

Gargrave Parish Council

The Traveller Gypsy Roma (TGR) Plan for Gargrave was approved and adopted at the Parish Council (PC) meeting on Wed 7 May. The plan represents 11 months of planning and 100s of hours of work and I am personally delighted that the PC has lived up to the commitment it made at the rumbustious PC meeting in June last year following the TGR transit. The Plan is now available to view on the PC website. While everyone will be aware of the permanent fencing and temporary protection that has been provided to the village greens, the police will be present from 8am to 12 midnight from Fri 23 May to Mon 2 Jun – this is key. In addition, we have reached out to traveller groups and improved our communications links. In short, we are much much better prepared.

I am also pleased to announce that we have filled the councillor vacancy; we welcome Cllr Ian Ackroyd, a long-term resident of the village. I look forward to the enthusiasm and experience that Ian will undoubtedly bring to the PC.

Having been without a Parish Clerk for the last 10 months, I am delighted that Jayne Dunlop will become the new Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (RFO). Jayne was selected following a detailed recruitment process and she will be in the seat by the time of the next PC meeting. While it is certainly great news that Jayne will be joining us, I would like to pay tribute to Martin Banks who has covered the long vacancy. Without Martin's experience, wise counsel and patience the PC would have struggled. The fact that we have managed to operate as seamlessly and address so many issues, some incredibly complex, is testament to Martin's work ethic and commitment to the village.

It is gratifying that more and more residents are attending PC meetings, and I would encourage everyone to come along – its not all dry bureaucracy and members of the public have the opportunity to have their say. That leads neatly into the fact that we will be holding, for the very first time, an annual Parish Meeting in late May. This is not a Parish Council meeting, but the PC Chair gets to report the PC activities over the previous 12 months. Primarily the Annual Parish Meeting is an opportunity for parishioners to question people and organisations on any issues relating to the village. As the Annual Parish Meeting is not a Parish Council meeting, it is not concluded in the same way or governed by the same rules as a parish council meeting. Details will appear on notice boards and via the Community Facebook page soon. Please do come along: Your Village, Your Voice!

Gregory L Butt MBE
Chair
Gargrave Parish Council