

Chair's report

The Parish Council (PC) welcomed two new members Geraldine Burton and Richard Bannister. Mike Smith has decided to step down and we would like to thank him for time on the PC.

During the last year the PC received several planning applications all of which were reviewed and comments passed to Ryedale District Council.

We continue to liaise with Ryedale and via them, the Highways Agency, in an attempt to get proper signage in place for Kirkham Bridge. We have registered our concern for some time that overly large vehicles risk damaging the bridge and this leads to the necessity for expensive repairs. In addition to the cost to the taxpayer the repairs cause considerable inconvenience to residents when the bridge has to be closed.

The issue of parking adjacent to the Village Green in Westow has been raised with the PC. It is proposed that between four and six small posts, like that already in place, are used to extend the line of posts around the Green to provide some protection.

Consideration is being given on how best to maintain the Village Hall. The building is old and could do with some improvements. Any thoughts on how we can use the Hall to complement and not compete with activities at the Cricket Club would be welcome. A volunteers' morning is planned for Sunday 30 June for a belated spring clean!

Finally we look forward to summer and hopefully the use of our swift boxes by our feathered visitors. My thanks to everyone on the PC and to Angela Fothergill, our Clerk, who supports us all.