



## **Chairman's Report**

### **Annual Parish Meeting of Aberford & District Parish Council on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024.**

This report is an opportunity to review the last year.

Many activities demonstrate the ongoing support the Parish Council gives to Village organisations and other small projects that enhance the character of the village or provide additional amenities.

Looking back, we have probably done more than we remember but at times we have been quite busy.

Listed below are some of the things we have done or are still moving along:

#### Changes to membership:

I give thanks to the service given by the outgoing Chairman Mike Oakes. There have been a few members of the parish council come and go over recent years. We would like to thank them all but especially the current volunteers for their continued support. We are stronger in numbers and look to recruit new councillors to join our team.

#### Lights

What an honor it has been to work together with other community groups so that Aberford had Christmas lights on the lampposts. The community group Aberford illuminations have done a fantastic job during the last few years bringing community events to life and working together has proven what a difference we can make in our village. We hope to double the lamppost motifs this year.

#### Newsletter:

We continue to produce the village newsletter. We aim to release two per annum. The next one has just gone to print.

#### Website:

We have now completed implementation of the new website. The website is used to post items of news, information and policies.

#### Hanging Baskets:

The hanging baskets looked beautiful in our Village last year. They have all been fully sponsored for this coming year and with a contribution from the parish council were sure they will look just as good this year.

#### Road Safety:

It was brought to our attention that the road running Centrally through our village is becoming increasingly dangerous. We implemented some traffic indication devices to try and help calm speeding. We instructed Leeds City council to carry out road safety work on Main Street near the church to create safer areas for our school children to cross and to calm the traffic in this area. The first piece of work carried out was unsatisfactory so we are working hard to get this changed.

Playground:

A&DPC maintains the playground out of a savings fund. Capital costs of equipment can be substantial, so this is part of the annual spending budget. Last year we bought new play equipment for the park. It has been a delight to see children playing on the new roundabout feature whirly bob. We are looking to clean up the play area now spring is rising.

Donations:

We have continued to give financial support to Aberford and Garforth in bloom. We were also delighted to support the village Hall committee in donating funds to a community event that was held to celebrate the hall's centenary. I'm sure all that attended will agree what a fantastic celebration it was.

Planning issues:

At our monthly meetings we also consider local planning matters. It is hoped City Planners take notice of our comments and adhere to the neighbourhood development plan conditions. Planning interpretation can be difficult and open to interpretation.

*We try to reflect Village needs and are open to suggestions to improve the area. If we think a plan is feasible then we can try and develop that further.*

Forward plan:

We are in the process of completing an update of all our policies as required under Parish Guidance Regulations. These are posted on the website and are reviewed from time to time if any changes are required.

It was proposed some time ago that the PC records should largely be backed up in "the Cloud". Councillors should then have direct access to organized records rather than rely on their own.

Other documentation will continue to be uploaded to the website, which is managed by the Clerk

Forward planning is good practice and is necessary if we wish to have status of what used to be "Quality Council Status" but has now just changed.

Finance is part of normal budgetary control and tied to forward planning. This is why we need future projects to be budgeted prior to setting the precept.

We have not increased the precept for next year.

*From the above it is obvious that we have all worked hard towards the future of the village over the last year and I wish to thank all Councillors for their contribution.*

Signed

SARAH BRADLEY  
CHAIRMAN ABERFORD & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL.