

Westow & Firby Parish Council Notes Summer 2018

Have you spotted Westow's newest residence? It's a swift 'hotel' near the petanque court, with 11 nest compartments. Swifts have returned to Westow this summer looking out their old nesting sites. We are not expecting any to take up residence in the new boxes this year but hope they will be taking an interest as they fly around with a view to setting up home next year. The Swift is one of the few endangered species that individuals really can help in their own property and there are many groups across the country working hard to try to halt their dramatic decline of 50% in just 20 years.

Susan Graham told the Parish Council at the AGM on 16th May 2018 that she would be standing down as Chair and councillor. Her report highlighted the work that the Parish Council has dealt with over the past year.

"The swift boxes, made as a result of Yorkshire Water's biodiversity project have been well received. The Westow village box is situated near the petanque court and many villagers have taken boxes to put on house walls. There is one at Langton School. The year has seen a number of planning applications scrutinised and responded to appropriately. As in common with many other areas, a large number of potholes continues to appear on our roads.....we continue to report any new holes to Highways and lobby for repairs to be done. ...2 years on there is still no signage on the A64 warning heavy vehicles about the weight restriction on Kirkham Bridge. This will continue to be followed up. Thanks to all those dog walkers who clean up after their dogs! The 'dog poo' situation has somewhat improved..."

On behalf of the residents of Westow and Firby the Parish Councillors say a big thank you to Susan for her dedication and service as Chair.

We are also saying goodbye to Robin Graham from the Parish Council He has retired as Treasurer and we thank him for leaving our accounts in good order.

Thanks at the AGM went to Angela Fothergill our hard working Parish Clerk who supports the Council so well.



Hello from your new Chair - Helen Crews

I thought I'd introduce myself as many of you will not know me. My husband Colin and I moved to Westow in 2006 and we really enjoy living here. I retired two years ago and joined the Parish Council at around the same time. When I'm not gardening or visiting family I also work as a Trustee for the Yorkshire Arboretum and, from August, as a Governor at York College.

The Parish Councillors are a good team and I am grateful to them for supporting my nomination as Chair. I look forward to working with them and Angela for the residents of Westow and Firby.

Westow Website

Westow and Firby Parish Council has now got its own website.

You may remember reading in last summer's newsletter about The Transparency Code introduced to meet the government's desire to increase democratic accountability. All parish councils with a turnover of less than £25,000 are required to publish agendas, minutes of meetings, dates of meetings, end of year accounts and items of expenditure over £100 on their websites. Westow and Firby Parish Council fits into this category. The government provided the money so that every small parish council could set up its own website; in this way members of the public will know about decisions that are made.

The website also gives information about local clubs and facilities, useful links, news and events which are relevant to this parish. It is also a place to find out about local planning applications. You can contact the Parish Council via the email address given on the website.

The website address is: <https://westow.org.uk> We hope that you will find it useful. Any comments or suggestions will be welcome. If you wish to contact the Parish Council please use the new email address info@westow.org.uk

Parish Councillors

Helen Crews (Chair)

Mike Smith

John Smith

Margaret Thompson

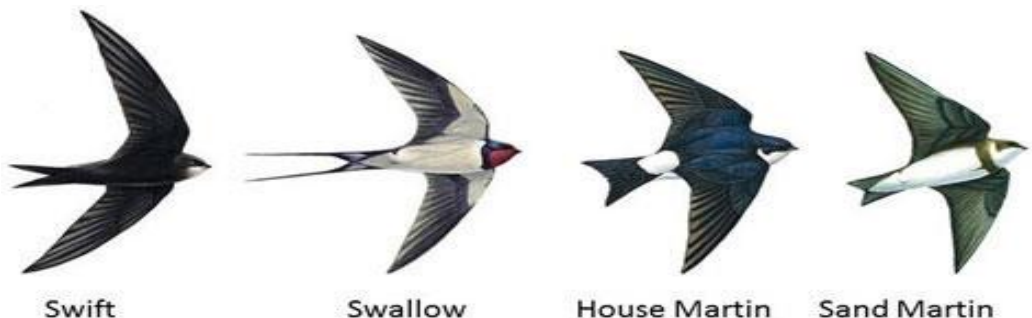
Christine Smith

Neil Johnson

Pennie Hamer

The Parish Council normally meets on a Wednesday evening in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. The date and agenda is published in advance and posted on the village notice boards in Westow and Firby. Everyone is welcome to attend.

If you are interested in becoming a Parish councillor please contact Angela Fothergill, Parish Council Clerk, on 618684.



IMPORTANT - Future Newsletters

Now that the Parish Council website(<https://westow.org.uk>) is established it is proposed that future Newsletters will be published on line on the website with a hard copy placed on the Westow and Firby village notice boards.

If for any reason you do not have access to the internet or cannot access a village notice board please let us know by contacting Angela Fothergill, Parish Council Clerk, on 618684.