

Thornton Le Dale Parish Meeting

Held on Tuesday 1st May 2018 at 7.00 pm in the Hill Memorial Institute. Six parishioners attended.

The Chair, Councillor S Bell, gave an overview of the work carried out for the good of the Parish in 2017/18 and answered queries put forward by the public.

There seem to have been many things within this year, some of which have continued from last year. Others are still ongoing.

Traffic lights have taken up some time, but we seem to be making some sort of progress there and it may be we have some definite improvement fairly soon.

Street cleaning has also been a bit problematic but there is now some taking place if somewhat spasmodically and there have been the standard considerations about gutters and gulleys.

Pot holes are increasingly an issue and frequent referrals to Highways are both made and advised. This is a nationwide problem linked to funding, but this does not make them any easier to live with and in some areas our roads are in a poor condition.

The state of benches around the village is another area ongoing and it may be a while before this element is in proper order. Councillor Sanderson has undertaken a survey for us to learn we had many more than we realised and to consider a more systematic approach to their maintenance in the future.

We are finally getting to grips with street lights and have started on the decisions we need to be making through the year as these are updated and refurbished. Railings have still not got through the insurance barrier and we continue to be frustrated by the lack of progress in this.

VAS is increasingly being presented to us but we have consistently refused to sign up to further sessions so far as the cost is felt to outweigh the potential gain to the village.

We have started working with another Caretaker. Councillor Sanderson has engaged on a breakdown of the tasks undertaken throughout the year with a view to having a clear timetable. This will be in front of the Council for our consideration soon and this should make it easier to keep track of how well the arrangements we have work for the village, and indeed develop the role to more fully cater for the needs of the whole village.

Planning has continued to engage us and there has been a variety of applications before the Council, some good some distinctly dubious. As a Parish Council, we are limited in the objections we can make but we submit what and when we can.

The Beck Group has continued with their work and the Beck is looking better for their efforts; we have escaped any flooding incidents over the winter but there remain issues regarding keeper stones falling or in danger of falling into the Beck and some issues of silting etc to be addressed by or with the riparian owners.

Dog fouling signs have been put up and extra bins installed but fouling continues to be a topic of concern.

Not forgetting the Moles who have come up several times for consideration, I'm not convinced that just getting someone in to kill them each time is the best thing as others will come in to take their place. Perhaps we should investigate possible deterrents in the relevant areas.

Car parking. We finally have the signs in the car park telling of the cheaper short stay rate and the free parking for buses although there is still a problem with many people just not realising the car park is so close to the centre. Car park signs might be an item that occupies us within this coming year.

All in all, it seems to have been a busy year and with the introduction of the discussions regarding the Hub, next year seems likely to be busy again with involvement by increasing numbers of people for the good of the parish area.

On the whole the Parish Council has worked well as an organisation and met its challenges and I thank you, the Council, and the residents that continue to attend our meetings and show an interest in the work carried out by the Council for the good of the village and its parishioners.

The Clerk and Council will address the above problems in the fullness of time and hopefully resolve these concerns.

The meeting closed at 1925 hrs.