

Tatham Parish Council – Annual Parish Assembly meeting, 2017

Chairman's Annual Report, May 2016 – May 2017

Our work over the course of the year has followed the usual pattern and the main areas of activity are summarised below, though in no particular order.

1. **Footpaths.** County-wide signposting project; This proved to involve the inspection of those footpaths which form part of the Bowland AONB's recommended routes. The Council approached Richard Wilson to ask if he would do this on our behalf and report any problems to the AONB on a yearly basis. The two footpaths included are in the lower part of the parish and Richard has submitted his first report to the AONB for which we thank him very much.

2. **Lengthsman.** During the year, Ian Sedgwick indicated that he was too taken up by other work to continue as lengthsman. We thanked him for the years of good work that he had undertaken for us and sought tenders, on an hourly rate basis, from others. That received from Cath Halstead of Wray was the most competitive and she has been appointed for the next 12 months.

3. **Railings.** The painting of roadside railings has continued under the supervision of Cllr. Harrison. The organisation of this work is now done by a firm called Sedexa although it is still funded by the 'Payback' scheme.

4. **B4RN.** Following a letter from the chairman to the LCC Engineer's Dept, they agreed to let the B4RN duct (torn out of the river bed by the 2015/16 winter floods) be attached to the abutments of the Croasdale Beck foot bridge, below the Old School. The work is to be carried out by B4RN staff but has not yet started because of, we are told, legal delays. We are hoping that it will be done this coming summer.

5. **Highways.** As before, we continue to report the ever increasing number of potholes on a regular basis. Just before Christmas the LCC team arrived and finally repaired the broken drain above Mill Bridge which had been giving trouble for at least three years. They also re-surfaced the road near this excavation but much more remains to be done. At the same time they carried out many pothole repairs on Aikengill Road and Silly Lane. Agnes Ing Lane and Millhouses Hill have also received attention. We still need to press for more comprehensive repairs and re-surfacing

6. **Planning.** As last year, the number of Planning Applications has not been high and our main preoccupation has been with the City council's refusal of an application to convert redundant agricultural buildings at Sea View into two houses. Following the refusal, the applicant appealed and we made a submission to the Planning Inspectorate in support of the appeal but our arguments were ignored and the appeal refused.

Since then we have responded to the city council's consultation process on the draft District Local Plan. We asked for a more positive statement to be included in the plan which would encourage the re-use of redundant agricultural buildings. A response to this is expected later in the year.

Consideration has been given to producing our own neighbourhood plan and Cllr. Dawson attended a meeting of Wennington PC to explore the possibility of a joint plan but this option was not pursued. We await the outcome of our response to the District Plan before making a decision on the preparation of our own plan.

7. Parish Notice Board – Lowgill. At the previous Annual meeting it was reported that the sliding doors were giving trouble again and it was resolved that a new board should be purchased. Tenders were sought online and from Tony Sedgwick, who proved to be the lowest. The new board was erected in the late summer and the old one was to be re-located at Mill Houses – less the glass doors, as it was more sheltered there. Tony Sedgwick has yet to complete this.

8. Signposts. During the course of the year a further two signposts of a traditional pattern were erected by the County in conjunction with the Bowland AONB. This was a continuation of the programme that was started over four years ago, to which the Parish council contributed at the consultation stage. Other signposts of a modern type still remain in a poor condition, despite being reported on the LCC website.

9. United Utilities. In June a particularly ugly pole-mounted transformer appeared on Old Moor Lane. Enquiries revealed that there had been no consultation and no consents had been given. On behalf of the council, Cllr. Dawson wrote a letter of complaint to United Utilities and the transformer was removed before coming into use.

10. Health and social care. Cllr. Osborne has continued to monitor developments as to how the various services are provided in the parish but has reported that little progress has been made due to the fact that the authorities in North Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cumbria have not improved their coordination.

11: Lowgill letter box. This was removed for repair without notice by the Royal Mail in January and despite representations from Cllr. Osborne, the Chairman and Richard Wilson, it is still missing. The latest information is that the Royal Mail would like to re-site a new box next to the telephone kiosk on the other side of the road but cannot find out from who to gain permission. Richard Wilson has suggested to them that they should write to the Parish Council who could make local enquiries. To date, a letter has not been received.

12. Grants. The Council received applications from The Good Shepherd Church, Tatham Fells, Lowgill Old School, St. James the Less Church, Lower Tatham and the Friends of Lowgill School. Grants were made to all four of these local organisations. Donations were also made to LASRUG, NW Air Ambulance and the Wrayly Mail.

Finally I would like to thank all the members of the council who have given their time to council business and especially thank our clerk, Janet Woodhouse, for conducting all our correspondence, preparing and circulating minutes and agendas and generally keeping us in line over the year.

Edward Mason, Chairman,

15th May 2017