**Annual Report for Knayton cum Brawith Parish Council May 2022**

**The annual report compiled by the Chair of the Parish Council outlines the work of the Council in the year 1st May 2021 – 30th April 2022.**

**Public members are using the first 15 minutes of each Parish Council meeting to good effect raising concerns and issues that hopefully the Parish Council can action or place on the agenda for discussion at the following meeting.**

**Local Government Reorganisation means that the District Councils in North Yorkshire will be amalgamated into one regional administration to be called North Yorkshire Council. This will save millions of pounds which can be more efficiently used for local services. There will be 40 parishes in our ward which will be known as Hillsides and Raskelf and the election on 5th of May 2022 will reflect this. The change will not happen this year.**

**Parked cars outside the school are still causing concern for some residents but the Parish Council has no power over these matters. Meetings have been held with representatives of the school, Police, Parish Council and Councillor Dadd but there does not seem to be a way forward with this.**

**The Village Caretaker has been retained for another year and has been busy trimming footpaths, pruning and general tidying tasks around the village. Planters have been maintained seasonally thanks to the group of ladies whose endeavours have brightened up the Village Green. Two Rowan trees have been planted on the village green, one in memory of Gerald Cooper paid for by the local Fishing club and one as a gift from a villager. Some village gardening enthusiasts have planted wild flower seeds at the edge of the green to encourage wildlife. Thanks go to the volunteers who mow the Village Green and keep it tidy. There is a new bench outside the Hall dedicated to Mike Cowton who unfortunately lost his fight with Cancer. Mike supported the Village Hall and Parish Council for many years and is greatly missed.**

**Some water leaks on Moor Road have been resolved as Yorkshire Water has now taken responsibility for maintenance but there is still a problem in this area.**

**Thanks go to the volunteers who have improved the going on Back Lane and continue to report issues with the foot paths in the Parish. There are still reports of footpaths and stiles causing concern with access. To assist with this, Arriety Heath from HDC who helps voluntary groups with footpath maintenance, came to talk to the Parish Council and interested residents about forming a village group . A few volunteers have come forward and we hope to build on this in the summer.**

**The Parish Council continues to support the HRAP by donating to the Inspection of the Playground equipment. Some CIL money has been earmarked for the routine replacement of playground equipment.**

**Trust fund closures released money which is going to be used to produce a book about the history of the Village. Cllr Gibbon is still leading a team of researchers to this effect.**

**An increase in the Precept was necessary especially as bank charges have been introduced. Many thanks go to Colin Hickford who kindly does our internal auditing and to Liz Foster who has been an excellent support to the Parish Council as Clerk.**

**There have been reports of dog owners not following the Country Code so the Dog Warden, Mr Grainger, came to a meeting to talk about the responsibility of owners to keep their dogs under control, particularly regarding farmer’s fields and livestock. Dog fouling is still a problem so signs and notices have been distributed as a reminder. In the same vein, litter is still of concern so HDC has given us 2 large anti-litter signs which have been erected at the village entrances and a new litter bin has been bought for the crossroads seating area.**

**As a small village, we are lucky in having a wide range of amenities, clubs and groups which all enrich the life of residents and thanks go to all organisers who have worked hard on behalf of us all. The Parish Council will continue to help improve the relationships and environment in which we live and welcome all residents to the regular meetings advertised on the notice board and website www.knaytonparishcouncil.org.uk.**

**Barbara Scott (Chair of Knayton cum Brawith Parish Council)**