

Gargrave Parish Magazine article

Claire Cadman – Gargrave Parish Council Chair

The snowdrops and crocuses are sprouting meaning that spring is on it's way and at our February meeting we welcomed Jack McKell on to the team as our newest parish councillor. We look forward to working with him.

The Parish Council continues to be busy. At the February meeting the parish council began plans for works on the river with the formation of a working group to advise on the way forward following the recent scoping survey. The working group will include some members of the public who have expertise in relevant fields and will be able to assist councillors with preparing a long-term plan. The two main outcomes of the scoping survey are the need to protect the riverbanks in the vulnerable areas and to reprofile the river to widen it and reduce its energy. The information from the scoping survey has given the council a good starting point to work from.

It might look like not much is happening in regard to the river, but these things take time, and a Flood Risk Activity Permit has recently been approved which means the stepping stones can be removed from the river this summer.

The potentially dangerous overhang will also be removed. The stepping stones will be stored in the hope that they can be replaced in the future when the riverbed erosion has slowed down and when funds become available.

The work on the river will be expensive and will require funding which will also take time to acquire whether in the form of grants or appeals to the public. This is why the work needs to be planned in stages and it will potentially take a number of years to complete. While the collapse of the wall was unwelcome it has focused minds on moving forward with the river improvements and has prompted Northern Power Grid to look at vacating it's site once the network has been upgraded, within the next two years. The original substation will be disappearing soon with the area returning to grass and possibly being re landscaped when the temporary substation is removed and the river bank protection is in place. This is one of the areas that is a high priority following the recent erosion. It is hoped that once the working group is up and running, plans can be drawn up in order to move the works forward.

We are holding another coffee morning at Neville Crescent Community room on Saturday 14th March from 10am to 12noon. They'll be hot and cold drinks and cakes. All welcome.