Chairman’s Statement to Parish Meeting 16th May 2024

It would have been nice to make a report on works carried out over the past year to the Village Greens. Unfortunately however, owing to the poor weather conditions the Council have been unable to do any work.

The last work carried out and just in time was the recovering of part of the Oldways footpath with small stone, obtained from Plasmor. I have been reliably informed that even with all the rain we have had the path as held up very well.

Plasmor are storing another 40 tonnes which when the weather is favourable we are hoping to spread on the still mulched footpaths. If anyone would like to assist our volunteers in spreading the stone please contact our Clerk Julie and she will get someone to contact you who can give you an update on when the work is to be carried out.

Hagg Lane green is still requiring work, again this is delayed because of the weather as well as the restrictions we have on cutting back any tree branches.

The Highways requested that branches be cut back away from Hagg Lane because vehicles were being affected as the branches were encroaching the road. The Council had to obtain permission to carry out this work which we did and the work has been carried out.

The Council are now working with the Hagg Lane green conservation group and an Arboriculturalist identifying trees that will come into a ten year plan to be maintained on a regular basis, this plan will be agreed with the planning department and allow for work to be carried out as needed.

This will not come cheap and the Council are in the process of trying to obtain funding from different sources, we have two thousand pounds put to one side to start the process.

Oxbow Green, again work here held up by the weather, fortunately though this green will be kept a wet area mainly because of the wildlife within it. But we still hope to make a footpath around the southern edge which will join the Oldways.

The Memorial Garden this area is kept pristine by Cllr Les Stebbings and his band of volunteers namely John Sedman, Mandy Moss, Liz Carstairs and Richard Wildon. This garden is well used by residents and visitors alike although we have lately been picking up empty bottles that are discarded here.

On other issues, I have spoken to our new MP Keir Mather about the lack of a bus service. Keir is aware of the lack of services in the area and is keen to do something about it, he is also working with Selby and District Railusers group regarding Selby Station and the timetables.

The Parish Council have also arranged for the clearing of the Hull Road footpath on the North side from Northfield Lane to Brackenholme. This is a consequence of the cutbacks to Highways, we have residents wanting us to clear it because it is becoming impassable and Highways cannot afford to do it.

It is also hoped that we can clear the cycle track again but we will need to take the foliage back as well to keep the path clear.

Plasmor have completed their quarrying and are working there on landscaping.

Much of the land has been handed back to the original owners but the centre part will be left open to the public, that is from the new site road which will be removed, to the East as far as Pulleyne’s ponds.

The site cabin area is hopefully going to be a car park for visitors.

Pulleyne’s fishing pond footpath is temporarily closed at the moment owing to the weather, Andy was hoping to reopen it this May so we will wait and see.

While on the ponds, could I please take this opportunity to ask residents to know where your children are? Water is very tempting especially in hot weather but anyone entering any of these ponds, the likelihood is that they won’t come out?

I would also make people aware that one of the benches placed on the Water Lane pond area has been vandalised beyond repair, the Council will need to remove it but a replacement would be costly and unfortunately probably suffer the same fate.

Finally I would like to thank the Councillors that deliver the newsletters and assist in numerous projects and all those that volunteer to help the Council to make things better in the village. I'm sorry that I can’t name everyone but you know who you are.

And of course Julie our Clerk who goes out of her way to steer the Council and is much appreciated by the Councillors.