



MEET OUR NEW CLERK



In July we welcomed Gayle Enion-Farrington as our new Clerk and RFO (Responsible Finance Officer). Gayle has been a resident of our parish for over 20 years and lives with her husband, 2 young children and the family border collie. Already an active member of the community, Gayle will bring a wealth of experience to her role.

In addition to carrying out all tasks associated with the role of Clerk, she is particularly excited about managing the Allotments and the Play area.

At the same time we said goodbye and thank you to our former Clerk, Nicola Moorcroft. We will still be seeing Nicola from time to time, as she works for the Yorkshire Association of Local Councils, and is involved with the training of clerks and councillors. We wish her well.

THE PLAY PARK

Things are happening in the play area. Even before the park was re-opened, four items of outdoor gym equipment were condemned by the playground inspectors. All that is left are the memories and some bare patches.



The big question now is, what should fill the gap? Suggestions have been included in minutes of the last council meeting on 17th August. Any reasonable idea can still be considered. We are particularly interested in improving the provision for disabled children. Please give your opinion on what you would like to see in the play area on our Facebook Page, or at our monthly meetings, or by writing to the Clerk, or chatting to Councillors.



Safety Inspections

We have internal weekly inspections, and a contract for quarterly inspections by Playscheme, and an Annual inspection by RPII (Register of Play Inspectors International).

Painting

We have been fortunate in having the services of the Community Pay Back team and their manager, who have been painting our park palings with beautiful shiny black paint. The young men have worked efficiently and with a smile. Our special thanks go to our new clerk for spotting this opportunity and organising this for Heworth Without.



Benches

By the time this newsletter goes to print, the new black (colour-coordinated!) benches should have been set up in the play park, to replace the old concrete ones with their broken slats. The model is the same as the benches at the Stray Road bus stop.

The Meadow and the Wood

The wildflower meadow comes into its own in mid to late summer when it is awash with the bright purple flower spikes of Purple Loosestrife and this year was no exception. It is greatly appreciated by pollinating insects especially bumble bees, honey bees and hover flies.



Since our planting-day eight years ago to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, most of the trees have survived and grown well. Wet-loving trees especially alder buckthorn and silver birch have done very well. The Royal Oak in the centre of the diamond pattern of paths will not be overbearing, because the wet conditions have limited its growth! We allow the stately silver birches to do their own thing, but we have to trim the willows and root out suckers from the neighbouring poplar trees to prevent them taking over. Colour from the flowers of cherry, rowan and viburnum please us and the insects in the spring. Coloured berries from these plants make a show in late summer and autumn to please us and the birds!

STRAY ROAD ALLOTMENTS



Our allotments have received some much needed attention. Abandoned waste has been removed and all plots are now occupied, with a small waiting list. All tenants now have an informative Handbook and we hope that the site will develop as a supportive community. We have also started work on encouraging wildlife to the site, by leaving an area under the trees to grow naturally.

On the final day of National Allotment week we welcomed a hive of bees to the site situated under the trees away from passers-by and the neighbouring houses.

Once the allotments are established it is our aim for the public to be able to walk through the site.

The Beck

Work was done by York Drainage Board in early August to reduce the risk of flooding at the beck.



Anderson Shelter



Great excitement was caused when it was discovered that the rubbish about to be removed from our allotments contained parts of a rare wartime Anderson shelter. To the delight of the York Civic Trust it was saved for posterity in the nick of time!

DEMOCRACY

As we can't hold elections during the coronavirus restrictions, if a councillor resigns during this year, it will be necessary to co-opt someone. This means that the Council will choose, from those who apply, the person we think is best for the job.



Announcements about vacancies will be found on our noticeboards, which Gayle has been repairing, as well as on our website and Facebook Page.

Anti-social Behaviour

Problems of anti-social behaviour are minimal in our area, and few complaints are received. The Council firmly believes that the best way to mitigate outbreaks of high spirits among young people is to provide varied activities for them, and open up our recreational areas to as wide a variety of people as possible, of all ages and interests.

In order to facilitate this we are consulting with PCSOs, the City Council, funding bodies, the Yorkshire Local Councils Association, and the Ward Councillor.

Participation

Members of the public are invited to attend our meetings at 7.00 on the third Monday of the each month - details on the noticeboards and website.

PIPING FOR THE KEY WORKERS

In Hazel Garth the clapping for the key workers was led by a piper in full regalia. Thanks, Jim!

