

Chair report as at 31.3.2025

The year 24/25 started with our clerk Maxine announcing she was stepping down after eleven years. We interviewed for replacement and appointed Mrs Audrey Winstanley.

Peter Kilner offered his resignation due to personal reasons so we welcomed back Jim McNally after short break. David Barren also announced his resignation due to do other things we

thanked both councillors for their hard work. Allan Jackson was voted into the vacant position.

Mrs Jo Lees kindly offered a piece of land known as the Paddock to the council in memory of her late husband John who for many years was on the council. After much deliberation we felt we had to refuse her kind offer due to the fact going forward the cost of maintaining was a unknown expense.

We have started work on the cemetery maintenance and hope to have it well underway by the Autumn. We set the precept same as last year, we also were able to give a number of grants to village organisations.

We enjoyed a very pleasant evening at the Spencer's Arms for our annual Christmas Dinner welcoming Barnsley Councillors past and present.

We give the Freedom of the village to Robert Barr a long serving Councillor the Lord Left Tennant of South Yorkshire presented Robert with us reward. Unfortunately we lost Robert a few months a later.

I have enjoyed my term as Chairman and would like to thank our clerk and fellow councillors for all their help during the last two years.

Margaret Broadhead

Report from Cawthorne Parish Council Budget and Finance Committee

The committee met on 11 December 2024. The contractors for gardening services, hedge cutting in the cemetery, tree work and care of cremation plots were discussed and confirmed. A sum of £4000 was agreed for grant aid including recurring grants of £50 to the Royal British Legion for the poppy wreath and £1000 to the Village Hall, leaving a balance of £2950 for applications in the 2025/26 financial year. An amended budget for 2025/26 was discussed and agreed and a precept of £26,000 was set, the same as for the previous financial year. It was agreed that responsibility for reviewing the Clerk's remuneration would pass to the Staffing Committee. The date of the next meeting of the Budget and Finance Committee was set for 10 December 2025.

Jane Wilson

Report from Cawthorne Parish Council Staffing Committee

The Staffing Committee has met a number of times during 2024/25, primarily to deal with the recruitment and appointment of a new Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to the Parish Council. The new Clerk commenced employment on 1 June 2024. The Staffing Committee has reviewed the terms of reference for the Staffing Committee and also the role and performance of the Clerk. A formal probationary period review of the Clerk was undertaken and she was officially appointed on a permanent basis at the meeting of the Staffing Committee on 6 February 2025. A formal letter informing Mrs Winstanley of the successful probationary period was sent on behalf of the Parish Council. The date of the next meeting of the Staffing Committee was set for 20 October 2025

Jane Wilson

Planning Committee report 2025

For the planning committee year ending April 2025

Total number of applications 15 with 13 considered at full council and the remaining 2 by the planning committee

As this has happened over a long period a precedent has been set ,with the only option, the Parish Council can suggest, is to pay attention to the design and materials used in these instances., along with probable traffic disruption

Audrey Winstanley

Financial report as at 31.3.2025

The Parish Council continues to be on a sound financial footing.

The accounts for the year ending 31st March 2024 were audited by both the internal and external auditors last summer and were found to be in good order. In accordance with legislation, the audit report was displayed on the Parish Council Notice Board for 14 days after receipt of it and are now displayed on the parish council website.

Bank balance as at 31st March 2025 was in the region of £50,294.00 Of this, £5,000 was earmarked for expenditure on the Traffic Regulation Order (installation of road markings including double yellow lines), There was £8,500.00 in the budget for an area of woodland that had been offered to the Parish Council , however the Parish Council decided not to take this offer as there were too many costs involved This budget was vired out and put in a pot for the cemetery maintenance in 25.26 . It also includes the sponsorship money for the hanging baskets for summer 2024 which will be paid out in the next financial year.

Total receipts for 2024/25 were in the region of £29,815 which includes £1,166 VAT reclaimed from the previous financial year, and £1,162.00 h basket sponsorship.

Total payments for 2024/25 were in the region of £32,201. This is £9,174 less than anticipated. It was expected that the £5,000 for the TRO would be spent this financial year but the project is still not been concluded, and also spend on the cemetery maintenance

A total of £2,450.00 out of the budgeted £4,000 was given out as grant aid in the financial year 2024/25. Grants given to The Childrens Centre, Crafty Ladies, Games Group, Cawthorne Band and The Summer Fete.

The precept for 2024/25 was increased to £26,000, BMBC passed on the Council Tax Support Grant which meant that Cawthorne Parish Council received the full precept figure asked for.

Reserves are adequate for any unforeseen events.

Budgeted running costs for the next financial year 2025/26 are in the region of £43,000.00 including grant aid, £3,000 for possible TRO for Darton Road, £8,500 for the cemetery maintenance The precept demand has stayed the same at £26,000.

The accounts for the year 2024/25 will be audited this summer. The notice of Public Rights and publication of unaudited accounts for the year ending 31st March 2025 will be made available by 1st July. The audited accounts will be displayed on the parish council website by 1st September.

Also on the website there is a list of councillor responsibilities, details of land held by the Parish Council and minutes and agendas for all council meetings.

A Winstanley, Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer 31st March 2025