

Gargrave Parish Council

Birds Mouth Fencing is to be installed as soon as possible around the South St Triangle, along the Goffa Mill boundary on Middle Green and along the western end of High Green in line with the Traveller Gypsy and Roma (TGR) plan being developed for Gargrave. This substantial solid hard wood fencing will provide a considerable barrier to deter a repeat of last year's incursions by TGR onto the village greens. Sections of the fence will include gated access for maintenance (where necessary) along with inclusive pedestrian access so that the greens are protected from illegal occupation whilst maintaining ready access for the full and better enjoyment of the greens.

The Council failed to appoint a Parish Clerk and will now look to employ a locum whilst seeking a suitable, permanent and salaried Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer. Should anyone be interested in applying for this post, which is part-time at 40 hours per month, please email gargravepc@yahoo.com. Full details will be advertised on notice boards and online in due course.

The Parish Council is currently engaged with North Yorkshire Council (NYC) regarding an anomaly in the Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan, adopted in 2019, which we believe undermines its legality. The anomaly surrounds the omission by Craven District Council, since subsumed with North Yorkshire Council, of 6 missing policy statements that directly impact the plot of land off Marton Road. The recent NYC planning permission decision in favour of development on the Marton Road plot was granted despite widespread objections from residents and the Parish Council. That decision has now been called into question because of the omissions (by accident or otherwise), which we believe changed a legally binding document; produced at great expense (£20k!) and voted for democratically by Gargrave residents.

The Parish Council is currently dealing with a number of issues along the River Aire:

- The collapse of the northern riverbank on Mill Lane near Pinfold.
It was agreed that we would remind Highways and Yorkshire Water of their responsibilities to protect their assets. We will continue to monitor the situation and hold the two agencies to account.
- Stepping Stones.
We continue to seek advice and help to reinstate a stone crossing. In the meantime, the old stepping stones will be removed and the site tidied up.
- Erosion and Accretion.
The serious issue of erosion along stretches of the river on Mill Lane bank and on the Middle Green bank, along with the phenomenon of accretion (the build of stone and sand deposits) most noticeable along the River Place bank will be looked at in depth and with a view to formulating a long-term action plan.

We are currently one councillor short and will be advertising to fill the vacancy in the Spring. If you are interested, please watch this space: **Gargrave Needs You!**

Gregory L Butt MBE
Chair Gargrave Parish Council