

WEBSITE and PC OVERVIEW

You may find it helpful to read the following which will give you some information about our Parish Council and what we get involved with plus provide details about this website

1) Goldsborough & Flaxby Grouped Parish Council

Our Parish Council comprises 7 Councillors and a Parish Clerk. It also has a group of volunteers who generously give their time to cut grass, empty the litter bin and do checks at the Goldsborough Play Area. The Clerk is an employee of the Parish Council and is currently paid an annual salary that works out at about 6 hours per week. The Councillors are not paid and generously give all their time free.

At present we do have the full compliment of 7 Councillors. Every current councillor provides a different skill set which we believe helps us to give a good varied view on any issues to be considered. There is a section on this website that gives their names and any Registered Interests

In addition to attending Monthly Meetings (Note: we do not have meetings in August and December) the Councillors get involved on very much an ad-hoc basis on a wide variety of issues that may arise relating to the two Parishes of Flaxby and Goldsborough. Those will include:

- Planning Applications
- Speeding
- Road signage
- Dog fouling
- Local crime
- Grass verge cutting
- Goldsborough Play Area
- Goldsborough Allotments
- Public benches
- Defibrillator (within the old Goldsborough Telephone Box)
- Footpaths and rights of way
- A Welcome Pack for newcomers to the villages
- A Newsletter (delivered three times a year)
- Circulation via email of information received that is relevant to residents within our two Parishes.
- This website

The Clerk deals with any administration such as issuing agendas and meeting minutes and, in addition, is also the Responsible Financial Officer and prepares regular financial reports, pays bills, receives payments and provides appropriate accounts for the Internal and External Auditors.

Most of the income for our Parish Council comes via the Precept. For the current year ending on 31st March 2022 it is £6,720.00. This is paid by Harrogate Borough Council (HBC) and comes out of the overall Council Tax payment they require for each property. As there are approximately 255 properties in our two villages our Precept averages out at approximately £26.35 per property. Of course, the actual charge within the Council Tax requested by HBC depends on the type of property and personal circumstances and therefore could be more or less than this.

In the last 9 years, our Parish Council has been required to get involved with more and more issues such as:

- i. In 2013 we took over the control and management of the Goldsborough Play Area as the original funds to maintain it following its installation in 2001 had run out.
- ii. In 2015 North Yorkshire County Council 'cut back' on its grass verge cutting and the Parish Council took over this responsibility rather than see those local grass verges get badly overgrown.

- iii. To comply with the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities also in 2015 we had to set up and then provide an ongoing appropriate website.

These have all increased the expenditure levels and therefore the Precept of the Parish Council, not just for the cost of the companies doing the grass cutting or hosting our website or for work carried out at the Play Area, but also the cost of the additional time spent by our Parish Clerk administering them.

Both Harrogate Borough Council and North Yorkshire County Council have recently stated that Parish Councils in North Yorkshire such as ours will be allowed to get more and more involved with local issues that they currently deal with.

2) **This website**

This website is basically divided into

- a) **Parish Council.** Giving details of activities required of any Parish Council ie Agendas, Minutes, Accounts, Audit, Planning etc;
- b) **General Information.** Giving details of non-mandatory activities that our Parish Council is also involved with (such as a Villages Welcome Pack, Village Newsletters). In addition, this tab provides information considered of interest or use to residents of our two villages or for those visiting this website (for example Goldsborough Station and WW1 and WW2).

This information is updated when required so as to keep readers well informed of what is going on including being kept aware of all our income and expenditure.

This website is required to comply with GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) and accordingly you will see our Privacy Notice on this website within General Information. In addition, more recent legislation has meant that this website is to comply with the Accessibility Regulations 2018. See below for more detail on this.

Accessibility Statement

This website is fully compliant with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines version 2.1 AA standard. This means that the following can be done by those navigating around this website:

- Colours, contrast and fonts can be changed;
- Zoom in up to 300% without the text spilling off the screen;
- Navigate most of the website using just a keyboard;
- Navigate most of the website using speech recognition software;
- Listen to most of the website.

Should you experience problems with this website do please use the '**Contact us**' facility on this website to raise your concerns and we will do what we can to rectify the situation.

3) **Emailed information relevant to those living in our Parishes**

We regularly receive information about scams, local events, advice from North Yorkshire police, local planning permission applications, North Yorkshire County Council, Harrogate Borough Council, local media, etc. All this, together with our own information and documents, we share with our parishioners as soon as we can. In order to facilitate this, one of our Councillors has set up and administers an email circulation list, sending out emails on a regular basis. If you do not already receive these emails and would like to please simply email gfpemail.list@gmail.com and just confirm your authorisation. Emails are sent to you blind copy to ensure anonymity.