

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR PATRINGTON

Welcome to the 2019 Annual Parish Meeting. It's a pity there are not more non-parish councillors here and perhaps that's something the Parish Council should strive to change by encouraging more community interest in our activities.

The last 12 months has seen a number of changes in the composition of the Council. A number of councillors with a great deal of experience have left and we welcomed 5 new faces. It is my wish that these changes will encourage new ideas and thinking – early signs are that this is happening. Nevertheless, there are still vacancies on the Council and I would urge parishioners to seriously consider joining us and supporting us in improving the standing and appearance of the Parish.

The Council has very limited powers, but those that we do have will continue to be utilised to benefit the locality. And we will continue to listen to the public. Sometimes we cannot do what we are asked to do and sometimes we do not believe it appropriate to do what we are asked, but we will explain our reasoning. Quite often we agree with the request and will try to change things – if it is within our powers, we will act, if not we will urge others (East Riding Council, for example), to act. This is what we are here for. It's a pity that the Government does not also listen to the public and that goes for the Opposition as well. In this regard, I believe that we are trying much harder to do what we are here to do than Westminster is!

The last 12 months has been fairly busy, with the following being a few examples of the Council's work:-

1. Over 20 Planning Applications were considered and comments were passed to East Riding.
2. The Council litter pick the village regularly and the ditch along the cricket field was cleared by a special working party. The ditch along Haven Road is likely to be next.
3. Hanging baskets and litter bins around the village are provided and maintained and bus shelters are cleaned.
4. The Council is responsible for maintaining the churchyard. The grass is cut and tree maintenance is undertaken. A phased programme of boundary walls and fences is underway. The paths have also been tidied.
5. Further grasscutting and maintenance is undertaken around the Parish including the War Memorial area.
6. 100's of leaflets giving advice on reducing instances of dog fouling were purchased and delivered.
7. Freedom of the Parish was awarded to former Chair Peter Stevenson.
8. The Christmas Lights Switch-On event last year was a huge success again and my thanks are due to all those who helped before, during and afterwards. Here, I must express both my, and the Council's, sadness to hear the news of the passing of Stuart Godfrey who helped with the road closure every year.
9. A new Parish Council flag has been designed and is in production. This will fly near the war memorial most days during the year.

10. The provision of a monthly Market was due to be trialled shortly, but at the eleventh hour we were told that the charges for closing parking bays in the Market Square would have meant increasing the Council Tax for the Parish services by about 5%. This was considered not appropriate so there are discussions ongoing to consider an indoor market.
11. The Council now has representation on SHAPE (Parish Enterprise) and the Withernsea Health Forum and is in discussion to nominate representation on the Primary School Board of Governors.
12. The council website continues to provide useful information and we strive to keep it up to date.
13. The Council achieved all this and more despite not increasing the charge to Council Taxpayers and having a clean bill of health from Auditors.
14. Finally, I want to pass my thanks to all Councillors, past and present, and particularly to the Clerk, who all continue to do an excellent job in providing services to the local population. I also want to thank local organisations for their valuable input into many of the items I have raised above. These include the local Fire Brigade, St Patrick's Primary School staff and pupils, St Patrick's church choir, KCFM, Patrington Scout Group, Fewsters, James Farmery, PJD Electrical, Meadley Plant Hire and Patrington Haven Leisure Park.