

Dec'21
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Village News



Wishing you a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year

Update from the Parish Council

2021 has been a busy year for the Parish Council. All play equipment is subject to an annual inspection by a professional body to certify that it is fit to use. We were aware that the swings and the adventure trail were coming to the end of their natural life, so we embarked on a programme of replacement and upgrades.

February saw the replacement of both sets of swings and the safety matting. This was made possible by receiving grant funding from a number of organisations and we thank them for their support. To prolong the life of the equipment, steel feet have been fitted to protect from long term strimmer damage.

October saw the replacement of the adventure trail which was made possible by a generous grant from Richmondshire District Council. Rather than replacing on a like-for-like basis, we asked the primary school for their input to tell us what they liked on the existing layout and what they would like to see in the new installation. We had some excellent feedback from the different year groups and have tried to incorporate as many of the ideas as possible within the budget constraints and original footprint.

October also saw the installation of protective feet to the equipment on the south side of the play park. With this measure, and the installation of the new equipment, there should be many years of enjoyment for future generations of young people.

Following the completion of the play park works, a **village workday was held** to do a number of jobs around the village and it was good opportunity to meet up with people, particularly those who were new to the village. Major jobs completed included: painting the bus shelter, clearance and pruning along the beckside, re-siting of the sandbag store on Hauxwell Lane, and clearance of ivy from the Cinder House at the quoits pitch. All these works help towards the upkeep and look of the village and thanks go to all involved.

Repairs to the large crack in the north wall of the Cinder House and the pointing of the elevation have been completed and we will look to repoint the rest of the building next year. Our thanks go to a local resident who undertook these works for us. A bench donated in memory of Eric and Nora Dale has been installed on the plinth at

the side of the play area on Greenacres and the existing wooden bench has been relocated onto a new base in the same area. Again, our thanks go to the local resident involved in these works.

Following the closure of the village shop, **the Parish Council noticeboard and the post box have been relocated to new site in, and adjacent to, the bus shelter**

As we look towards 2022, one of our projects will be to refurbish the lettering on the war memorial and, hopefully, a village workday to undertake some necessary repairs and maintenance on the wooden footbridge which is a vital link between the two play areas.

The Parish Council would like to say thank you to all those who have helped and supported the village activities during the year and the various organisations that have helped fund projects.

The Role of Hunton Parish Council

Overview

The Parish Council is a civil local authority found in England and is the lowest tier of local government. It receives funding by levying a precept upon the council tax paid by the residents of the parish. The current precept of Hunton PC stands at £5,000 per annum (unchanged from last year) and is reviewed at the end of each financial year. In addition to the annual precept, the Parish Council can keep reserves for unexpected items of expenditure or for specific projects, but normally this sum should not exceed the annual precept. The Parish Council is made up of unpaid councillors, who are elected to serve for four years, supported by a parish clerk and treasurer.

Roles

The specific roles of the Council can be summarised as follows:

Grass cutting to all areas under the responsibility of the Parish Council;

The provision, inspection and maintenance of all play area equipment;

The maintenance of the village hall car park (The Village Hall is not the responsibility of the PC and is managed and maintained as a registered charity by a separate committee);

The maintenance of the war memorial;

The maintenance of the Pinfold;

(the planting, layout and garden element is looked after by a volunteer, Claire Seaborne)

The maintenance of the Cinder House at the quoits pitch;
The guardianship of areas of common land;
Provision of a public liability insurance policy;
Provision and maintenance of public seating, picnic benches and litter bins;
Maintenance of the Beck where it passes through Parish Council land;
Provision of flood prevention equipment.

Consultation

The Parish Council has the right to be consulted:
by Richmondshire District Council on all planning applications;
by North Yorkshire County Council on any proposed highways or drainage works.

Miscellaneous

Applying for grants and funding towards replacement of play equipment and furniture;
Supporting community initiatives where we can;
Providing a central means of coordination for major issues such as flooding;
Using our contacts with the local councillors to seek resolution of issues which have not been resolved by other means.

It is not the role of the parish council to do what residents can do for themselves such as reporting street lighting faults, highway issues, rubbish collections. However, we are willing to hear people's views, ideas and concerns re the village and to sign post you to the correct services.

Avian Flu restrictions

All domestic poultry must be confined to housing.
For more information, go to <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>

Countryman's Share Offer.

The Share Offer to buy the pub on behalf of the community was launched last weekend and so far, share purchases totaling just over half the necessary target sum have been received, which is hugely positive. There is still a long way to go by 20th Dec to save a valuable community asset for all of us.

For up-to-date information and details of the business plan, share offer and more, visit: <https://countrymanscommunity.org>

Methodist Chapel fundraiser

The event held at the Countryman's on Sat 27th Nov was extremely well supported, including from further afield, and **raised over £200 for the chapel funds.** Thank you to all who were involved in organising, making food (lovely soup, mince pies and cakes), working tirelessly behind the scenes in the kitchen, and for buying crafts. Thank you to the pub for hosting the event with mulled wine, coffee and tea. **It was a lovely, friendly and inclusive occasion and, we hope, is a taste of things to come as the community purchase initiative moves forward.**

Memorial Poppy Display

A big thank you to the 14 knitters from Hunton and 4 ladies from surrounding areas for making the 550

poppies that decorated the War Memorial. It would have taken over 700 hours to knit them all. When I first sent out the letter in January I had no idea how many would be made, if any, so I was amazed when they kept being delivered. It is a privilege to live in such a lovely kind village.

Heather Smith.

(Heather organised & designed this beautiful display, which took months in the making and looked stunning in the autumn sunshine. Photos on website)

Dog fouling

There has been a particularly disgusting spate of dog fouling along by the school. Some children have trodden in it on their way to and from school. Hopefully, by alerting residents to this, someone may know who and why this has happened and put a stop to it.

Wildflower areas

A lot of work has been done on clearing the two wildflower areas and the apple orchard, replanting perennials, re-sowing annual seeds, planting bulbs and some pruning of apple trees. We were joined by a resident volunteer, who did a wonderful job on digging a lot of 'phase 2' under the oak tree. This area is very shady and had suffered badly from poor weather last Spring. Fingers crossed for a colourful display next year.

Jan Wylie & Wendy Knight

Panto

This year's Panto is '*Huntalot. A Knight to Remember...Forget*' and is planned for 27th/28th/29th Jan. at 7.30pm, plus a 2.30pm matinée on 29th Jan. Tickets from the pub, or on online at www.ticketsource.co.uk

Senior Citizens' Lunch

The date for this is 12 Dec at Hunton Village Hall. Start time 1.45pm, serving at 2.00pm
**To book a seat, call 01677 450370 or 07792789832
Or email: countrymans.community@gmail.com**

Dates of PC meetings

All at 7.30pm

19th January 2022

16th March 2022

18th May 2022

27th July 2022

21st September 2022

16th November 2022

All welcome to join any meeting in the hall. Agendas are published on the website (huntonpc.org.uk) and on the noticeboard in the bus shelter.

This newsletter is published on the website, along with previous issues.

Your Parish Councillors are: Wendy Knight, Ronnie Smith, Raymond Worsdale, Robert Wyatt (Chair), Jan Wylie.

If you would like to include items of interest in the next Village News, please contact the Parish Council: huntonpc@outlook.com or talk to any member of the PC. All PC emails are on the PC Website, huntonpc.org, under Parish Council, Council Members