

May 4, 2021

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2020-2021

This is to be my last chairman's report.

On February 4, 2020, the first Parish Council meeting of the year had ambitious plans for a defibrillator at Sprint Holme bus shelter, bird boxes for the Millennium Green, as well as discussions around a wildflower meadow, cycle racks, a fitness trail and an anticipated river clean for the Green, completion of the last two leaflets of local walks, and plans for VE day celebrations on May 8, 2020.

February also saw the bus shelter by the church improved with benches and lighting. A letter of thanks was sent to Croppers PLC.

By March 10<sup>th</sup> five bird boxes were installed on the Millennium Green. The Green was also reseeded and the fence repaired in preparation for community use once again, and the RA received £1000 from the PC for children's activities.

On March 23, 2020 the entire country was put into lockdown. Councils were advised to operate a scheme of delegation whereby any urgent business could be decided by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk agreeing by email on any responses that were required. This scheme carried on until July 7<sup>th</sup> when the lockdown eased and Zoom meetings were started.

As you will all remember, we were not allowed to leave our homes except to buy food, collect prescriptions, or take our hourly exercise and then only close to home. It was a very strange, disconcerting, and difficult time. Council were mostly of an age that were considered vulnerable or were shielding themselves or a loved one. Some of the younger council members were ill with Covid 19. It was a time of little progress.

However, the RA started a food and book sharing programme utilising the bus shelters at Hollins Lane and Sprint Holme. These were well received and very successful.

July , for those who had not already started, brought the commencement of Zoom meetings to the PC and the distribution of hand sanitisers to help local businesses as well as the bus stops, where appropriate as we all tried to get back to some sort of normal.

During the rest of 2020:

- Northern Rail allocated £55,00 to study a proposed loop for Burneside which would enhance train service.
- The issue of flooding at Carling Steps was resolved.
- A PHD student from Lancaster University worked with the Biodiversity and Sustainability Group of the PC.
- A Local Cycle and Walking Infrastructure Planning Workshop was attended by PC members.
- The Millennium Green became fully accessible.
- The Pollinator Project saw the first stage of planting complete
- Trees for planting on Potter Fell obtained and planted and at last check are thriving.
- The PC refused to endorse the removal of the Bowston Weir as the plan was not fully developed and did not take into account all considerations.
- Residents and friends of Sprint Holme and others under the guidance of Alan Thompson, donated £600 for a defibrillator for Sprint Holme bus shelter. Matched by the PC it was finally installed June 26, 2020.
- Lockdown resumed!

2021

We have now started the easing out of lockdown. With a very impressive vaccination programme in place, we are cautiously optimistic.

- There are plans to have a bench on the site of the old bus shelter at the end of Steeles Row.
- The childrens' play area is in need of refurbishment and plans are in early stages.
- The Community Emergency Plan has been updated.
- Dog fouling has become a significant issue once again. SLDC, Locality, and the RA in conjunction with mothers in the Parish, the PCSO, and many others have become involved in trying to educate dog owners and put a stop to it!

- An extensive survey of all Parish footpaths, both Strickland Ketel and Strickland Roger have been compiled by Stewart Menzies with mapping and full details on the PC website.
- The B4RN initiative to Strickland Roger and over Staveley is complete and now continues into Strickland Ketel.
- Planning for Bowston Weir has not yet been resolved. SLDC have been asked to set appropriate conditions to planning permission to minimise harm and ensure protection of existing bankside habitats.
- A new graduate student from Lancaster University is now working with the Biodiversity and Sustainability PC group to further enhance the Parish.
- Placed , a team of professionals have been appointed to work with the Parish to better understand it's wants and needs and to promote good communications.

Finally, I will be resigning from the PC at the end of tonight's meeting  
In all conscience I do not believe it is right nor moral to represent a Parish one does not live in, and I will no longer be living in the Parish.

I hope that the Parish of Burneside will embrace change, growth, and a greener community, will listen to each other in a spirit of co-operation, kindness, and respect.

I know Covid 19 lockdown has caused patience to dwindle and tempers to flare, but please;

Simply treat others they way you want to be treated!

Pennie Ridyard