

Skeeby 2020

This rather quiet year started with the co-opting of a new Parish Councillor following the retirement of Cllr Metcalf and we welcome Cllr. Ian Moreton, I'm sure his wisdom and expertise will be an asset to SPC. The external auditor, Mr. Ian Crissop, declared he was quite satisfied with the way SPC was conducting its financial matters, we are in the black and with no financial problems as far as we know. Costs keep on gradually rising and this must be born in mind.

GILLING WEST

Following his election as District Councillor for the new ~~Willing West~~ Area which includes Skeeby, we welcomed and enlisted the help of Cllr William Heslop into trying to progress action regarding the Travellers Rest. A number of meetings had been held with interested parties concerned but, at the time of writing, we don't appear to be much further forward. Cllr. Heslop intends to hold a public meeting to discuss levels of interest and potential compulsory purchase of the pub.

The Community Parks have been inspected by the RDC Safety officer and his recommendations carried out. Small wear and tear items are being monitored and action will be taken when needed. Boundary bushes have in the main been removed to give a clear view, but a common sense approach needs to be taken regarding all aspects of the Parks. I would like to thank both Bernard Metcalf and Derek Hume for their efforts in keeping the Springfield area tidy and weed free, but it is disappointing to note that pertinent signs for the Springfield play area have been stolen. The Duck Race was held again, this time on a Saturday morning in mid Summer and proved to be a success.

An application was made for funding for a defibrillator and was eventually successful. I would like to thank Kay Richardson for all her hard work involved with this, no easy task and it is due to her tireless efforts that the Village hall now sports a brand new defibrillator, let us hope it is never needed! A good number of residents came forward for training held late Summer and I would like to thank them their public spiritedness.

We again entered the Best Kept Village competition, not very successfully as there are a number of empty properties not cared for. We can only improve! The Spring display of Snowdrops, Crocuses and Daffodills were a sight to behold and improved the Village Green, long may they continue and I reiterate my thanks to those residents who planted them. Tarmac had been laid on the village green without permission by contractors resurfacing part of the A6108, we had requested this to be removed numerous times and at last it has gone. The small number of planning applications were dealt with in the usual way and it is pleasing to note that the Planning Department appear to be considering the observations of residents.

The water leak at the East end of the village had appeared again and NYCC informed. Work eventually commenced and hopefully this is finally resolved. Listed building consent had been applied for by NYCC for rebuilding part of the wall of Skeeby Bridge. There had been objections from the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings and the Council for British Archeology. Surely with the amount of traffic using the bridge, common Sense should

prevail? Apart from accident related repairs, no substantial work has been done to the bridge for at least the last 60 years.

Thanks go to Cllr. Rummery for investigating Cinema for All but it was felt that the costs involved were substantial and no guarantee of sufficient interest. I would also like to thank him for painting the posts around part of the village green, a great improvement. The street lights in the village have been changed from sodium to LED to help power consumption. This has shown the village in a new light, literally, and is a more traditional light. Long gone are the dark days up until 1960 when the few small original lights were first installed.

The recent severe weather in February has highlighted what appears to be a lack of essential maintenance both in the village and more severely, elsewhere in the country. Flooding in gardens in Olliver Lane has again occurred and long overdue investigation work should be done to resolve this. However difficult this flooding must appear, nothing can be worse than the flooding of homes and business's as seen in recent months including the devastation in the Yorkshire Dales, South Yorkshire and across great swathes of the country itse.

There have been a number of groups of visitors to Skeeby at various times through the year; Skeeby Walkers, Skeeby Singers, Strictly Skeeby, Yogis, Carol Singers and even some on Valentines Day! I refer of course to the dolls knitted by Dinah Nolson, or perhaps it was Howard. They have made a huge impact on bringing smiles to faces and I would like to thank both Howard and Dinah for their continued efforts to brighten the village.

I would like to thank Cllr. Heslop from RDC for his attendance, help and guidance on relevant matters throughout the year. County Cllr. Angus Thomson from NYCC, his time is valuable and I know he is a busy man with his work at Northallerton, but we can and do call upon him. Not forgetting fellow Parish Cllrs. for their assistance and support this last year, it is greatly appreciated and I trust Cllr. Morton has found it interesting.

Lastly my grateful thanks to our Clerk Frances, for being so efficient and ensuring all paperwork is up to date and in the right order. She is the first point of contact for SPC and I know she does a great deal behind the scenes and works tirelessly with her various contacts.

Thankyou!