

## Chair's Note on the Year

1. Since the last AGM we have had two councillors, including the chair resign. I think we would like to thank Robert and Johnny for their service to the Parish Council and the community as a whole.
2. In replacement Karen Ward and myself were appointed as councillors
3. We should note that the next Parish Council elections will be in May next year, 2025
4. Since our last AGM John Bevan, our Clerk of over 12 years, also stepped down from the PC, wanting to fully embrace his retirement.
5. The PC ran a recruitment exercise and selected Lauren to be the new Clerk to the council. Lauren has made a great start in the role for which thanks is due. We would also like to thank John who offered, and has been, supporting Lauren in her first year.
6. And clearly I am not Robert, having been appointed to be chair of the PC.
7. This year has seen some significant items requiring council attention including
  - a. The removal of the War Memorial Cross pending repairs and restatement
  - b. Various planning applications on which to comment and breaches to bring to the attention of the council
  - c. The development of the Neighbourhood Plan for the village
  - d. Attending the Open Morning along with HI2050 to give the community another opportunity to engage with the councillors
  - e. Discussing the closure of the CrossGates Toilets with NCC
  - f. Lobbying NCC on matters including
    - i. The state of the road on the causeway
    - ii. The state of roads in general
    - iii. The road clearing service we can expect in the winter, which culminated in the village taking possession of a pavement gritter and setting up a community of volunteers to use it
    - iv. Overgrown trees, hogweed and the state of community area under the control of NCC.
8. May saw the village host a huge filming crew as Danny Boyle filmed some scenes here for his next film. I think the film crew were hugely polite, treated us and our island with respect and engaged, as much as they could, with the village. Generally, I believe everyone thought it was good fun to have them around. The film crew have, on numerous occasions, thanked the villagers for allowing them to film here and have made a donation to the Parish Council.
9. My final point is around communication. We now as a PC have an online presence which we can use on Facebook and we have also committed to a monthly piece in the Holy island Times. I believe that good communication can make a huge difference as shown in the differing reactions from the Community to the Shipwrecked Mariners Charity Mine being removed (where there was no ability for the PC to communicate) vs. all the information around the Filming.
10. To close I would like to thank the Parish Councillors, both current (Kirstie, Dave, Karen and Kath) and previous (Johnny and Robert). I would also like to thank Lauren our new Clerk, both for agreeing to join us and also for all her hard work so far. Last, but by no means least, I would like to thank our previous Clerk John for all the support he has given the community and PC over the years and especially for all the support he has give the PC and also myself over the past 12 months.