

My year as Chairman has been another busy one and the Council has also continued without a Vice-Chairman for another year. The Parish Council seems to get busier and busier, and it has become ever difficult to juggle the time that is required for this role, along with my job and family farm, amongst other things. This past year also saw local government reorganisation (LGR) completed, resulting in the new Westmorland and Furness Council, it has been a difficult process and at times it has seemed painfully slow to get action on matters. Hopefully now the new Council is up and running this will continue to improve. It just shows it is more important than ever to have a local Council working on the ground for the people it represents.

I would like to thank Kevin, who is always at my side, sometimes from all the way in Shetland, helping me navigate the confusing world of local council and ensuring we do things as well as we can here at Burneside PC.

My thanks must also go to the Parish Councillors who continue to undertake this voluntary role which is certainly not the easiest! We continue to be short of Councillors, currently by 3 which is an improvement on last year's 5! I hope that new relationships and joint projects in the last 12 months will enthuse others to take on a role in their local community.

I would also like to say a big thank you to all the volunteers and groups in the village. Also, those who are part of PC sub-groups, particularly to John Peatfield, Roger Leather and Stewart Menzies.

What has the Parish Council achieved in the past 12 months?

- Regularly reporting issues to Westmorland and Furness Council, particularly Highways!
- Emergency Plan was undertaken and is now on Resilience Direct.
- Coronation Mugs were given to the school children.
- A community noticeboard was installed and well received and used by the locals, until Westmorland and Furness Council decided to 'steal' it, hopefully it will be back in place soon!
- Play Park safety railings have been reinstalled after we pushed to have these put back.
- A Play Park project to renew the equipment has been discussed and is in its early stages.
- Regular meetings have been attended with Croppers et al, which has allowed us to raise many different issues.
- Old toilet block- we have now submitted a form to Westmorland and Furness Council in the hope that action will be taken to improve this area.
- Hedgehog warning signs were purchased to go up around the Parish.
- The damaged Hall Road walls have been repeatedly reported, Tim Farron is now pushing for action on these.
- Dog fouling signs were erected in hot spot areas.
- Himalayan Balsam was pulled from the watercourse that runs through the cricket club towards Carlingdale.
- The PC submitted items for the CALC Annual Review and also presented one of these at the AGM.

- £1,500.00 was donated towards the purchasing of Food Vouchers.
- The PC signed up to the Pollinator Pledge, which fits in with existing projects e.g. wildflower areas.
- Planters were maintained, we also now have a volunteer to look after the Bowston one.
- The Parish Handyman continued to undertake tasks around the Parish, thanks to Stan Wilson for this work.
- The Defibrillator at Sprint Holme was maintained, and two new ones are being looked into for Bowston and Cowan Head.
- RBL donation and wreath laying at the Remembrance service, the Remembrance soldiers were also put up at Church.
- A 20mph application was submitted to W&F, other issues were also included such as lack of school crossing and footpath on Hollins.
- The Council has continued to push for Highway improvements, one project has progressed and is now been undertaken- the Bonningate pinch point improved warnings work.
- A House Martin and Swift project has begun which aims to help these birds to thrive in the Parish.
- Numerous meetings attended e.g. one with the EA regarding comms for the future flood prevention works.
- A portrait of the King was applied for from the Government and now hangs in the Church meeting room.
- A Councillor vacancy poster was kindly made by Amanda, and we hope to fill the remaining vacancies.
- Litter signs have been purchased and will be placed on certain roads to deter car littering.
- Grit bins were purchased to help the Flood Group update the flood response and equipment storage.
- The Council has continued to support the Clean River Kent Campaign.

William Huck

Chairman – Burneside Parish Council