



Parish Council of Barwick-in-Elmet and Scholes Spring Newsletter

May 2022

Parish Council Annual Report

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO BARWICK-IN-ELMET AND SCHOLES PARISH COUNCIL 9th MAY 2022

The year 2021-2022 started with the pandemic still requiring restrictions on meetings so the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting were both held via ZOOM. This was the last meeting in this format and the PC have reverted to face-to-face meetings for the future.

We started the year with one vacancy which quickly became 3 with the resignations of Howard Bedford and Glyn Davies. Later in the year Phil Maude (The Chair) and Carl Atkinson also resigned and we thank them all for the time, effort, knowledge and experience they have given to the PC.

Regrettably Howard became seriously ill after he had resigned and passed away. His funeral was well attended by family, friends, residents and Councillors. Recently Councillor Walsh's husband died suddenly and unexpectedly and the Parish Council expresses sympathy to both families.

During the year we welcomed 3 new Councillors, Carl Atkinson, David Budd and Kinga Ragg. We thank them for the expertise they bring to the PC. However, we start the new Council Year with two vacancies. We have lived with the development of the East Leeds Orbital Road, now thankfully nearly completed and hope to be at the end of road closures, traffic hold-ups and muddy roads.

It has not been an easy year for the Parish Council with a number of internal complaints from various Councillors. These were referred to Leeds City Council without any positive resolution. This has caused significant unease within the PC and put pressure on our overworked Clerk. It also resulted in the resignation of Phil Maude both as Chair of the PC and as a Councillor. It is hoped we can all work more harmoniously taking into account the Code of Conduct and Standing Orders.

On a more positive note, just completed is the new Scholes Multi Use Games area, along with a new tennis court and some fitness equipment. on the site of the old Tennis Club. The Japanese Garden at Scholes Lodge Lane was also completed and is much appreciated by the residents. We plan to continue developing Scholes Lodge Field, improve the Verity Strip which provides access to Barwick Cricket Club and the allotments. There are some embryonic ideas to improve the Heritage England Site of Hall Tower Hill for more activities. It is hoped to get the drainage of the football pitch in Scholes improved during this current year so that it can be used.

The PC will continue to support all our Sports Clubs, Community Clubs, and Associations as these are the lifeblood of the Parish.

The Parish Council have supported the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations by providing grants for groups and entertainment at the various events.

Chair, Claire Hassell.