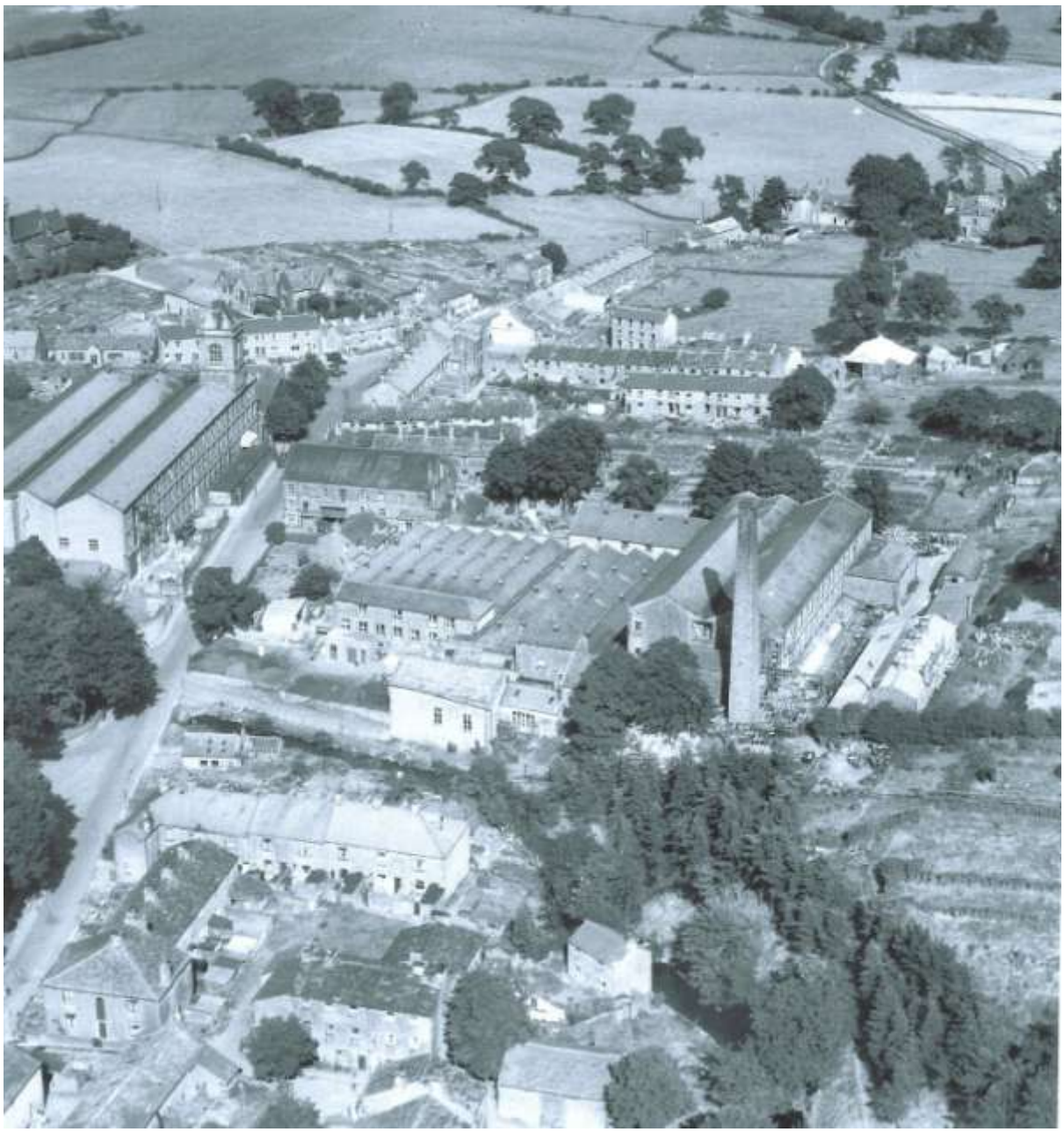
CARLETON-IN-CRAVEN PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This is my annual report as the Chair of Carleton-in-Craven Parish Council. It has been a pleasure to continue to serve as Chair with the support of my fellow councillors.

I have been supported by the Clerk to the Parish Council, Nicola Prest who has guided me over the year. She has, once again, performed the duties of clerk to a high standard offering support and advice to the councillors in managing their roles.

We have been involved in many planning applications and the Planning sub-committee has been able to comment on these to North Yorkshire Council. As in previous years, the Parish Council has been able to count upon the full support of our Ward Councillor, Andy Solloway. He has been able to provide updates and advise us on forthcoming applications within our parish. Cllr. Solloway has also been able to call some of these into the Sub Planning Committee at North Yorkshire Council.

As the Chair, I have been able to attend these committee meetings and state the case from the Parish Council's point of view. Not only is it felt beneficial to explain, within the time constraints, some of the issues with building in the village, it also demonstrates that the Parish Council does carefully consider every application that it receives.

The Parish Council is fully supportive of the proposed expansion of the Conservation Area as agreed by the former Craven District Council, and is hopeful that North Yorkshire Council will soon ratify this decision taken by CDC councillors prior to the formation of the newly named North Yorkshire Council.

It was disappointing that the refusal for development at Grundy Farm was overturned at appeal but on a positive note, it will bring some additional housing and possibly new families to the village. A change in government brought new housing targets to all parts of the UK. It will be interesting to see how this might change the local landscape in the years to come.

It has been a mixed year in terms of the village facilities. The Swan Inn opened and then closed again, and we can see that the tenancy board is now up again. The village hall continues to provide a valuable asset to the village as does the local shop. It was very sad to see our pharmacists, Jonathan and Mary move on, but the pharmacy remains open and under new management. It is also good to see the Post Office building being brought back to life, though sadly not as a post office which would be a huge help to all parts of the community.

The Parish Council has continued to support activities in the village. We have been able to provide Carleton- in- Bloom once again with funds for plants to ensure that village looks attractive for both residents and visitors. The team have been able to utilise the Parish Council land at New Street to complete the creation of an excellent garden space which the Parish Council hopes residents will use widely. We are happy to support the Gala as well as the Christmas activities.

I would like to thank my fellow councillors for all their hard work. We are all volunteers, and they have shown great commitment to meeting the role of councillors. There is currently a vacancy for a co-opted councillor so please consider joining us to work for benefit of the community.

I look forward to the next twelve months and working towards ensuring that Carleton remains a vibrant and safe place to live.

Philip Holmes

Philip Holmes, Chairman.

CARLETON-IN-CRAVEN PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council is the first tier in local government and is a corporate body which aims to represent the interests and concerns of the whole community. The next tier and unitary council is North Yorkshire Council.

The Parish Councillors, including the Chairman are elected every four years. Any vacancies during this period are normally filled by co-option. Councillors are not paid for their time or work and must abide by the Nolan Principles which is a code of conduct. Each councillor signs a Declaration of Interest upon appointment which details their business interests and is forwarded to the Monitoring Officer.

Councillors are ambassadors for the local community and must work together to decide a plan of action for the year ahead. The Parish Council democratically arrives at a resolution at which point the Clerk is instructed to take action, providing that the Parish Council is legislatively able to do so . In order to be an effective councillor, individuals require various skills and knowledge and a good understanding of legislation that affects local councils.

Parish Councils must appoint a Responsible Financial Officer and a Clerk who is employed by the Council. These roles are combined at Carleton-in-Craven with the Clerk working a total of 34.3 hours a month. The Clerk is not answerable to any one councillor, including the Chairman and takes her instructions from the council as a whole.

POWERS

The Parish Council has a number of powers which are embodied in legislation.

FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A Parish Council functions at grass roots level with its representatives elected or co-opted to serve the area in which they reside. Having Councillors from different backgrounds with different attributes and interests is a strength and helpful in ensuring that all sections of the community have a voice.

The principle authority in North Yorkshire is North Yorkshire Council. Being much larger, the authority has legal duties to deliver specific services such as education and social services. A Parish Council has very few duties but its powers are wide and it can make a real and tangible difference at local level.

It should be noted that the Parish Council is an independent and entirely autonomous statutory authority in its own right. The Parish council works closely with officers and councillors from North Yorkshire Council. All tiers of local government have common objectives and benefit from collaborative and cooperative relationships. We are grateful that our independent ward Councillor, Andy Solloway attends Parish Council meetings and provides helpful and insightful advice, as well as keeping the Parish Council abreast of activities at unitary level.

PARISH COUNCIL SERVICES

Carleton-in-Craven Parish Council provides the following services:

Recreation Ground

Co-ordinates and manages a recreation ground for children under the age of sixteen.

Communication

Publishes agenda, minutes and reports in the notice board and on the Parish Council website: https://carletonincravenparishcouncil.gov.uk. Planning notifications and notices of meeting are provided via the Parish Council page on Facebook.

Consultation

Review information and comments on issues affecting the village.

Planning

The Parish Council reviews and comments on local and strategic plans, local planning applications and tree work applications.

Environmental

Employs a local contractor to cut the grass at various locations in the parish. The Parish Council maintains Townley Plantation to ensure the health of the trees, both the mature Beech, Elm and Oak trees and the newer saplings. The Parish Council is also aware of, and incorporates biodiversity into actions taken on Parish Council land.

Supplies free dog waste bags via the dispenser by the Recreation Ground.

Amenity Areas

Provides and maintains the following amenity areas:

- Heslaker
- New Street
- Swan Street
- Townley Plantation

Grants

Upon written application, awards small grants to local organisations and groups to help support local activities and services.

Charities

Administers the Poor's Field and Parkinson's Charities in conjunction with the vicar of St Mary's Church.

FINANCIAL ACTIVITES

The precept is the Parish Council's share of the council tax and must be budgeted carefully to cover all of the expenses of the Parish during the

municipal year. This includes paying contractors, annual insurance, grass cutting, street lighting, employees salary, dog waste bags, maintenance of amenity areas, Recreation Ground equipment and Townley Plantation inspections to name but a few of the financial demands.

The accounts are audited half yearly at the end of September and again by an external auditor at the end of the financial year. The accounts are then submitted to a designated external auditor, currently PKF Littlejohn, along with the Annual Governance and Accountability Return. The different stages of the process are publicised via the website and the notice board outside the village hall.

The audited accounts are normally returned in September and are published for public scrutiny.

The precept for 2024/25 was £22,680.

Financial Statement and Draft *Unaudited* Income and Expenditure Accounts

Total income from 1st April 2024 to March 2025 -	£24,822.26
Total expenditure	£22,397.43
2023/2024 carried forward	£19,682.97
Closing balance (after expenditure)	£22,107.80

The draft and *unaudited* Income and Expenditure accounts for the year 31st March 2025 are as below. When the AGAR is received from the External Auditor, the audited accounts are displayed in the Parish Council's notice board where members of the public can inspect them:

***Unaudited* Draft Accounts 2024/25**

Income	£	**Expenditure**	**£**
Brought forward	19,682.97	General admin	10,694.69
Precept	22,680.00	Amenity areas	6864.30
VAT refund	2,065.86	Recreation ground	815.50
Bank interest	29.64	Misc inc.Village Hall	205.00
NYCC - grass splays	46.76	Public lighting	2101.19
		Section 137 grants	420.00
		VAT	1296.75
Total	44,505.23	Total	22,397.43
Surplus on the year	22,107.80		
Current assets (Barclays account)	22,107.80		

CONTACTING THE PARISH COUNCIL

During 2024/25, the Parish Council consisted of the following members who committed to serving their community and did so on an unpaid and voluntary basis. The Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer undertakes her work from her home as there is no formal office or established office hours.

The public may contact the Parish Council via the Clerk as follows:
Email: clerk@carletonincravenparishcouncil.gov.uk
Mobile: 07976258616

Councillor contacts:

Mr Philip Holmes (Chairman)
philip.holmes@carletonincravenparishcouncil.gov.uk

Mr Nick Clayton-Stead
nick.stead@carletonincravenparishcouncil.gov.uk

Ms Rebecca Lacy
Rebecca.lacy@carletonincravenparishcouncil.gov.uk

Mrs Jane Taylor
Jane.taylor@carletonincravenparishcouncil.gov.uk

Mr Simon Prest
Simon.prest@carletonincravenparishcouncil.gov.uk

Ms Fiona Wood
Fiona.wood@carletonincravenparishcouncil.gov.uk

Meetings are held on the last Wednesday of each calendar month with the exceptions of July and December. The meetings take place in the Village Hall Committee room starting at 7.30pm.

Members of the public are most welcome to attend and contribute during the first 15 minutes of the meeting. Whilst the public may stay to observe the rest of the meeting, they are not permitted to speak.

2024-2025 COUNCIL ACTIVITIES – CLERK'S REPORT

The Parish Council commenced the year with repairs in mind, kicking off with a refurbishment of the old bench down Heslaker next to the river Aire. The bench on Park Lane has already been mended and also affords a lovely view across Catlow Gill for those who are willing and able to tackle the steep incline above Park House. Skipton Angling Association decided to improve the area directly next the bench at the beck end making this another tranquil area in which to enjoy Carleton and the river Aire.

The Recreation Ground continued to be very well used, particularly during the summer months. The zip wire seat was taken apart for a safety inspection and the sand pit and woodchip surrounding equipment, topped up yet again. In order to save money in the long term, the Parish Council is considering expenditure on additional Safamulch (safety matting) around more equipment which will reduce the amount of woodchip required during the course of a year.

Sand is a particular problem with it very difficult to deposit large bags close to where it is actually needed because of the tight entrance to the grounds.

Very sadly, some users of the park have chosen to ignore the by-laws and there has been evidence that some people have been taking dogs onto the grounds. Likewise, bbqs are not permitted on the Recreation ground but the evidence from the bins suggests that some have been enjoying outside dining and plenty of alcohol. The padding around one of the basketball posts was stolen and has had to be replaced for safety reasons. It would be very helpful if these people could be reported to the Parish Council. The signage on the gates will be improved so that users know how to report issues more easily.

The trees on the Recreation Ground have grown significantly during the last few years and perilously close to the overhead electricity cables. Tree Tops Forestry Ltd removed a diseased tree, cut back the growth around the light next to the lane and pruned the other trees back to a more manageable height. More works might be necessary this summer to prune bushes and prevent the unauthorised use of the shrubs as wcs.

The Parish Council notice board had warped to such an extent that it was impossible to turn the lock and it was reluctantly resolved that it was time to invest in a new board. Members selected a very modern, blue design and a new location on the Swan Street amenity area.

Whilst not required by legislation, Carleton-in-Craven Parish Council decided to move both the website and Councillor's emails to the "gov.uk" domain standard. This is more suited to a forward thinking Parish Council and gives those communicating with the Council surety that they are actually in touch with a legitimate organisation.

Once again, the Parish Council financially supported the endeavours of Carleton-in-Bloom, contributing to the summer planting works at New Street amenity area. The garden is close to completion and very much worth a visit. For those not sure of its location, it is just behind the village store and opposite the terraced houses. The CIB team have continued to work their magic with flower beds and attempted a resin path (with funding) in an attempt to make the garden less appealing to Carleton's feline companions. Sadly, this was not a

complete success. The Parish Council also gave a grant towards the cost of a new bench so users can enjoy the garden and rest at leisure. The village defibrillator required a new battery and the Parish Council purchased one as requested.

The Clerk completed her year by taking part in a biodiversity webinar. With Carleton being very rural, the Parish Council already gives thought to fauna, wildlife and tree preservation on council owned land but the course gave a great insight into other things to consider when looking at planning applications in this new municipal year.

Nicola J Prest
Clerk to the Parish Council