

Oct 2020
issue 1-20

Village News



Village Workday

We are looking to hold a socially distanced, Covid-19, compliant workday on Saturday 17th October 2020 starting at 10.30. We have a number of tasks to get through, so would appreciate any help that you could give. The more help we have the quicker we can get finished. The key tasks for completion are:-

- Cleaning/power washing of the war memorial before Remembrance Day.
- Painting of war memorial rails (if repairs completed)
- Minor repairs to play park equipment
- Clearing and pruning of willows and other trees along the beck side between Captains Bridge and the Footbridge
- Repairs to timbers on the footbridge
- Installation of non slip mesh on footbridge
- Installation of protection to timber on new play park equipment.

We will have a trailer located near the barrier onto the playpark for all the debris and all materials and most tools will be available. If you could bring along loppers or other assorted pruning equipment it would be a great help.

Meet on Play Park near the Footbridge. Completion of the above all go towards maintaining and improving the village amenities for the benefit of all.

Village Web Site

About 2 years ago, The Parish Council created a village web site. Funding was received to allow Parish Councils to comply with requirements of the Government Transparency Code. One of the key purposes of the site was to publish Parish Council Meeting Agendas and Minutes, publish annual financial statements and to provide contact details for the Parish Council and its members. It was recognized that this also provided an opportunity to have a central point for village information that all could access. During the recent Covid -19 epidemic, it has become apparent that a number of platforms such as Facebook, Messenger, etc have been used for the communication of information which is fine if you use a particular application or are aware of its existence but we should recognise that not everyone uses all the modern technology or indeed has access to this. The web site, if properly managed, would provide an excellent platform for the management of information.

We are please to advise that Wendy Knight has kindly volunteered to manage the site moving forward and keeping the information on the site up to date and relevant. Wendy is in the process of reviewing the whole site and undertaking updates and there will be a further update in the near future.

The web site address is :- huntonpc.org.uk

If you have any information for publication, or have any web specialist skills that we could tap into then please advise us via the PC e-mail which is huntonpc@outlook.com

Wildflower Project



Judging by your comments and feedback this summer, the wildflower area by the beck and circle of cottage garden flowers round the apple trees by the new play park

were very successful; there were loads of bumble and honey bees, butterflies and moths and smaller pollinators including hover flies and damsel flies attracted by the long flowering season of a range of native annuals, and many of you said that the flowers lifted your spirits.

As we prepared the area this autumn, we discovered frogs, (and carefully worked round them) encouraged by the damp cover and slugs. Hedgehogs have been seen and heard along South View, in some cases for the first time in recent years, and bats have been hawking along the road, attracted by moths and other flying insects, which also fed resident birds, as well as swallows and martins. The ducks have also enjoyed the security of the high vegetation, evidenced by them being seen in the beck on the play area more often.

After seed fall, we have cut, shaken and cleared the plants, in order to liberate as many seeds as possible, raked it over, removed a few vigorous dandelions from along the wall (though not all, as dandelions are life savers for early flying bumblebees) and ordered some top-up seed, to ensure another successful year for wildlife in 2021. The apple orchard is also being prepared for next year.

During the summer, a resident, Nicky, made 5 nest boxes, and these (plus a repaired one) have been put up in trees on the green, ready for winter roosting and next year's nesting season, hopefully.

There is a bench in the original area, which, though it got hidden by the proliferation of corncockle, is a lovely, quiet and secret place to take in the beauty of the flowers, or to read a book, or listen to the drone of bees going about their business! Do take advantage of it next spring. The other place to sit is in the inner circle of the apple trees, at bee height!

Phase 2

During this strange summer, we asked anyone passing about views on extending the wildflowers, and of the 90 people who were happy to put their name to the list, 89 were positive in wanting to see more wildflower areas

on the village green space. I'm sorry we couldn't get everyone's views, but hope that the straw poll is indicative of the views of the wider community.

Councillor Carl Les was at the meeting prior to us starting the initial project and his support led to us requesting a grant of money to continue and develop the project; that was successful and **we have received generous financial funding of £500 from North Yorkshire County Council.**

The Parish Council has given approval.

The NYCC funding means that we can continue without fundraising for now, though we do hope to have another lovely coffee morning next year (we have had offers of cake already!) **Work is starting right now, while the soil is warm and the weather is clement. If you or anyone you know has some free time and a bit of muscle, we would love some help.**

The new area will be on the south side of the beck, opposite the village hall carpark, starting at the 'stile' through the wall and will follow the beck side, curving out wider to include a small oak tree.

It will be approximately the same area as the first 'phase' and will be seeded with wildflowers. We have started, by planting 500 English bluebells under the large tree by the wall (we think it is a maple).

If you want to know more, please have a chat with Jan Wylie, Steve Knight or Wendy Knight.

Pinfold - development and maintenance

Claire Seaborne kindly volunteered to take over the care of the Pinfold, and her efforts to create an attractive wildlife friendly environment have been very successful, with the establishment of a range of bee and butterfly friendly plants in the gravel. Dragonflies have been seen over the summer, and bird box on the tree by the bench housed a family of tits this summer. She has also added a bug box and bug hotel, to encourage a wealth of insects. Much of the planting is still blooming in October.

If you haven't already, please go and see the Pinfold.

PC Update.

During the past twelve months, a number of projects have been completed to further improve the village facilities. **In October 2019, a full upgrade and refurbishment of the village hall car park was completed, which has greatly improved facilities at the village hall. As well as parking, it also provides a good paved area for events and school activities to be held outdoors.**



Before



After

In July, following a generous donation from the Steam Gathering Committee, we installed drainage on the play park to dry out the area by the swings. This area has been very wet for a number of years, even during the summer and has impacted on its usage. The drainage appears to be working well and the area is considerably drier.



Repairs have also been undertaken to the perimeter wall along the Leyburn Road side of the play area, by the wildflowers and our thanks go to Tom Russell for completing these works.

The PC also received a donation from the Pantomime Committee to install some additional external lighting to the village hall and we would hope to have these works completed shortly

Annual Play Park Inspection–2021 Project

Each year, the PC arrange for an independent inspection of all equipment to ensure its safety. **This year, one of the sets of swings has been condemned due to rotten timber in the base of the frame and the swing seat have been removed.** It is likely that the toddler swings will suffer the same fate next year but these are still safe to use. These swings have been in place for over twenty years so have had a good life and were due for replacement. The PC are looking to replace both sets of swings as soon as possible and we are looking at a likely replacement cost of circa £6,000. We are looking at various funding streams, but it is proving quite difficult in the current climate. We have received a grant of £2,000 from NY Cllr Carl Les through his locality budget for which we are very grateful. **If you have any suggestions for possible funding or feel able to support in anyway then please let the PC know.**

Your Parish Councillors are: Robert Wyatt (Chair), Simon Grant, Ronnie Smith, Ray Worsdale, 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.