

Eskdaleside cum Ugglebarnby Parish Council

Chairman's Annual Report April 2024

I would like to thank all the councillors as well as the Clerk for the work undertaken within the parish over the last year.

The activities that individuals and local organisations undertake to help others and to bring about a cohesive community within the parish is also greatly appreciated by the parish council.

We have had one councillor resignation in the last year, and now have 3 Co-option Vacancies advertised. If you are interested in becoming a Councillor, please read the notice below to find out what to do.

The parish council has continued to keep residents informed of pertinent information by circulating newsletters, updating noticeboards and providing relevant information on its website.

Please read the other information contained in this report to find out more about the parish council activities over the last year.

Cllr Alf Watson, Chairman
Eskdaleside cum Ugglebarnby Parish Council

Parish Council Tax Precept: The 2024/2025 council tax precept for Eskdaleside cum Ugglebarnby Parish Council will increase from £15880 to £16015. However, this will elicit no increase in council tax charge for residents ie annual Band D Council Tax charge will remain at £15.97.

Model Agreement Funds: North Yorkshire Council has once again agreed to extend the offering of the previous Scarborough Borough Council Model Agreement Funds. This will mean for the 2024/2025 financial year the parish council will once again receive funds that will go towards grass cutting, any seat repairs and bus shelter maintenance that is required; in addition there will be a contribution towards St John's burial ground maintenance and St John's hall public clock.

Parish Plan: In December last year, following a comprehensive review, the parish council agreed to extend the current 2020 – 2025 parish plan until 2027. This was decided on the basis that in 2026 the parish council will have a more robust footing for a more complex Parish Plan based on improved knowledge of responsibility and NYC Strategy.

Notice of 3 vacancies in Office of Councillor: if you are interested in being co-opted as a Member of the Council, please send a letter of application to the Clerk before 30 April 2024, together with a completed eligibility criteria form (available from the Clerk upon contact) – this can be by post or email.

Consideration of applications to be undertaken at the next parish council meeting.

NYC Winter Gritting Policy: “Our gritting crews are on call 24 hours a day from October to the end of the winter season, however, like other drivers of HGVs they do have to comply with Drivers Hours legislation. Also, salting does not always guarantee an ice free surface. Pre-salting a road before the road surface temperature drops below zero does lower the freezing point of the water on the road by turning it into a brine solution. This is only really effective down to road surface temperatures of minus 12, after that we would need to apply grit to give vehicles a degree of traction on the frozen surface. Once ice has formed, or snow has fallen, the salt needs the actions of passing traffic to mix the salt with the snow or ice to get the chemical reaction going to turn the water / salt mix into the brine solution needed to lower the freezing point of the mixture. This takes time, especially on icy roads or roads with little traffic. A heavy snow shower even on a treated main road will take time to clear. The clearing of ice or snow by salting is far from instantaneous.

In the Scarborough Borough area we have 8 gritting wagons with 4 of them based at our Whitby depot. We use the latest weather forecasting technology, which includes ice prediction stations, a 24-hour weather forecast and road temperature sensor data. We treat roads on a priority basis. Priority 1 routes includes all principle roads and other important B Class and C Class routes. Once these are running clear our teams will move onto the Priority 2 routes which include the remainder of the B Class and appropriate C Class routes.

We also have farming contractors who work for us and help to clear roads in the more isolated parts of the network. There is a lot more information available on our website, including gritting route information, live weather cameras, information on Community Gritting Partnerships and our Winter Service Policy.

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/winter-service/road-gritting>”

Reminder DDay 80 years—Lighting of the Beacon as mentioned in the Autumn 2023 newsletter, this will occur at 915pm on 6 June 2024, in line with all other beacons up and down the country. The Beacon is situated on Sleights Moor (Map reference 94/854 057 (4) 85427 (5) 05732). The Beacon is accessible on foot only by hard tracks from Fairhead/Bluebank – there is no parking at the Beacon. Due to the time of year, being in the middle of the ground bird nesting season, dogs are not allowed and all attendees must keep to the tracks which lead to the site. The ground will be uneven and rough, so attendees should wear appropriate footwear and clothing.

Some of the Other Parish Council Activities:

- The parish council has considered planning applications and consultations throughout the year from North York Moors National Park Authority (NYMNP) and North Yorkshire Council (NYC)
- Liaised with AngloAmerican regarding using the Skills4Work Team on community projects, as well as highlighting various impacts from the Woodsmith Mine development
- Organised for: roadside verges to be cut throughout the parish, benches and noticeboards to be maintained, vegetation around seats to be trimmed and general maintenance of parish assets
- Worked with NYC, NYMNP, and the police to tackle ongoing issues such as: footpath maintenance, highway problems, public transport, road safety, environmental issues, overgrown hedges, and upkeep of Linden Close Nature Area
- Responded to various queries from residents and either reported their concerns to the relevant authority or pointed them in the right direction to get a resolution
- Councillors have attended various external meetings including those held by NYMNP, Police Commissioner, YLCA and AngloAmerican
- The parish council has continued to meet legislative and regulatory requirements as set out in various statutes

Worried about the cost of living? If you’re struggling to pay for food and other essentials, there are local schemes and organisations in North Yorkshire which may be able to help or point you in the right direction. You’ll find information about emergency financial support, managing debt, benefit entitlement, energy bills and staying connected all in one place at www.northyorks.gov.uk/costofliving. North Yorkshire Council’s cost of living web page also has information about pension credit, schemes to help families and local community-based support including Warm Welcome spaces as well as advice on staying safe and well. If you’re less confident with technology and have friends or family who might be able to help you understand what support is available with the cost of living, please ask them to look at the web page with you. You can also go into any North Yorkshire library or North Yorkshire Council office. If you’re not sure who to turn to, you can call North Yorkshire Council’s customer service centre on 0300 131 2 131 Monday to Friday from 9:30am to 4:30pm asking for ‘cost of living help’ when prompted.