

AMPLEFORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Newsletter March 2013

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Mrs Mary Raynar – Chairman 01439 788503
 Mrs Carolyn Smith – Vice-Chairman 01439 788484
 Mr Ray Lane 01439 788291
 Mrs Tricia Pite 01439 788207
 Ms Frances Toynbee 01439 788737

Clerk: Ms Victoria Ellis 01751 433286
 Yard House, 2b Tinley Garth, Kirkbymoorside, YORK YO62 6AR

County Councillor Mrs Clare Wood 01904 489362
District Councillor Mr Jim Bailey 01751 417292

Please note that the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on the 2nd May in St Benedict's Hall as the Village Hall will be in use for the NYCC elections.

Please check the noticeboard or the website for details of the Annual Parish Meeting which will probably be held in April.

Parish Council meetings are usually held on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. There is a list of dates on the noticeboard and on the website. All meetings are open to the public.

If you wish the Parish Council to discuss a subject please contact the clerk no later than 10 days before a meeting. Agendas and Draft Minutes are emailed before a meeting. If you would like to be added to the email mailing list please email the clerk.

Website www.ampleforthparishcouncil.co.uk
Email ampleforthparishcouncil@gmail.com

WANTED: SIGNATURES ON A PETITION TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF AMPLEFORTH PARISH COUNCILLORS

The Council would like to increase the number of parish councillors from 5 to 6 but first it has to submit a petition from at least 250 people on the electoral roll to RDC. This is a high number given the number of houses in the village. If you are in support, please complete the petition slip and drop it in the box at the village shop or Ample Hamper. If you can collect some signatures from your friends and neighbours that would be a great help.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH ACT 2007
 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE PETITION**

We, the undersigned, each being a local government elector for the area of Ampleforth Parish Council, in pursuance of Section 80 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, hereby requests Ryedale District Council to conduct a Community Governance Review for the area of Ampleforth to consider:

- 1. Changing the number of Parish Councillors for Ampleforth from 5 to 6.

Local Government Electors for the Ampleforth Parish Council area.

Full Name	Address	Signature	Elector No (office use)	

White railings on West End

Have you noticed that the white wooden railings by the brook at the West End of the village are once again gleaming white? On hearing that the parish council was going to have to pay to have the railings painted, as the County Council no longer does this work, Mr McManus kindly volunteered to do the job for free, and he supplied the paint as well.

Millennium Green

On a cold, wet day in November, a crab apple tree was planted on the Millennium Green in recognition of the contribution of the late Dr John Farquhar. Those braving the weather included the parish council Vice Chairman Councillor Carolyn Smith, Councillor Ray Lane, County Councillor Clare Wood and Mr David Goodman.

Dogs and the Millennium Green

Dog owners walking around the Millennium Green are asked to keep their dogs on leads and to clean up after their dogs. There is a dog waste bin by the entrance gate.

New bins and a new noticeboard

Ampleforth Parish Council successfully applied to Ryedale District Council for grants for a new litter bin by the Millennium Green, a dog waste bin near the old wooden litter bin on West End and a new litter bin to replace the old wooden bin which has been repaired many times.

A grant has also been awarded towards a new noticeboard to serve the southern end of the village. The council will only have a few notices up, the rest of the space will be village use.

North Yorkshire County Council Elections

On Thursday 2 May electors will be able to vote for their Ampleforth Ward Councillor. For those voting in person, voting hours are between 7am and 10pm.

LITTER PICKER WANTED

Ampleforth Parish Council is seeking a contractor to pick up litter from pavements, verges and the Millennium Green, and to carry out a fortnightly inspection of the Millennium Green. Must have public liability insurance for £5 million.

Details are available from the clerk.
 Applications deadline 27th March 2013.

Website

Sue and Jon Shepherd, and the clerk, are working on a new website for the parish council and the village. RDC will host it for free and it will have more features and more information about the village.



David Clarke, Chairman of the North Yorkshire County Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England.

Sportsfield and Youth Services appeal for help

The small group of people that run the play area and sports field and used to provide youth services would really like some help.

Please contact Tracy Hutchinson on 01439 788577 (daytime), 788267 (evening).

Ampleforth Parish Council Tax and Budget for 2013-2014

The Parish Council has set a precept of £15,470.91 for 2013-2014. This is a lower total figure than for 2012-2013, when it was £16,500. However, due to different calculations following the introduction of the localisation of council tax by the government, this lower figure actually results in a 2% increase of the parish council precept. RDC confirmed in January that it would give a grant to parish councils who have lost income. Ampleforth's grant will be £1,332.44. It is not known if there will be a grant from RDC 2014-2015.

The council has agreed a budget of nearly £22,500 for 2013-2014. A grant of £2,500 will be received from the National Park for village caretaking work, and about £1,800 from NYCC for cutting the verges.

The council looks after some streetlighting, village grass cutting, gritting, the Millennium Green, the cemetery, the churchyard grass and the trees on West End. It gives grants to various organisations and does caretaking work around the village such as the keeping water troughs clean.

Work on replacing the streetlights has been delayed as NYCC's work programme was interrupted by flooding.

The parish council has reserves and has earmarked the following

Streetlights	£4,000
Trees - West End (due 2015) and Back Lane around streetlights	£600
By-election costs	£2,400
Additional Winter maintenance for bad winter	£600
Bench maintenance for 2013 or 2014	£1,000
Staff absence	£500
Grant to Ampleforth Millennium Green Trust for pond maintenance	£500
TOTAL	£9,600

'Warmer Together' by Ryedale District Council

At a rather late stage in the winter, RDC has received funding for some schemes. Its 'Warmer Together' partnership supports a range of projects covering information and advice; practical support; and volunteer schemes. The main areas are:

1. Hotspots

Hotspots is a referral scheme that works by identifying people at risk, via the staff of agencies that are in touch with vulnerable people or from people themselves, or their friends and families. Phone the Yorkshire Energy Partnership, quoting 'hotspots' on 01904 545 020 or email advice@energypartnership.org.uk. The Hotspots referral will set in motion:

- Benefits entitlement checks
- A home safety check from the North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service
- Energy efficiency advice
- Assessment for eligibility for home improvement and insulation schemes.

2. Practical support and free 'keep warm' packs available

For practical support phone the White Rose Home Improvement Agency on 01723 383635 or 232531. The help available includes keep free warm packs, emergency heaters, boiler servicing, small home repairs and basic draught proofing. They can arrange a Well-Being Visit. The free 'keep warm packs' include a fleece blanket, hat, gloves, scarf, torch, spare batteries and a thermometer.

This scheme ends on the 31st March 2013 so if you think it may help you or someone you know, please don't delay.

Water from the verge by the churchyard

The problem with the water running over the pavement and down the road has been difficult for NYCC highways to sort out. As this newsletter was going to press, NYCC was digging up Station Road to make connections with drainage pipes. The parish council has been in regular contact with NYCC about this matter since the water started flowing last summer.

Churchyard grass cutting

John Dawson will be cutting the grass again this year. The parish council has decided to reduce the grass cutting from weekly to fortnightly this year.

Cemetery

Gerard Thompson will fit a new cemetery gate this spring and cut back the hedges. John Dawson will be cutting the grass.

Verges and the Millennium Green

The village verges and the Millennium Green will be cut by Richard Wedgwood. Richard Kirk kindly cuts the area of the Millennium Green within the path for free every year.

Snow clearance

Ampleforth is one of the few places to have its pavements cleared, not even all the town councils do it. Richard Wedgwood has been out and about with his gritter this winter.

RDC Planning Committee 12th Feb 2013 Proposed Station Road Development

The planning committee meeting was attended by Councillors Lane and Pite, the parish clerk and some Ampleforth residents. The speakers were a representative of the applicants David Wilson Homes, District Councillor Jim Bailey, Ms V Ellis – Clerk for Ampleforth Parish Council and Mrs J Priestman Evans for the objectors.

RDC Planning officers recommended approval, RDC planning committee members voted to refuse.

"Decision In accordance with the condition of the terms of reference of the Planning Committee, this item was deferred at the request of the Head of Planning and Housing for a 'cooling off' period following refusal contrary to the officers recommendation. The matter now stands referred to the next meeting on 12th March."

The parish council will prepare another statement for the meeting on the 12th March which starts at 6:00pm.

Superfast Broadband Update

By Broadband Champion, Ms Sue Shepherd

In our last update we said that a contract to deliver 2 Meg broadband to every household and 20 Meg plus to 90% of households and businesses in North Yorkshire had been signed between BT and NYCC. The timescale is to deliver the contract by the end of 2014. The initiative, Superfastnorthyorkshire (SFNY), is being branded under a SUPERFAST sign. At this point we were not clear whether Ampleforth was included in the 90% or not.

We are pleased to tell you that the postcode checker in <http://www.superfastnorthyorkshire.com/where-and-when> shows 'future exchanges' with a forecast date of by the end of 2013 for Ampleforth exchange. This means that Ampleforth exchange is in the 90% and will be connected at that time.

The actual availability to properties will follow, and status changes in the website need to be monitored to understand this. There may be some issues with remote properties, as we can't just say that because the exchange is upgraded, all properties will be able to get high speed. However, the majority will.

The network will be open to all internet service providers and it is assumed that costs of connection and service will vary between providers. Details of what's involved, and costs won't be available until 'accepting orders' date. If you are interested in using the service, don't take out a new/extension contract with your current provider without considering your options when the new service is available.

