

Darrington Parish Council Annual Chairman's Report May 2022

As some of you may be aware this will be my final Chairman's report. Having been chairman for 16 years now I have decided that this will be my final year on the Parish Council. I announced my decision before Christmas in order to allow time for a smooth transition, however, in the interim a number of my fellow councillors have either already resigned, or, have intimated that they will also be resigning at the end of the council fiscal year in May. At our recent February meeting a good number of residents attended to express their interest in possibly joining the council, so it would appear that there is good potential for the council to continue to function uninterrupted.

When I started back in 2006 there were a number of disparate groups working for the benefit of residents, but for some reason some of these groups seemed to be pulling in opposite directions. I felt that if these groups could be persuaded to work together more could be achieved as a result. Thankfully this is what happened and joint projects such as the restoration of the reading rooms, restoration of the tithe barn area, clearing and developing the old orchard saw the parish council working in conjunction with the Field Committee, the Feast and Fair Group, the Church, the guys at Church Farm, the regulars at the Spread, the Village School the Brotherhood Church and many individuals.

I must pay special thanks to Philip Morrell who has consistently turned up to help on each successive project. Without his help and the use of his equipment many of our achievements would not have been possible.

I and my fellow parish councillors have always had the attitude that if there was a job that needed to be done, if possible we would organise a working group and get it done. I have lost count of the number of planters that we have rebuilt, and the old stone walls that we have repaired. To be honest, it was most enjoyable to do these things together.

Over the last decade the village has been spared the expense of employing a clerk and a responsible finance officer by individual councillors doing these jobs voluntarily, however, recently it has proved impossible to replace the outgoing officers. This left the council with no option but to pay someone to provide these services. With a limited income of around £13,000; most of which is already committed to existing services, the council had no option but to increase the precept so that the incoming new councillors had a better chance of maintaining services. With any luck one of the new councillors may take on these responsibilities, but I felt that it would be wrong to leave the new council with a financial problem. It must be remembered that the rise of 10% that we have introduced, will only generate an extra £1,300 per annum. However, we, the outgoing members of the council, leave the finances in good order, there is a substantial balance in the account which will cushion the incoming council. It will be for them to decide on future policy.

Finally on a personal note I would like to express my thanks to the many councillors that I have had the pleasure of working with over the years, both from town and parish. I feel it would be wrong to pick out individuals. I truly believe that every councillor that I have worked with has had a desire to help improve the lot of the people of Darrington. In my opinion society is not divided by race, colour, creed, gender, class, sexual orientation, religion, age or politics, the division is much simpler. There are only two kinds of people, givers and takers. To the many givers that I have had the pleasure of working with I offer my gratitude.

I conclude by offering this advice to my successor:

Give everyone a fair chance to be heard and treat everyone with the respect that they deserve.

Michael Britton Darrington Parish Council Chairman 2006-2022

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After the best part of 20 years as a Darrington Parish Councillor, I have decided it's time to step back.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunities to work with so many Councillors over the years to help enhance the physical and community environment of our Darrington Parish and I've thoroughly enjoyed liaising between Parish Council and our amazing Darrington CE Primary school and Nursery.

I was particularly proud of the way we overcame numerous funding, logistical and communication challenges to assure the installation and continued maintenance of the Character Lighting scheme through the Village.

My role in leading the planning for the Commemoration of the Darrington Air crash 75th anniversary and fly past by the Lancaster Bomber on behalf of our Parish Council was another event of which I'm proud.

Darrington Garden Club goes from strength to strength as we approach the end of our second decade that has included many Garden Competitions, Open Gardens, a calendar and a Herb Garden at The Kyte!

The club will be continuing - second Wednesday each month, 6pm at The Kyte, courtesy of Gallimore's at The Kyte.

So, after numerous Christmas Tree installations, loads of newsletters, carol concerts, a spot of quality stone-walling at The Old Orchard - and choosing the big lump of rock from Darrington Quarry that now supports the Darrington Sign on Marlpit Lane, the time has come for me to formally let you know that I will be resigning my role as a Darrington Parish Councillor from May 2022.

I'm delighted that so many people have demonstrated their support to ensure Darrington Parish Council can remain viable and so it's with confidence that I wish all Parish Councillors continued success, positive impact and fulfilment.

Best Regards

Andy Tagger

HOMES FOR UKRAINE' SCHEME'

Desperate times for so many trying to find refuge from the war in Ukraine!

There's been a significant expression of support by so many people across the country recording their interest in The Scheme but currently, it's proving tricky to match expressions of support to those seeking support.

Yvette Cooper, MP's Office has offered to help if you're currently struggling to make progress or simply need some guidance.

Hopefully, with time, there'll be a more integrated, joined up process but that's not currently in place, hence our MP's offer.

Contact: 01977553388 or: coopery@parliament.uk or Queens Mill, Aire Street, Castleford.

NEWSLETTERS

If you would like to receive your Parish Council Newsletter by e mail please contact vicechair@darrington.org.uk With your email and home address

Coffee Mornings

In the reading Room every Monday (except Bank Holidays) 10:00am to 12:00 noon All welcome The Post Office is now open on Monday mornings

DARRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council would like to thank

Mick Britton Chairman
Paul Stainer Responsible Finance Officer
Andy Tagger Parish Councillor

Who are retiring from the Parish Council.

Our thanks to all previous members of the council for the help and support they have given the village.

We would like to thank all those who responded to the leaflet, which was circulated regarding the vacancies on the Parish Council.

We now appear to have a full council which, when finalised will be published. We also now have a list of willing volunteers to help with future Parish projects.

Thank you



Darrington Feast and Fayre



On the 25th June 2022 the Feast and Fayre will return after an absence of two years. It will start at 12.00AM with the opening by the King and Queen and finish around 5.00 PM after the ever popular tractor pull. So if this date is not already in your diary make a note now.

Once opened we will then start the 5 mile run. By the time you will read this booking a place for the 5 mile run will have been available for sometime. Runners can book a place via BookitZone. The run will be strictly limited to 250 runners and there will be no on the day entry available. So if you want to take part book your slot now as they are filling up fast.

Don't forget that this is called the Feast and Fayre for a reason, this is because there will be ample food and drink available throughout the day, so please support us wherever possible.

If you would like to donate a raffle prize, or donate to a food hamper raffle prize please contact Stella Hoyle on 07720 174358.

On the day there will be some of the usual attractions such as the Maypole Dancing and children's races. However, this year there will be a more musical theme to the day with live performances from the King's School Band and three other local acts, so bring your dancing shoes and join in the fun.

You will also notice two other major differences from previous years. Firstly, there will be contactless card readers for the bar and catering transactions.

Secondly and more significantly there will be a £2 entry fee for everyone over the age of 12, and a wrist band re-entry system should you leave the field for any reason. This decision to charge a nominal fee has not been made lightly but with the increasing costs of organising the Feast & Fayre, and lack of income during the last two years it has pushed us down this route.

The village field is currently entirely funded by money raised at the Feast and Fayre. Items such as hedge cutting, grass cutting, insurance, repairs and yes even the standing charge for having an electric supply means that upwards of £3000 per year is required just to maintain the status quo. Looking around the field many will think wouldn't it be nice if some of the play equipment could be improved. A small "springy" animal costs in the order of £2000 and the climbing net cost over £16,000 so nothing is cheap to replace and takes us several years to save up enough to pay for it.

There is though one black cloud that hangs over the day and that is the lack of volunteers to help out. Many people have come forward to offer some help on the day and we are greatly appreciative of this. However, some aspects of the day that we had planned may have to be cancelled due to lack of cover. So if you are able to help in any way between 4 PM on Friday evening setting up stalls and marquees to 8 PM on the Saturday evening dismantling and packing away equipment please let Karina Whalley know on 07789 776383. There are jobs of all types that need to be done, from the more glamorous customer facing aspects of helping to run a stall on the afternoon to the less glamorous but equally important items such as putting up marquees and litter picking before or after the event.

For all the latest news views and gossip about the day please visit us on

Facebook: @darringtonvillagefield

Instagram: @darringtonvillagefieldtrust or contact us via email: feastandfayre@gmail.com



Darrington Parish Council Members

Michael Britton Chair	708205
Paul Stainer	
Responsible Finance Officer	705373
Andy Tagger	704681
Vera Stones	794794
Linda Thompson	700059

Darrington Parish Council are working on your behalf to improve and maintain the atmosphere and facilities of Darrington and Wentbridge.

If you have any issues that you wish to raise or ideas to help the community please contact one of the Councillors above.

If you are interested in getting more involved contact the Chair or come to the next Parish Council meeting which is usually held on the second Thursday in the month at 7:00pm in the Reading Room, on Philips Lane,

Keep up to date with Darrington events at www.darrington.org.uk and www.darringtonvillagefield.org

Our thanks to Darrington Golf Club and Hungry Horse for sponsoring the production of this newsletter.



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