

# MONK FRYSTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2023

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## EDITORIAL

The last few months have seen some changes to the Parish Council. In April, we welcomed a new councillor, Ryan Geldard, but also lost a councillor following the resignation of our Chair, Sue Woodhall.

At our Annual Parish Council Meeting in May, Nigel Spofforth was elected as the new Chairman, and Matt Burton was elected as Vice Chairman.

We (and all other councillors) can be contacted via the email addresses found on our website:

([www.monkfrystonparishcouncil.com](http://www.monkfrystonparishcouncil.com))

Sue Woodhall leaves the Parish Council with our thanks and well wishes. Sue was an extremely dedicated Parish Councillor who was committed to the village. Her diligent work on village decoration, footpaths and many other areas will be greatly missed. Thank you Sue.

*Nigel Spofforth, Chairman*

*Matt Burton, Vice Chairman*

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## GOODBYE FROM DEPARTING CHAIR, SUE WOODHALL

"Having reached an age when I feel it is right to move on I see my resignation more as a retirement in which I can devote more time to my numerous hobbies: caring for my family, garden, dogs and of course the chickens. Monk Fryston Parish Council is a strong Council and I know it will continue to put the best interests of this Parish first."

## ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING

Thank you to everyone who attended our Annual Village Meeting on 6th April. Residents raised a number of issues for the Parish Council to follow-up on, including:

- Anti-social behaviour on Chestnut Green
- Maintenance of the footpath between Old Vicarage Lane and Betteras Hill
- The danger of the road junction of Water Lane and the A63
- Cars parking on the pavement along the A63
- 'Civic pride' - in particular the need to paint fences/railings and keep the village free from litter and fallen leaves

The Parish Council is grateful to any and all residents who have contacted us over the last year by email, verbally, or attending a meeting.

If you observe antisocial behaviour in the village, please ensure this is reported to the police.

All residents can contribute to 'civic pride' by keeping our village free from litter and reporting anything requiring maintenance to the Parish Council.

## RYAN GELDARD JOINS PARISH COUNCIL



Local resident Ryan Geldard has joined the Parish Council. Ryan replaces former councillor Malcolm Robinson, who very sadly passed away in December.

Ryan says, "I'm delighted to be joining the Parish Council to further support the team in many of the great initiatives that benefit our local community. I've lived in the village for 10 years this year, and continue to love every minute.

Ensuring our community continues to thrive and is future focused is important to me, especially as a father to a young family.

I've been impressed by the Parish Council's commitment to improving residents daily lives as evidenced in current efforts, not least our ongoing campaign for important road safety improvements on the A63. It is important issues like this that attracted me to want to be part of a solution and join the Parish Council."

## **PARISH COUNCIL MAKES THE CASE FOR A PEDESTRIAN CROSSING ON THE A63**

We have formally written to Councillor Tim Grogan (the North Yorkshire Councillor for our area) and Councillor Keane Duncan (North Yorkshire Council's Executive Member for Highways and Transportation) to request that a pedestrian crossing is installed in Monk Fryston.



Thank you to all residents who signed our online and hard copy petitions and/or completed our recent road safety survey. Our letter is supported by:

- Over 800 signatures on an online petition in favour of a pedestrian crossing on the A63 in Monk Fryston, and 30+ comments left on the petition.
- Over 140 signatures on a hard-copy petition signed by customers of the Post Office and shop situated at the heart of Monk Fryston on the A63.
- Over 150 responses to a road safety village survey, demonstrating:
  - The vulnerability of many residents
  - The needs of pushchair and wheelchair users
  - The need for residents to cross the road to live their daily lives and access essential facilities
  - The fact that 97% of residents report feeling unsafe while crossing the A63
  - The fact that over 40% of residents report changing their lifestyle due to road safety fears
  - The fact that 99% of A63 road safety incidents have been unreported
- A recent analysis of data from our village's Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS), which demonstrates that traffic through Monk Fryston is challengingly high, with over 9,000 vehicles passing through the village each day.
- A HGV traffic survey demonstrating that, on average, 35 HGVs (excluding buses, tractors, light goods vehicles, emergency vehicles) pass through Monk Fryston each hour of the day on a typical weekday

Our letter to Councillors Grogan and Duncan, and the associated reports, can be found in either the 'news' or 'documents' areas of our website.

## COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION UPDATE

Since Christmas several North Yorkshire and Selby District Officers, who see many community and public buildings have commented 'You'll be alright here with your well insulated building and solar power' when discussing the energy crisis with other Community Hall operators, so perhaps we tend to take it for granted that at a time when energy prices and overall costs have rocketed ours have stabilised or dropped. Instead of increasing our rental costs to recover inflationary rises, hall rentals have been held the same since 2014. In fact, during the pandemic rents were halved to support users and residents survive the covid wave.

Another person commented when visiting the Community Centre 'what a tidy and well-maintained site!' and it is ... thanks to our volunteers who regularly monitor and maintain the Play and Recreation Grounds and clear up after others have left the recycling bins in a mess or left bottles despite signs saying – **Please don't leave your bottles as Selby DC have withdrawn the Glass Recycling Bin Service.** Perhaps some people don't know the Community Centre and other facilities are provided and run by the CA, an independent village charity, entirely organised and managed by residents over the past 50 years.

Last year we featured twice on Radio York and several times in various newspapers. We are recognised as giving leadership to sustainability projects across Yorkshire providing a showcase, exemplar, Community Centre. Yes, the recognition is welcome, albeit another job to deal with .....! We regularly ask for more help from anyone who may have a few spare hours a month to give but we always need more. Currently, besides taking the bookings, ensuring the Centre is warm, clean and well maintained, that the finances are kept in good order, we are organising village events solely like the Coronation Party (see report elsewhere) or with partners such as Proms at the Pavilion (8<sup>th</sup> July – tickets available now), the annual Beer Fest (15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> September) and the Village firework event (Sat 4<sup>th</sup> November). We are also trying to spend the money we raise at these events – it is hard work to spend money wisely – once its gone, its gone!

**Can YOU help?** We hold a monthly management meeting and also several ad hoc event meetings, some run for six months like for the Beer Fest, while others like the Firework event or Wise owl quiz only need commitment to a couple of meeting to plan the event. **So please give our appeal some serious consideration.** If you can help, please contact our chair Robin Parkin on 07887 608063 or by email to [www.mfhcc.com/support-us/](http://www.mfhcc.com/support-us/)