
**Beadnell Parish Council Parish Meeting - May 2023 -
Chair's Address**

1. At the meeting of Beadnell Parish Council in May 2022, I was re-elected as Chair with Jen Hall Vice Chair for the year May 2022 to May 2023.
2. The year has been eventful, pleasurable, but tinged with sadness. Queen Elizabeth 2's Platinum Jubilee was celebrated with a community street party in June. Then followed her sad passing in September. This month saw the crowning of the new monarch Charles 3.
3. I am sorry to have to report that, as a result of increased workload, Michael Dawson decided to resign from the Parish Council in March this year. I would like to place on record our thanks to Michael both for his work as a councillor and for the support that his businesses continue to give to the village.
4. As I speak, Michael's position as Parish Councillor remains vacant. We are very keen to fill this, hopefully with someone who is equally dynamic and active as Michael. The future of Beadnell Parish Council depends on us attracting volunteers who are willing to give some time to representing the views of all parishioners.
5. The responsibilities of the Parish Council include:

Maintenance of the cemetery

Day to day issues involving the cemetery are coordinated by Jennifer Hall and our Clerk.

During the past 12 months there have been 3 burials.

The repair of the boundary wall has involved a major expense but, as I sure you will agree, has been completed to a very high standard.

Maintenance of the Play Gound

Alison Nation is the lead for matters involving the playground.

This is inspected annually by ROSPA and weekly by Northumberland County Council (as a condition of our insurance)

During the year we have installed an extra table with room for a wheelchair users and replaced some worn/damaged swings.

I would like to thank Andy Brown for continuing to carry out minor repairs on a voluntary basis.

General Village Maintenance

Thanks to Steven Ternent who continues to do a great job cutting grass and hedges on land owned by the Parish Council.

Also, thanks to Bob Hodgson, NCC Northern Area Maintenance Manager, who continues to provide excellent support to the Parish Council.

Planning Matters

The Parish Council is a consultee on planning applications. This year we have discussed in excess of 30 planning applications and spoken at 5 meetings of the County Council Local Planning Committee. I am pleased to see that after some excellent lobbying by villagers the Planning Department invited the PC to make personal representation where our views conflict with those of the Case Officer. Thanks to Guy Renner-Thompson for his support during the 'call in process'.

6. During the year there have been several accidents at Swinhoe Crossroads. I would like to thank John Rhind for his tenacity in bringing this to the attention of NCC Highways department. We have all been frustrated at the rate of progress and we hope that recent modifications will prove effective. I can report that safety at Swinhoe Crossroads is now a priority for NCC.
7. BCV and BIB continue their valuable work throughout the parish. Their work is clear to see and a pleasure to residents and visitor alike. Whether it's planting, seating, Xmas lights, car boot sales, the 'stall on the wall', the volunteer groups continue their dedicated work with enthusiasm, which deserves our heartfelt thanks. In the past year BCV and the Parish Council have worked together to install 'The Chatterry' meeting area in Longstone Close. Thanks to Christine Williamson for coordinating that project for the PC.

BiB have worked to plant 2,000 daffodil bulbs, donated by NCC, in St Ebba's Way

8. The Parish council continues to be represented on the Neighbourhood Plan Group by Jen Hall and Alison Nation. Thank you for your continued work.
9. The Parish Precept has been held at £12K for the third year. The amount of donations from holiday lets registered for business rates is excess of £3000, for the current year. Thanks to our Clerk and Adrian Baker for their dedication to the PC's financial affairs. Once again, thank you to Colin Brunt for his work on the in house audit.
10. Finally, again thanks to Isabell for her patience, dedication and experience, and her assistance during my time in office. Thanks to my fellow Councillors who have provided assistance and advice, on occasions too numerous and varied to mention, but nevertheless invaluable.

Geoff Martindale Chair, Beadnell Parish Council

May 2023