

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2023/24

### Introduction

This is the Chairman's Annual Report for the year 2023/24 for Acaster Malbis presented at the Annual Parish Meeting on 18 March 2024.

### Council Meetings

The council held the normal 10 council meetings in the year plus additional meetings in August and December to discuss planning applications. These applications did not fall conveniently for our scheduled meetings and were also considered outside the scope of the clerk's delegated authority.

All council meeting [agendas, meeting packs and minutes](#) are available on the parish council website.

### Policies

Many new policies have been created this year to meet our statutory obligation as a local authority, and a significant number have been reviewed and updated.

A key document that has been produced is the Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan is the council's medium and long term plan for the village and parish of Acaster Malbis. A public consultation started in January 2024 and ends at the close of the Annual Parish Meeting.

### Policing and Security

Our crime figures come from the [police.uk](http://police.uk) website and are reported at each meeting. The figures seemed higher than expected and this was eventually resolved when it was discovered that the crime area does not map fully onto the parish area. This led to some crimes in the Keeble Park area being reported as ours in the minutes.

In June an application was made to form a Community Speedwatch group in Acaster Malbis. A number of people volunteered and were trained and deployed in August/September 2023. In one of the early deployments, 10 vehicles were noted exceeding 35mph in a 30mph limit.

### Planning

The council has a public participation session in each of its council meetings that only tend to be used when there is a controversial planning application that the council are considering. Our village lies within the designated green belt, and we are subject to flooding at various points in the village and so we consider applications with care. In August 2023 we considered an application where 14 members of the public attended the meeting.

The planning applications we have considered are listed in the [Planning](#) section of the council website along with the council response to the application.

## **Issues & Topic of the Year**

### **i Intake Lane Resurfacing**

Intake Lane has long suffered from pot-holes that have been patched and re-patched. In July 2023 a 'large patching' was carried out and has improved the road significantly.

### **ii Appleton Road Bridge**

After a structural report on the bridge on Appleton Road in Bishopthorpe indicated that the bridge was in poor condition, an 18t limit was placed on the bridge In August 2023. This meant heavy good vehicles being diverted through Copmanthorpe and Appleton Roebuck. A decision was taken in March 2024 to authorise £300,000 to strengthen the bridge.

### **iii Village Boundary Signs**

The village signs were commissioned by the council at the millennium. With poor verge maintenance by the City of York the signs are barely visible. The council has been looking at the issue and has a development goal to improve them.

### **iv Flood Signs**

The flood warning signs have been an issue for quite a while and the council has written to the Highways Authority to suggest ways to improve the visibility of the signs and to gain permission to open and close the signs ourselves.

### **v Flower Tower**

The council continues to re-plant the flower tower twice per year. The summer planting for 2023 attracted a number of positive comments and was well received by villagers.

### **vi Defibrillator**

Maintenance of the defibrillators continues. We purchased additional pads for the Mt Pleasant defibrillator, and all defibrillators are checked regularly by volunteers. Thankfully, the council owned defibrillators have not been needed.

### **vii Precept**

The precept has long been low in the parish, but this is no longer sustainable and hence the 36% increase in the precept for 2024/25. The [Business Plan](#) and the [Budget](#) for 2024/25 are available on the council website so you can see how the funds are to be spent.

## **Thank You!**

Acaster Malbis has a lot of volunteers that work tirelessly to create the community that we have. Thank you to all volunteers in the parish.

### **i Coronation of King Charles**

The beacon was lit again in 2023 for the coronation of King Charles III. The Memorial Hall was again the venue of a well attended event to celebrate the coronation. In 2024 we can look forward to the beacon being lit once again as part of the D-Day 80 beacons remembrance.

### **ii Balsam Bash**

Jane Redfearn has put together an enthusiastic team that endeavour to keep the Himalayan Balsam under control. The team of 20 people spent some 112 hours uprooting this weed during the 'bash' in 2023.

### **iii May Festival**

It takes many hours and many people to make this event happen. Thank you to all those involved in the planning, organising and execution of this highly regarded community event.

**iv Other Notable Work**

- Cutting and clearing weeds along paths and hedgerows.
- Litter picking throughout the year
- Leaf collection and disposal
- Cleaning the bus shelter on Intake Lane
- Cleaning and checking the defibrillators in the village
- Watering, weeding and deadheading the flower tower
- Creating the poignant remembrance display at Mount Pleasant
- Managing and maintaining the Memorial Hall
- Maintaining the community Facebook page
- Managing the KEF charitable trust
- Managing the JK & JK charitable trust
- The Emergency Planning team
- The Flood Resilience Team
- Organisers of other charitable events, garden parties etc.

**v The Clerk**

Thank you to Craig Booth our clerk who does a lot more than he needs to – he seems to be involved in everything that goes on in the village.

**vi Flood Warden**

Finally, A big thank you to Pam Walker the team leader for the Emergency Planning and Flood team. Flooding this year has been almost continuous since mid-December 2023. Pam has been providing the many flood updates, keeping people informed directly, and is always conscious of the correct time at which the Moor End sewer pumps need to be stopped and started.