

# **Great Ouseburn Parish Council**

## **Annual Parish Meeting, Wednesday 15th May 2019**

### **Chairman's Report**

This year we have dealt with around 15 planning applications (19 last year). There are currently proposed plans for 7 (pending) plus 39 houses (outline passed) on the West of Branton Lane and then 10 opposite (passed), 7 plus public house at Branton (passed), 8 at the Workhouse (pending), 1 at Rosecroft (passed), 1 off Back Lane (passed) 5 bungalows at Branton (outline passed) (total 78).

We continue to support the fight against a proposed new village joining Green and Kirk Hammerton with Whixley Gate and Cattal station.

The Parish council continues with the grass cutting in the village with David Burton, Mark Tankard, Richard Grant, Bob Jones, Dave Meakin and Stephen Wilkinson giving their time to do this work and I would again like to extend our thanks to them for doing a fantastic job. The grass path alongside Boat lane to give a safer circular walk was also fully completed this year.

Five years on, the Fishpond area is still looking tidy. The Parish Council have received a grant from the Allerton Park Landscape and Heritage fund for a survey by Lobo Ecology to make a further grant application. We are also working with North Yorkshire County Council to replace the footbridge, which is nearing the end of its life, with a hardwood bridge in memory of Fred Jackson and partly funded by his family.

Pipers Lane pond was cleaned out for the first time since the ponds reconstruction 14 years ago. The Trust for Conservation volunteers has dug a shallow pond for us on the unused allotment and we have erected a new fence and gate there. The hedge at the freelanding behind the toll both has also been laid.

Dog Fouling is still a major problem but the playing field is now monitored by the village hall CCTV. We are also looking at the possibility of reorganising the dog bins so that the heaviest used one is emptied by Harrogate Borough Council rather than volunteers.

The older persons Christmas party was held at the Anchor in Whixley and was again very successful with 29 attendees, our thanks go to the Beer Festival committee who kindly gave a donation to finance the event.

A subcommittee is looking at expanding and updating the children's play area and the users have been surveyed for their ideas.

We are looking at further traffic calming in Branton Green to help slow the speeding traffic.

Brian Robinson stood down from the council and we thank him for his work during his long service as councillor. Bob Jones and Richard Grant joined the Parish council this year.

#### **Thanks:**

Thanks to all the councillors and clerk who carry out a tremendous amount of unpaid voluntary work to maintain our parish which includes maintaining the Verges, Village Green, Play Area, Playing Field, Free Landing, Pipers Lane Pond and Fishpond, dealing with regulators and Council bodies.

*Keith Scott, Chairman, Great Ouseburn Parish Council.*