

Good Evening, thought I'd break with tradition on a chairman's report – and talk through what have we as a Parish Council has achieved over the last 3 years

Sometimes it's tough being a councillor, we are all volunteers that do this, as are previous parish councils. Some meetings have been uncomfortable, through various reasons,

So back in March this year, Tracey penned the following list to fellow councillors, to remind us what we had achieved, I thought about my report tonight and realised what she had drafted was perfect

So remind us all what we have all achieved over the last 3 years, with Margaret Lumb the previous Chairman and fellow outgoing councillors:

- Introduction of a new website. Ensuring communication is shared much quicker and easier to navigate. Thank you Ian Shepard
- Introduction of a dedicated parish council facebook & twitter page. Another method of communication to ensure as many people are kept in the loop. Again thank you Ian Shepard is a great web page now and thank you to Tracey for maintaining it
- Open Mornings – there have been at least 2 per year opening up the parish council to residents to pop in for a chat and to discuss any areas of concern and to re-energise the 5 year parish plan. We really enjoy these, it a great opportunity to meet members of our village.
- Actively involved in numerous community events; WW2 celebrations, quizzes, litter picks, clean up days to mention a few. Thank you to Gary for the many quizzes that he runs that regularly pulls in crowds in and raises funds and Tracey and all fellow Councillors for helping keep our village tidy through the village litter picks.
- Successfully awarded £45k grant funding to revamp the play park, introduce outdoor gym equipment. While engaging with the local community to find out what they wanted. A huge thank you to Philippa and Tracey for all their hard work for applying for and then successful achieving the funding.
- More rigorous financial monitoring to ensure all monies are spent in the best interest of the parish. – Thank you to Rob, Philippa and Tracey for pushing for greater financial controls, that allow us to identify surplus funds and spend wisely on the village
- Online banking to make it easier for transactions. – A great idea from Tracey as we move with the times
- Revamp of the village hall to accommodate more bookings at no additional cost – drapes, lights, etc – We now are able to attract Weddings, parties, pop up restaurant through the additional services we provided in the hall, all bringing in funds to the village
- 0% precept increase in 3 years while maintaining all services. – Through arranging events and functions in the hall, we have been able to cover off any additional expenditure or annual increases in maintenance costs needed to run the parts of the village that the Parish Council is responsible for.
- New tractor to save on future costs
- Final stages of foot/cycle path – Yes it is nearly finished
- 30mph Rectory/Station Road – This has been one of our greatest achievement as we perpetually strive to make our village safer for all our parishioners
- Introduction of pension scheme including new payroll system – Thank you Tracey again another system that allows us to moving with the times
- Christmas lights and social activities including village advent & carols – Thank you to Rob organising the advents calendar windows, it quite magic walking round the village at

Christmas looking at all the creativity. Thank you too, to Feoffees for the Christmas tree and all the councillors that come out to serve mulled wine and mice pies at the carol singing

- Better publishing of bus times through regular updated timetables at all stops
- Successful LHI funding to improve crossing along Station Road – This was one of the reason for the 30mph got approved and this together with the other islands at the other end of the village have certainly made an impact on the motorist.
- Community marquee – available for hire to all parishioners or FOC for community events.
- Revamped phone box into community book exchange - library – Thank you Alan, it's a great asset and regularly used
- 100 club – raising money for local events/organisations – Thank you Cynthia for championing and running this, the Defib that is on the wall in the front of the village hall was part funded by the 100 club
- Engaging with the whole parish on planning applications – and there has been a few – Station Road, Rose Homes, Colne Road and more recently the Local Plan and the change of designation for our village. A huge thankyou to Gary, Martin, Roger, Frank, Cathy and Philippa who work tirelessly as our Planning Committee
- More open and transparent meetings allowing members of the public to speak more freely – our Parish Council meetings are now more engaging allowing members of the public to interact at the right time in the agenda
- Community volunteers to help gritting during the cold weather – when our village roads are icy, it's not just the Highways Authority that grit our roads, many of the councillors are also out there using grit bins
- 100% allocation of allotments and clean and tidy plots – Thank you to Frank and Roger for managing our allotments

So not much really.....

I'm am very proud part of this Parish Council, and all our achievements to date, which haven't been by one person but by the whole team of parish councillors and the clerk.

It's been a good three years

Mark Berg

Chairman – Bluntisham Parish Council – 2nd May 2018