

Welcome

Cllr Diane Osborne
Parish Council
Chair

Welcome to the latest Parish Council newsletter. I would like to add my personal thanks to the contribution of the Councillors who retired at the election.

The Council is always looking for ideas on how it can support village activities and facilities. Any suggestions would be welcome – please email them to gateforthpc@gmail.com.

Website

Please visit the Council website www.gateforthpc.org.uk for information about Council activities and Council minutes and documents. The website is updated on a regular basis.

GATEFORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Newsletter – June 2019

Thanks to Councillors

Two Parish Councillors decided not to stand for Election in May, Jim Cawthorne and Martin Hillary.

Jim has served the Parish Council for many years making a huge contribution to the village. His knowledge of the village and his sage counsel will be sorely missed.

Martin had been on the Council for a shorter period serving for just over 2 years. This coincided with a period when the Council was seeking to increase its activities to which Martin made a valuable contribution. He decided to stand down as he needed to focus on his business.

The Council has thanked both former Councillors for their valuable contributions.

Vacancies – your Council needs you!

As no new candidates put themselves forward for election the Council has 2 vacancies, and is able to co-opt local people as Councillors. If you would like to take one of these roles the Council would like to hear from you. To find out more please contact the Clerk on 07981 371937 (gateforthpc@gmail.com).

What does the Parish Council do? Parish Councils are the most community focused level of local government. For Gateforth, this includes local improvements (such as planting boxes and benches), property ownership (Village Green), maintenance (grass cutting and trees), and consultation (Power Stations and Planning Applications). The Council is funded by a precept to Council Tax bills which currently raises £5,500 per year.

What does a Councillor do? – Councillors take decisions on what a Council does and how it spends its money. They decide what response to give on behalf of the village for a variety of consultations.

What is the time commitment? – the Council has 4 scheduled evening meetings per year, which last less than 2 hours. Between meetings most business is conducted via email. The Council is supported by the part time Parish Clerk who manages the Council and ensures the implementation of decisions.

Contact Us

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Litterpick

The Council held successful litterpicks in 2018 which made a big contribution to ensuring that the village and road verges are tidy. Many thanks to the volunteers who participated. The Council has now been gifted equipment by Selby DC and wishes to organise a further litterpick over the summer. If you would like to participate please email the Council and let us know which times and days are best for you.

Village Green

Following concerns raised by a Parishioner the Council has been exploring what steps it can take should there be any unauthorised camping on the Green. There are a variety of powers available and, whilst legal action is not instant, it can be organised fairly quickly.

Village Map

A large-scale map of the village has been installed in the bus shelter to help visitors and delivery drivers find individual properties.

Footpaths

A recent survey of footpaths in the Parish found that most were in reasonable condition and walkable. Some problems were reported to North Yorkshire County Council and have been dealt with. Any problems with public rights of way should be reported to the County Council – details are available on <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/rights-way-maintenance>.

Dog Fouling

Concerns have been raised about dog fouling in the village. If you have any knowledge of the source you can report it to the dog warden at Selby DC. Bagged dog waste can be put into any litter bin.

Speeding

The Council has been lobbying for a reduction in the speed through the village, however when this was raised through the Speed Safety Partnership it was turned down due to lack of evidence of there being a problem. It will be possible to reapply next year, so any incidents and near misses should be reported to the Police so that there is a record of the issues.