

# Chairman's Annual Report to Kirk Deighton Parish Council

21 May 2024

## 1, The Parish Council's financial position on 31 March 2024

The cost of running the Parish to 31 March 2024 was £6412 (net of the reclaimable Vat £358)

The income for the year was £7433.

The balance in the bank on 31 March 2024 was £13516.

The precept for 2024/25 will be £7500. (A 5.3% increase from 2023/24)

## 2. New Councillor

James Brown was coopted as a new Councillor at the January 2024 Parish Council meeting.

## 3.Planning and Development

There were no major applications or developments directly within the parish.

## 4.Kirk Deighton Rangers Football Club

Kirk Deighton Rangers Football Club offered their grounds, known as Barr Field, and pavilion for sale to facilitate moving to Grange Park in Wetherby. To protect the land being sold to a builder and to give the village a chance to raise any funds, the Parish council registered, in March, the ground as an "Asset of Community Value (ACV). This would give a six-month moratorium period until 28 July during which the ground cannot be sold.

The parish council convened two residents' meetings. The first, to enable the football club to explain the reasons for the move away from the village and to address any concerns that the residents have over the future of the facility. The second, to form a village committee to investigate safeguarding the site and, if necessary, raising funds to purchase the land.

The parish council are grateful to the residents who volunteered to form the "Barr Field Group" and explore possible uses for the site and, if possible raising sufficient funds before the end of the moratorium period.

## 5.Safer Neighbourhood and Traffic

The VAS (Vehicle Activated Sign) installed in February 2022 and shared between two locations in the village and has indicated that the average speed is recorded at 34mph. However, the volume of vehicles travelling into the village is much higher than expected. The volume and speed issues in the village continue to dominate the parish council meetings but despite consultations with the new North Yorkshire Council Highways officers we have not been able to secure any traffic calming measures.

A road traffic accident in November damaged the Kirk Deighton village sign and supporting structure at the northern end of the village. Work is ongoing to rebuild the stonework and repaint the sign,

## 6.Grass Cutting and Village Appearance

Moreland Garden Services, our grass cutting contractor, decided in late May at the start of the grass cutting season, not to continue their contract. We managed to arrange an 'emergency' cut by a local contractor, but, as the grass was exceptionally long and we asked for the cuttings to be removed, it proved extremely expensive to have just the Main Street cut. After obtaining quotes from several interested contractors, we appointed Gary Marston from Little Ribston.

Gary cut all the grass throughout the rest of the season and will undertake the grass cutting in 2024 at the same rates as last year,

## 7. Road Conditions

The parish council has continued to lobby NYC Highways Department to repair the road surface and clear the gutters and drains. The larger potholes were patched as a temporary measure before major resurfacing is hopefully carried out. Resurfacing of the Main Street was undertaken in May 2023 but sadly this "patching" has already deteriorated. With the help of our Ward Cllr Andy Paraskos, he has funded the repainting of the road markings in the village. This work will be done in Spring 2024.

## **8.Village Events**

The Parish Council thank the Village Events Team (K D Events) who organised a very successful Coronation Event for the village in May and a Family Rounders Match in August.

The events team have taken over the supply and decoration of the village Christmas tree. The successful "light switch on" event, and the sale of a Kirk Deighton Calendar raised money for a mental health charity.

The parish council acknowledges the work that KD Events are now undertaking in the village, particularly the planting and maintenance of the flower beds beside the village signs.

## **9.Defibrillator**

Our second defibrillator in the village, purchased with the help of a generous donation from Ward Councilor Andy Paraskos, was installed in the bus shelter on Main Street in April. With thanks to the Kirk Deighton Village Hall committee who arranged for Dr Margaret Morris, a retired GP and village resident, to provide CPR and defibrillator training.

## **10.Aims and Objectives**

To continue to lobby NYC to address the poor condition of the roads in the village and the state of the drains and kerb edges.

To continue to work with North Yorkshire Police and highways to combat the speeding issues.

David Richardson  
Chair Kirk Deighton Parish Council  
May 2024.