

Chairs Report

A mixed year. Some wins, some losses.

The unfortunate losses include the very unfortunate resignation of Peggy Dunn. Lady Dunn. She was a great asset to the PC and the village over many years.

We also unfortunately did not have great success with our opposition to the development at Westwood House Stables and the cart sheds (which I see are now known as The Coach House.)

We have had ups and downs with the village gateways but it now seems as though things are getting sorted on that front.

We had a bit of a wobble on the financial front when we got hit with penalty notices from the HMRC over payroll issues. Sammy worked her magic on that one and made those go away. Thank you Sammy.

We have had lots of wins. Its always best to focus on the plusses I feel.

We have welcomed a new Clerk to the Council – Sammy. Sammy is not with us tonight as she is looking after her newest addition to the family – Theo.

We have also welcomed Stepheny as a new councillor in our ranks.

We seem to have sorted out our issues with the grass cutting and I see that they have been around yesterday and today to tidy up for us.

Huggate Road has been closed a couple of times and we have some nice new tarmac up there. It was just a shame that it was needed, but that is a different story.

We also have a couple of nice new soldiers at the war memorial. And very smart they look as well. Congratulations to all involved in the work and research involved on those.

Work on the pond continues although the main funded work has now been completed. I do note that planning permission has just been granted to two national infrastructure reservoirs because of increasing population and increasing temperatures and reducing rainfall. Given that our pond used to overflow onto the road and now it is several feet below that level I do rather fear that the pond may be an issue to which we need to return in the future.

Traffic issues, unfortunately, continue to be a source of tension within the village and I know that our district councillors are as keen as we are to address these issues.

We look forward this year to our village gateways and the further greening and tidying of our mere.