

## **Luttons Parish Council – Chairman’s Report 2024 - 25**

First, I would like to thank my fellow Council Members and Clerk for all their input to Luttons Parish Council.

Without them there would not be a Parish Council and, in my opinion, the area in which we live would be very much poorer for that.

So – thank you all.

Having said that it was a sad blow, earlier in the year, when both Pam and John Randerson submitted their resignations from being Council Members. Their input to our meetings and work parties was a credit to them both.

It was even more of a shock when, a couple of months ago, our Clerk – Anne-Marie – also submitted her resignation. But having heard why she had done so it was understandable – she had been offered a permanent position, at Filey Town Council, as Town Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer. Clearly an offer she could not refuse.

This will be Anne-Marie’s final Luttons Parish Council Meeting and I wish her all the best – she has been a superb Clerk to us.

Still reflecting on our Council Members, it is sad to inform you that John Wane is still not fully recovered from his motor accident and stroke of over two years ago. However, John continues to battle on in his efforts towards recovery. I wish him all the best.

On the positive side we have two very good applicants for replacing Anne-Marie, and we also have a new Council Member who will be joining us at our July Meeting.

Moving on, and looking at our 2024/25 achievements, I am extremely pleased with how all the hard work that went in to clearing the GR, within West Lutton, is continuing. The village now looks as though its residents care and the stream is running well and almost devoid of weeds.

With all the efforts from the team of volunteers this resulted in the alleviation of potential flooding to various properties, plus a much more aesthetically pleasing vista along the stream but, and possibly more important, also resulted in a feeling within the volunteers of achievement and camaraderie. My thanks go to all of those that volunteered – either in literally getting their feet wet or providing much welcome tea and biscuits.

Still on the subject of the GR, I have to mention the works undertaken at the eastern end of East Lutton whereby, with a combination of work by Andrew Thornton, our own contractor and NYCC Highways, the flooding that was occurring to Park Lodge (at the junction of Park Lane and the Wolds Road) was also alleviated.

Another positive from this was the sighting of Water Voles within the vicinity.

Here, I have to mention that the GR is probably the most important feature of our Parish in terms of the amount of time it takes up in Council discussions, the efforts put in trying to ensure its continued uninterrupted flow, and importance in respect of potential flooding to properties.

At the start of last year we took on a ‘Lengthsman’ to undertake some of the menial but time-consuming jobs within the Parish i.e. strimming round our benches and road signs, applying

weedkiller at strategic locations, applying paint and wood preservatives where required, etc. It is hoped that this year we will be able to make more use of our Lengthsman's services. Much of what he does is almost 'invisible' - but, it does actually make a difference.

We continue to work with NYCC in looking after our grass verges and grass cutting overall. Our policy being to leave as much of the verges as possible to nature rather than cut for the sake of cutting.

With Anne-Marie's help we have, at last, managed to resolve our banking arrangements and have now moved our account to HSBC – where we can do most of our transactions on-line.

In my report for 2023/24 I listed these following items as my aspirations:

- a. Resolve our banking arrangements such that they are more in line with modern practices.

With Anne-Marie's help we have, at last, managed to resolve our banking arrangements and have now moved our account to HSBC – where we can do most of our transactions on-line.

- b. Clear the unsightly area in front of Sycamore Farm in order to make this particular location more aesthetically acceptable.

I referred positively to this earlier on.

- c. Continue with the work of clearing the Gypsy Race – particularly in the area of Park Lane in East Luton and onwards towards Helperthorpe.

Again, I referred positively to this earlier on.

- d. Carefully examine how we might do things in a slightly different way by taking a more detailed look from a biodiverse perspective.

We are still working on this.

And for this coming year I would like to try and achieve the following:

1. Continue to keep the GR clear to flow freely – again with the help of our local landowners, our own input, plus help, if need be, from NYCC Highways.
2. Try to make the PC more accessible by providing information via social media.
3. Encourage more people to attend our meetings. It is only by doing so that the PC can understand what the community wants from their Parish Council.

Thank you again to my fellow PC Members.

Together, I hope we can make a difference.

MARTIN PEARCE