**Hayton & Burnby Parish Council**

Chairman’s Report 2014-2015

The year began with the AGM on 15th May. Cllr Bettison was elected Chairman and Cllr Sedcole vice chairman. The Council Clerk is Mr C. Worral. Councillors are: Mrs C. Wagstaff, Mrs E. Thackray, Mrs M. Drewery, Mr D. Smith and Mr D. Nicholson. Internal Auditor, Cllr Sedcole. External Auditor Mr S. Young, Clerk to Holme upon Spalding Moor Parish Council. Cheque signatories remained as Cllrs Drewery, Thackeray and Nicholson. The Annual Audit was approved.

Most of the drainage and flooding problems in both villages had been resolved after two years of work and negotiations with ERYC and the EA on a regular basis. Martin Clarke and Rob Brown signed off the tasks which they had undertaken and were thanked by the PC. The only major outstanding problem is the culvert under Burnby Road at Blacksmiths Cottage. This is still being pursued.

The other ongoing, annual problem at this time was the amount of ragwort being allowed to flourish along the A1079. As in previous years ERYC did nothing until many weeks after the weed had seeded. Cllr David Rudd undertook to help with this issue.

The Planning Application for 77 new homes on Burnby Lane, Pocklington was approved by ERYC.

By June it was becoming obvious that the Council Clerk was experiencing problems in covering his duties. We missed the village walkabout at this time and had to re-schedule. Also we were having trouble in contacting Mr Worral. We were promised that ERYC would spray ragwort by the end of the month.

I tried to establish a Community Project to enhance the appearance of the villages through a Yorkshire in Bloom scheme earlier in the year. Alongside this was to run a “Grow Wild” excercise for the younger people of the community to plant trees and wild flowers. Residents showed little interest and by the time that judging took place the plan was abandoned.

Grass cutting in the area had come to a standstill and I attended a meeting in Holme on Spalding Moor where it was explained that the Council had ordered new machinery which had not yet been delivered and the grass had grown too quickly! We were assured that things would improve in the following six weeks.

In July we were presented with the bombshell that the Council Clerk had been arrested and pleaded guilty to charges of sexual abuse of a minor. At an extraordinary meeting on 8th July it was agreed to suspend Mr Worrall until the details and outcome of his trial were known on 28th July. Cllr Sedcole was to cover the Clerks duties in the meantime. The Parish Council, with the help of Steve Young, the Clerk to HoSM Parish Council began the task of recruiting a new Clerk and were fortunate to acquire the services of Mrs Joanna Green of Pocklington. Then began the mammoth task of collecting and sorting the paperwork left by Mr Worrall and reinstating the website, which had been allowed to lapse. This took several weeks and we still have some gaps which are gradually being filled in.

ERYC had flailed the ragwort on the centre of the A1079 dual carriageway but had left the plants growing on either side of the road!

An extraordinary meeting was called on 18th August to officially start the employment of the new Clerk. It was also decided that all Parish Council Policies and Procedures should be reviewed and updated.

A new date for the village walkabout with the Village Taskforce team was arranged for 21st August. This was attended by three Parish Councillors and Mr David Rudd, one of our Ward Councillors. Several minor tasks were highlighted and a few major problems were discussed, though most of these were beyond the remit of the Taskforce. The culvert in Burnby was inspected and it was agreed that this should be passed back to Martin Clarke who had carried out a flood risk survey in 2013. This problem is still ongoing. The poor condition of the roads around both villages was discussed, as was the growing volumes of traffic using these roads. These concerns were passed on to ERYC and copied to Pocklington Town Council.

The Taskforce supervisor confirmed that the trees growing in the verge bordering Holly Beck were not owned by ERYC but had been planted by a previous resident of Holly Beck. As they were undermining the boundary wall of Holly Beck, it was decided to grant permission for them to be removed at the expense of Mr Edey, the complainant.

The website was still not in operation following the non payment of fees by the previous Clerk. An application was made for a grant to provide three new grit bins for the winter.

In September a serious accident occurred at a farm in Burnby. The drivers of two ambulances reported that they were delayed due to the absence of Street Name Signs in Burnby. Cllrs. were concerned by this but in the face of repeated vandalism and destruction of street signs and some residents antipathy towards them it was felt that there was little that could be done.

In October a heavy manhole cover in Town Street, Hayton collapsed due to the weight of commercial traffic passing over it.

The Parish Council received it’s first Planning Application to install a large scale photovoltaic array. The site, between Hayton and The Balk had previously been refused PP for the erection of a Wind Turbine but it was felt that this new application would be far less obtrusive and it was recommended for approval with a condition that the site should be screened by hedging. The bench near the bus shelter in Burnby was reported broken and possibly dangerous.

The new grit bins were installed in November.

In December, the Standing Orders of the Council were reviewed and updated along with the Code of Conduct and the Severe Weather Plan.

The Precept for 2015/2016 was discussed and in view of a possible Parish Council Election in 2015, it was decided that the Precept should be raised to £5000.

An extra, Planning, meeting was called in December to consider an Application to extend Partridge Hall Quarry by 2.5 hectares. This, again, raised the issues of more heavy commercial traffic passing through the villages. After a lively debate, the Application was approved by six votes to one

In January we received the long awaited report from Martin Clarke on the Burnby culvert. A feasibility study into improving its hydraulic capacity would be carried out in 2015/2016 (subject to funding being available!)

The subject of traffic through the villages continued to be raised and various options were discussed. It was decided that Cllr Bettison would raise the matter at the next Community Partnership Meeting.

The Community Payback Team had completed the work of ‘siding out’ the verges in Hayton and feedback from residents was very positive

Traffic issues were raised at the January Community Partnership meeting and Cllr David Rudd arranged for Mr Nigel Laughton, ERYC Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services, to attend the April Parish Council meeting to hear, first hand, the issues raised by residents.

In March an Emergency Planning Officer attended the PC meeting to help us to expand and update our village emergency procedures. This work is still ongoing. At long last the website appeared to be running at it’s full potential.

Donations for the year were agreed as: Grass cutting at St Martin’s Church:- £550. Grass cutting at St Gile’s Church:- £500. Hayton Village Hall (rent):- £250. Hayton Village Hall Newsletter:- £50.

Twenty four residents attended the meeting on 2nd April and were joined by Mr Nigel Leighton, Mr Mike Featherby, ERYC Head of Streetscene Services and Cllr David Rudd. Twelve members of the public spoke, expressing their concerns about traffic issues and offering various means of improving the situation. Mr Leighton tried to address some of the concerns and agreed to revisit the villages on 21st April to carry out a survey with Parish Councillors.

It was decided that the bench in Burnby would be replaced by the PC and moved to a new location where Albert Smith had created a garden area. Albert was nominated for a Community Award.

Cllr Sedcole attended a meeting of the Flood Liaison Group to get a better idea of how we can improve the local situation in the future.

The Council Officers met with Cllrs Bettison and Sedcole to carry out a comprehensive survey of the local roads. Three suggestions were put to them to improve the situation: Provide some passing places on local roads. Provide kerbing to verges within the village boundaries and resite the Recycling Centre to Pocklington Industrial Estate. The latter point has created interest in the area and is being discussed at the Community Partnership meeting and The Gateway Forum. Interest has also been shown by Pocklington Town Council. It was also arranged to carry out a comprehensive traffic survey in the near future. So far we have only had a promise of minor road repairs and gully cleaning. This will be an ongoing issue in 2015.

May saw the National and Local Elections. The Parish Council had no new nominees and is unchanged for 2015/2016.

Councillors have attended meetings of the Community Partnership, Flood Liaison Group, A1079 Action Group and other PCs. We have dealt with many planning issues and have tried to take account of all residents concerns and issues.

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for their commitment and help during the year. I particularly thank our new Clerk, Jo for her sterling work under trying conditions and Ward Councillor David Rudd for his guidance and assistance. Lastly, I thank the residents of Hayton and Burnby for their interest and attendance at our meetings and for putting their faith in our efforts to manage and improve our neighbourhood.