

MICKLETON PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024/25

Parish Council Membership

In May 2024 Cllr Ken Walton resigned following many years being an active member of the Parish Council, It is with sadness that we learnt of the death of Ken Walton and our thoughts are with Anne and his family at this present time.

In July 2024, Mrs Gaynor Taffurelli also tendered her resignation owing to ill health. Gaynor had been a Councillor for a number of years.

For a number of months the Parish Council had to operate with only 5 Councillors, whilst trying to find anyone who was willing to be co-opted to the Parish Council,

In February 2025, Mrs Christine Hartas was co-opted to the Parish Council.

As this was election year, the current six Parish Councillors stood for re-election and have been returned owing to an uncontested election.

There is still a vacancy, which the Parish Council will try to find someone who is willing to be co-opted to serve on the Parish Council.

Mickleton Fixers

This is a small group of volunteers, being led by the Parish Council, who are undertaking various jobs within the Parish. During the year two seats have been removed and replaced by new seats on Mill Lane and Cobblegate Lane. The new defibrillator was installed towards the west end of the village. A thank you is expressed to T Wilson who regularly inspects the defibrillator.

In March a litter pick was organised.

The flooding near to Icaron Bridge has been looked at and the debris which is blocking the drains is to be cleared.

Swift Boxes

In December the Parish Council discussed the Mickleton Swift and Swallow Project. As the nesting sites for these birds are constantly under threat, the Parish Council agreed to support this project through the provision of nesting boxes. A number of Parishioners came forward to have a nest box attached to their property. 20 boxes have been made and have been installed.

The Mickleton Beacon

The beacon was lit on 6 June to commemorate 80 years of the D-Day landing. On 8 May 2025 it was again lit to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of V.E. Day.

The Parish Council would like to thank everyone who has contributed to mark these two very successful events which were very well attended.

Common Land

Within the Parish there are a number of pieces of Common Land that were registered by the then Parish Council in 1968. During the last few months, one piece of land known as Yarker Hill, situated on The Botany Road, has been subject to an Adverse Possession Application. This ended in November 2024, when the applicant withdrew his application.

Planning

Various planning applications have been submitted and discussed over the year, with the Parish Council supporting the majority.

Since September 2024, the Parish Council has been waiting for a planning application for a new forestry road for the Grassholme Plantation on West Pasture Road, This has now been submitted and will be discussed at the next Parish Council Meeting.

Highway Matters

The Parish Council continue to monitor any highway matters and any potholes reported are passed onto Durham CC.

Salt Bins – Following a parishioner enquiry several years ago regarding a salt bin for Station Road and DCC stating the road did not meet the criteria for a salt bin. The Parish Council made the decision to purchase a salt bin for Station Road and this was followed by another salt bin for Yarker Lane.

Playground

The boundary wall repair is the responsibility of the adjoining landowner. The Parish Council has tried to instigate repairs, but to no avail. The Parish Council are looking to erect some type of high fencing to stop balls going into the adjoining property, as well as protecting those who try to retrieve any balls.

The grass cutting of the playground has been increased, following complaints from children not being able to play football owing to the length of grass.

Precept

Some of the play equipment will need to be replaced in the future. As the equipment is very costly, the Parish Council has raised the precept for a Band D property to £72 (i.e. £1.38 per week). This is to enable the Parish Council to build up a reserve towards any future costs for the replacement equipment,

Kathryn Towler
Clerk to the Parish Council
09/05/25