibility of DCC for maintenance. DCC have given the Parish Council permission to paint the seats and to carry out repairs. Cllr. T Wilson has volunteered to undertake the maintenance of the seats and will commence shortly with the painting/repair of the seats, starting with the seats which are most used.

PLANNING MATTERS – During the year the Parish Council continues to be notified of planning applications for comments. This year has been a relatively quiet year for planning applications.

DALE VIEW CORNER - The Parish Council again would like to thank Barbara and Terry Wilson who volunteered to plant up and maintain this garden. The work that has been undertaken and the planting during the year has made a very colourful display within the centre of the village.

PLAY AREA Leading up to our September meeting, 2 young girls emailed the Parish Council enquiring as to whether the Parish Council could supply some play equipment for older children. Their email was followed up by their attendance at the September Parish Council meeting where they made their request for additional play equipment (a tyre swing and a set of monkey bars). The Parish Council has been successful in receiving a £2400 Grant towards this new play equipment and

this should be in place within the next few weeks. The Parish Council has also received a £200 donation and this is going to be used towards two replacement seats within the Play Area.

BARNARD CASTLE PROPOSED HGV DIVERSION – Owing to damage being sustained to both the Abbey Bridge and The Market Cross, an Action Group has been formed to try to stop HGV'S travelling through Barnard Castle. The Action Group is also aware of the impact on surrounding villages if they were successful on obtaining a ban. A meeting has been held with a member of the Action Group as well as other Parish Councils. The Action Group want to work with the surrounding Parish Councils to try to get some solution in place to try to pressure DCC to take some action to divert and stop HGC's using Barnard Castle as a short cut.

RIDING SOCIETY – The Parish Council have been contacted by The Riding Society asking if the Parish Council would be interested in marking the old Yorkshire boundaries as prior to 1974, Mickleton was part of North Yorkshire. The ideal place for a historical sign would be on Collingwood Bank. Within Mickleton Parish we have no direct access points from Co Durham or Cumbria as you have to travel through adjoining Parishes to enter Mickleton Parish. Mickleton Parish Council would like to mark the historical boundary and are awaiting to see if Romalldkirk Parish Council are following this matter up with the Riding Society and if not, would they give permission for a sign on Collingwood Bank.

I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors for all their work they undertake on behalf of the Parish Council.

K Towler

Clerk

18.5.19