

Happy New Year from myself and all members of Gargrave Parish Council.

As we begin 2026, the Council is advancing a range of projects of varying sizes and complexities. Our first priority is to address minor repairs and maintenance on playground equipment, in line with recommendations from the 2025 ROSPA report. In addition, we're working alongside Gargrave Primary School, inviting older pupils to design new signage that encourages playground users to put litter in the bin—conveniently located just outside the playground gate on Airedale Avenue.

Emergency work continues at the South Street substation, and parishioners will be kept informed about its progress. Please be aware that, following these urgent repairs, permanent works are planned and may span up to two years. Some disruption in the village is expected, but both I and the Clerk are committed to providing timely and transparent information to all residents.

Looking to the future, riverbank restorations are anticipated to occur in phases over several years, allowing time to secure appropriate funding, which may include local fundraising efforts. The initial step will be discussing a consultant's report on the river at the next Council meeting, after which planning for permanent solutions will commence.

Our next coffee morning is set for the first quarter of the year; the specific date and location will be shared as soon as they are confirmed through all available channels.

We extend our gratitude to Derek Steele, who resigned from the council at the December meeting, for his commitment and service as a councillor.

The council hopes to fill this vacancy promptly. Anyone interested or wishing to learn more is encouraged to contact the Clerk at gargravepc@yahoo.com.

Full minutes from the December meeting will be published on 8 January, and our next council meeting will take place on 7 January at 7:15 pm in the Village Hall Annex. Everyone is welcome to attend.