

Chairmans report 21-22

Last year was challenging for MFPC. At the beginning of the year, it was faced with the resignation of three councillors, and in conversations with several villagers when asked why there was apathy and reluctance to join the Council, the criticism offered was blunt and often harsh. The PC was out of touch, stuffy, set in its ways, it failed to listen and was slow in doing things. I listened to views on what was expected of a Parish Council: better communication, faster and effective decision making, more support 2021 and more recently this year, saw the addition of five new members. Working parties of two councillors were formed each with a separate mandate to appraise and report to main council monthly Councillors Spofforth and Cllr Shaw review planning applications before Council feeds back to the Local Authorities, ensuring local building regulations are adhered to and the green belt is preserved.

Cllrs Robinson and Woodhall review Footpaths and Highways, working closely with NYCC and local landowners to ensure easy access to the countryside around us

Cllrs Burton and Ellis established a new Communications Team, revamping the website, Newsletter, and social media sites. During lockdown, Council relied heavily on teams to hold virtual meetings and disseminate information. Better use of the network is now needed to promote and publish documentation required legally for council to function.

A start has been made on assessment of documentation and protocols used by Council by Cllr Kaye

Cllrs Spofforth, Woodhall and Burton have expanded the Capital Projects Team which now meets regularly with influential bodies in the village, The School, The Community Association, The Education Trust, bringing a new perspective to listening to village needs and developing local amenities.

Cllrs Woodhall and Shaw assess the village planting schemes, and all Councillors are looking at a way to brighten up our Christmas celebrations.

So much has been achieved. Big cities like Leeds have money to pour into sport and recreational facilities, enabling them to encourage young people to focus on the benefits of outdoor sports and social interaction, one of the government's main commitments to offset the mental negativity suffered by many, coming out of Covid. Our village must rely on fundraising benefactors to provide playing fields and facilities for our young. With Grants to the local Junior Football Club, MFPC has enabled the club to improve the status of their pitches by adding better drainage facilities and providing portable floodlights. A grant to the Ladies netball team enabled them to buy much needed equipment. Both teams continue to grow and expand. With Capital Projects Group continuing to advise, the Council continues to support, and find to find new ways to improve the Quality-of-life standards of the villagers.

MFPC strong objections to a Lithium battery storage plant, support of Selby District Councils opposition to a licensing application for development of land off the A63, and opposition to numerous developments have served to protect the environment.

A vigorous campaign to introduce a 20mph speed limit on Water Lane and the A63 has begun. Well received by villagers it is hoped the posters and bin stickers on display will influence public and government opinion. It will need a change in the Law but is achievable.

Council has joined the 21st Century and become an online banker.

Progress has been achieved in assuring the many protocols and documentation used by the council is up to date, an onerous task but one which must continue.

A new working partnership with the Joint Burial Committee of Monk Fryston, Burton Salmon and Hillam has evolved, altering structural and financial arrangements.

MFPC has led the way in forming a Platinum Jubilee Steering Group to oversee village celebrations in June. Supporting the event with organisational and financial support.

It has been a good year, a successful year, with all Councillors contributing well, but can I, before I finish give a special thanks to our Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer. Philip, you work tirelessly, and calmly behind the scenes, doggedly offering advice based on extensive knowledge and experience, You recently steered us through the Council elections so smoothly, I doubt any of realised the hard work you put in.

If he doesn't know the answer, he will find somebody who does.

Although we do not always agree, you have over the year steered an amicable pathway through, what I have found to be, a very steep learning curve.

Thank you.