

Good evening everyone and welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting for 2022.

I will try and keep this brief and will be happy to answer any questions at the end.

We welcome Nigel Shenton as a new Councillor and I feel sure he will be a tremendous asset to us. He moved here about 18 months ago from Cheddar where he spent plenty of time in Local Government so brings a lot of experience. We now know we need a licence from NYCC to put a bench next to the road! It was sad to lose Jean Brooksbank in unfortunate circumstances and I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all the work she did for the Council. A little footnote to this comes from Mick Egan. For those that don't know blah! blah!

Post Covid the year seems to have flown by and it has been much improved being able to meet face to face. Let's hope we don't have to resume to Zoom anytime soon.

Covid is still playing its part. We have been trying to register the land on which we are sitting with the Land Registry but we seem no further forward than when we first applied 18 months ago. Working from home and the incredible increase in new build work seems to be dominating the Land Registry workload. It is important that we pursue this to enable us to offer a lease to the Devonshire Institute Trustees which in turn would allow them to apply for grant funding to maintain and upgrade this wonderful building. The Trustees efforts over the last year and during Covid have been nothing short of remarkable. I feel that the relationship between the two organisations is as close as it has ever been, certainly in my 20 years on the Council, and long may that continue. Derek will soon be in his new apartment which will free up the front of the TH at ground level for new development etc.

Planning, as always, is a major part of the PC workload and this year is no exception. The potential development of Moody Sty Lane is still ongoing and I think maybe for the foreseeable future. The latest we have heard is that YDNP have given the developers until the end of May to amend their original plans. Somehow I don't think it will end there!! I understand other options are being looked at but I am not able to disclose anything at this stage.

We have seen a huge increase in visitor numbers with the season extending nearly all the way through winter. At first it was difficult to discern whether it was staycationers or fans of ACGAS. My feel is that it is now more of the latter with many overseas visitors particularly from the USA. Long may this continue. I have been quite involved with the production crew and I know that they are planning for 7 series which will be fantastic. The only caveat seems to be that they can keep hold of the cast as what tends to happen in drama series the lesser known actors get "bribed" into bigger and better things. I know the crew and actors love coming to the Dales and Grassington in particular. I would like to thank the Chamber of Trade, the businesses and most importantly the residents for making them all feel welcome.

Staying with the entertainment theme the 40's weekend is still planned to go ahead. The council is firmly against this in the usual format. However, the CoFT and 40's Committee have agreed that whilst it will still go ahead there will be no re-enactors or military vehicles present. Visitors will be allowed in military uniform but will not be allowed to carry replica guns etc. This is obviously a nod to the war taking place in Ukraine. Luckily with ACGAS

being set around the end of the 30's and into the 40's the event will be themed in that way. So there will still be dancing in the streets and TH and wonderful costumes to enjoy. It is somewhat ironic that the filming next week will be moving into the 2nd WW era so don't be alarmed if you see blacked out windows and sandbags etc!

I now need to address the most contentious issue facing the council and indeed the village and that is parking. I am sure it is evident to all that the situation is getting worse not better. I don't think any of us know what the perfect solution is but I think that we are all in agreement that something has to be done. Our new improved Dales Market would appear to be an instant success but that is going to bring more vehicles to the village. My dream would be to have all village parking restricted to 2 hours forcing anything longer down to YDNP. Job done, but easier said than done. We are still going ahead with getting costings etc for meters etc. It is the only way that we can get official wardens to patrol the streets etc. That said we are not able to do that until the Unitary authority comes into being which will be April next year. If we were to go down the meter route Craven DC said it would take 6-9 months to implement in any case. I personally apologise for the problems at Wood Lane car park. For the record this started before Christmas when contractors working on the new Dales Store were parking outside the paper shop all day. This caused many complaints. So I suggested they parked on Wood Lane but was told that often when the contractors turn up the spaces are all gone. And as they needed their vehicles to be close by I said they could use the residents car park. At the time I was assured the building work would be finished by the end of March so I didn't see much of a problem. I wasn't expecting the heatwave in March for one thing and I should have known things always take longer than promised!. I think the situation is now almost resolved so I look at it as being short term pain for long term gain!!

Recently we had a flooding issue where the roots of the large tree in the car park in front of the TH blocked the culvert. It was one of those jobs where you cannot get a quote because until you start digging you don't know what the problem is. Yorkshire Water, Craven Highways and the Environment Agency all said it was nothing to do with them but good old , maybe not so old, Johnny Walmsley came to the rescue, once it stopped raining and the water levels dropped, ably assisted by Josh, Simon and Tom. Other contractors were approached but non would quote and all said it would be at least a month before they could do anything.

Finally I would like to thank all my fellow councillors for all their efforts. It is often a thankless task being a councillor but I know we all put many hours in, all unpaid of course, and get little or no reward. Walking into the village can sometimes be a perilous journey because you never know who is going to jump out and say "Rob have you got a minute?" If only it was a minute!! Seriously thank you so much all of you and here's to a productive 2022-3!

I also must include Louise, our clerk, who has provided guidance & support throughout my tenure.