

PARISH COUNCIL – CHAIRMAN’S REPORT 2015/2016

The past year has seen a steady year dealing with normal Parish matters, with some things seeing fruition. I will outline a few of the positives.

1. The Parish Council Website has been further developed in line with present regulations and transparency rules. There is still some work to do to be 100%
2. All parish owned Common land and property was reviewed by a small working group. The findings were presented to the Parish Council and were adopted as a working document for the future. As a result a list of priorities for each site was drawn up and this will be the foundation for work to be undertaken over the next financial year. Tasks include footpath maintenance, giant balsam eradication, undergrowth clearance, renovation and repairs to the Pinfold, regular inspections of all Parish owned property, including benches, the bus stop and notice boards.
3. The idea of a Parish Caretaker scheme was first mentioned in a brainstorm we had some 3 ½ years ago. As time progressed it was evident that a number of individual jobs needed doing, but there was little or no commitment from those sub contractors who were asked to quote and then do the task. Also there were a number of ad hoc tasks which were undertaken by volunteers and councilors; many of which could be done in a more organized and efficient way. DTMS, a company who undertakes works for Councils and the private sector, and do a successful Caretaker Scheme for one or two local parishes were approached. Last autumn I spoke with DTMS to outline our requirements and devise a plan of action. I tabled my findings, with financial implications to the Parish Council. The proposals were agreed in principle and the costs were incorporated into the Precept for the forthcoming year. The contract was signed with DTMS on 4th April, to cover the first year. 4hrs a month has been allocated, which will be used in a flexible way and will cover our routine requirements. There will also be supplemented by one off tasks, which will be quoted for as needed. The scheme will be reviewed at the end of the year.

The balance of the Parish Council work has been routine, with normal focus on planning/ road repairs/ the village environment/ local finance, culminating with the setting of the precept for 2016/2017.

I would like to thank all councilors for their work and effort not only over the past year, but also the last 4 years; the duration of their full term of office. Also I would like to thank Catherine Raw for her continuing Role as Parish Clerk and Authorised Financial Officer. A lot of work gets done behind the scenes, which is not seen by the public.

As you all know early May should be the time of our local elections. The situation is that the election will not be held as within Kirkby Malzeard all councilors keep their seats, there being no other contenders. And for Laverton and Dallowgill, councilor Geoff Lobleby keeps his seat for the same reason, and Councilor Sue Tyreman did not stand for election, and Howard Mountain, the only new nominee, will be appointed in due course. I would like to thank Sue for her 4 years of duty to the Parish Council. In due course I will formally welcome Howard Mountain to the Parish Council, after the date of our Non election.