

Report of Councillor Lynda Wallis
Chairman of Seamer Parish Council

It is again my privilege to welcome you all to the annual Parish Meeting of the electors of Seamer and Crossgates.

The Parish Council is made up of 5 members from Seamer & 5 from Crossgates. Currently there are 2 vacancies in Seamer & 1 in Crossgates, so if you may be interested in volunteering your time, knowledge and skills to make a positive difference as a councillor, or to assist with Community Speed Watch, please contact the clerk to discuss these.

The Council's land & property receipts have not increased substantially but payments for their upkeep, including legal fees are high, with costs continuing into at least the current financial year. Meanwhile playground and other community assets continue to require regular maintenance.

The Parish Council therefore increased the amount of Council Tax it receives to maintain and improve services by approximately £4.58, to £21.51 per year or 41p per week for a Band D property in April. This still compares very favourably with all of our neighbouring Town/Parish Councils, who last year were charging £38.61 to £78.09 per household.

Through this the Parish Council maintains low rents to community organisations ie the Old School / Youth Centre which accommodates Seamer Pre-school and Seamer & Irton Rainbows, Brownies & Guides, and Seamer Sports Association, with continued low fees for community resources eg Allotments and rent to individuals increasing well below market rates.

The Council also supports the Memorial Hall and Crossgates Community Centre, as the Custodian and a Management Trustee, and is working with North Yorkshire Council and local partners including the school and youth groups to develop the Centurion Way Community Woodland.

The Council provides and/or maintains: Allotments; Children's Playgrounds; Community Speed Watch equipment; Defibrillators; The Green; Highway verges; Noticeboards; Outdoor gyms; Planters; Public benches and picnic tables/benches; Road salt/grit bins, and Vehicle activated signs.

The Council is working with North Yorkshire Council and our provider, Wicksteed Leisure Ltd, to deliver a project to provide and maintain a substantial Trim Trail along Centurion Way

The Council contributes towards:

- the reading of the Charter for Seamer Horse Fair.
- a Remembrance Service at the Memorial Hall on Armistice Day.
- Christmas Trees and Lights at the Memorial Hall, The Green and the Community Centre.
- a Christmas Carol service with refreshments at the Memorial Hall.
- Refreshments and a Band for Christmas Community Carol Singing at the Community Centre.

The Council has started a Newsletter and held its first 'Come and meet your Councillors' event, which was well attended by residents who discussed a wide range of issues with Parish Councillors, Councillor Phillips, PCSO Ria Lockey and the clerk. There will now be 3 editions of the newsletter and the 'drop in' event will be held 3 times per year.

We were grateful to retired Deacon Terry Street who kindly led the Armistice Day service again and we were most pleased to welcome the new Vicar, Rev Claire Soderman, who led the Carol Services at the Memorial Hall and, with Simply Brass providing the music, at the Community Centre. As ever, all were well attended.

Once again we would like to thank The Friends of Seamer Village for all the hard work they put in to sweeping, tidying and making the beautiful flower displays around Seamer, which greatly improves the overall environment. Many thanks also to a Keep Scarborough Tidy volunteer who lives in and is now volunteering in Crossgates, which is much appreciated.

I would also like to thank all the people who organise and run groups and events, these are greatly appreciated by all the residents.

For my part, I will continue to work to try to make our community a better and safer place to live.

Finally I would like to thank the vice chairman, members of the Parish Council, the clerk of the council and our North Yorkshire Councillor, Heather Phillips for all their hard work and dedication.