

## **Chairman's Report for Annual Parish Council Meeting** **May 2019**

The Parish Council has been very active maintaining and improving the parish for the benefit of those who live here. Primarily, we have invested some of the Parish funds in a number of worthwhile projects, especially:

- The new Play Park which, now complete, has made a significant impact for users of the site.
- The Village Gates on the B6265 (which were first initiated in 2015) have now had a discernible effect in slowing the traffic at that end of the village. Thanks go to NYCC County Councillor Andy Paraskos for his generous donation in part funding for this important project.

The faulty 30 MPH sign has been removed by the authorities and with no budget to repair it, and, as their opinion that these don't actually work, means it is unlikely to be seen again. I do believe, however, that it had a positive effect on speed but we are unlikely to have this replaced.

Little Ouseburn Open Gardens had a very good year once again, blessed with fine weather. This year's event is on the 12<sup>th</sup> May and hopefully we will be lucky again with another fine day.

The Jackson family have offered to pay for and install (along with Great Ouseburn Parish Council) a new foot bridge over the beck at Fishponds. This has been a long time in the planning and although not a Little Ouseburn PC project (it is not on our asset list) we support Great Ouseburn in their plans for foot bridge but stress the costs borne by this project will be the responsibility of the Jackson family and GOPC.

LOPC was without a clerk for part of the year and thankfully we have now found Amanda to keep us all in check.

A vacancy for a Parish Councillor has arisen due to Sarah Greensit resigning from her position on the council and I would ask that we make a concerted effort to find a replacement in the coming months.

The Parish website has been updated and whilst visitor numbers are low this is a very important platform upon which we can publish meeting notes and updates etc. and is essential to adhere to the Transparency Code 2015.

The ever-increasing problem of pot holes on the parish roads remains an issue with pedestrians, cyclists and motorists alike. Delays in getting them repaired grow longer and longer and sometimes when a repair is affected the problem quickly arises again due to the "temporary" nature of the repair. I would suggest that it is far more cost effective to do a proper repair job when the pot holes are first reported, than temporary fills which often lead to bigger holes in the future.

The problem of speeding through the village does not go away and the "safety camera" van seems to be parked on the B6265 where it regularly catches motorists. We really need this van to appear in the village, say, once a fortnight, which might deter the regular culprits (but might not be such a revenue generator as the main road!).

Our new grass cutting contractor is now in his second season and I think the standards have generally been good so far, and we will continue with them for the foreseeable future.

Doug Smith