



Here to enhance the quality of the Parishioners lives whilst delivering an efficient and proactive service.

Item No. 3 Cassop cum Quarrington Parish Council

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Parish Council Annual Report 2023/2024

Parish Council Members

Councillor Sylvia Raine and Councillor James Robinson were re-appointed as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Parish Council for 2023/2024 and we welcomed Paul Bradley to the Parish Council.

Summer Flower Baskets, Barrels and Tubs in the Parish Area

I am sure that all residents in the parish area will have enjoyed the wonderful summer display of hanging flower baskets and tubs provided by the Parish Council once again in Bowburn, Cassop, Parkhill and Tursdale in 2023.

Thinford Nurseries have done a fantastic job in the preparation and maintenance of the seasonal display for the last 18 summer seasons. They also prepare winter and spring bedding plants for Bowburn, Tursdale and Cassop.

Local Care and Maintenance of Footpaths and Rights of Way

The Parish Council once again applied for a grant under the County Council's Parish Paths Partnership Scheme to trim the grass on various local Rights of Way which had been approved for the 2023 season.

This was the ninth year that the Parish Council has been successful in obtaining funding to carry out this maintenance work and we were also able to continue the extended programme which was first been developed in 2020.

Youth Provision in Cassop

The Parish Council has a long-established relationship with Bowburn Youth Project and supports the project with its monthly costs so that it can continue to provide activities and support for young people in the parish area. During 2023/2024, Cassop Community Centre has begun to offer weekly youth club sessions which were initially supported by local county councillors and have had excellent attendance and feedback from local children and young people. As part of the Parish Council's budget setting process in the early part of 2024, it was agreed to fund the provision at Cassop and we look forward to seeing this go from strength to strength in the future.

Bowburn Cemetery

The Parish Council had received a number of comments from local residents about some areas of the cemetery being overgrown and not up to the standard which they would expect. Members decided that it was important to invest in the cemetery and to have a maintenance programme which would enhance the environment and provide a peaceful space for visitors. The regular maintenance programme began in April 2024.

Christmas Lighting

The Parish Council entered into a hire agreement with Blachere Illumination UK Limited to provide Christmas lights in Bowburn in 2022 and was delighted to be able to extend this programme into Parkhill in 2023. It has been great to see the parish area looking merry and bright over the festive period.

Parish Council Budget 2024/2025

The Parish Council made a decision to increase the Council Tax precept by 2% for 2024/2025. Due to inflationary cost increases, the difficult decision was made to request a small increase, meaning that the Band D precept is now £40.91. This increase enables the Parish Council to continue to support local youth provision and to enhance the parish environment.

Gillian Kelly
Parish Clerk