

# PARTNEY AND DALBY PARISH COUNCIL – CHAIR'S REPORT –

## May 2024- May 2025



Good evening and welcome to the **Annual Parish Meeting** and thank you for attending. The aim of this meeting is to provide an updates on the developments over the past twelve month, not only from the parish council but also from other organisations within they community. We also welcome Sandra Smith, a Community Development Officer for the YMCA. In 2024 Sandra supported the Victory Hall with a Grassroots application for a £10000 from the Prosperity Fund. Sandra will share with you her knowledge around funding for rural communities and provide information on how to apply for grants.

Before I highlight the developments from the Council, I would like to provide a short summary of Partney and Dalby Parish Council for those of you who may not have attended meetings. The Council meets every other month at the Victory Hall on Tuesday evenings. Occasionally other meetings are arranged to discuss issues in depth, for example decisions relating to planning applications . There are seven Councillors for Partney and two Councillors represent the village of Dalby. The agenda for each meeting is displayed on the noticeboard, at least three days before a meeting and also published on the Parish Council website. The important thing to remember is that residents are able to attend any of these meetings. Prior to the full council meeting there is an opportunity to raise any issues /concerns relating to an agenda item this takes the form of a ten minute Open Forum. Please feel free to email any councillor or the Clerk, Jane Slaymaker in between meetings. In 2024/25 the Council has continued to recognise the importance of effective communication and consultation with residents. We have continued the 'Drop In Sessions' at the coffee morning, this takes place on the Friday before the full Council meeting. These have been valuable in helping to share information, discuss issues and chat in an informal, relaxed atmosphere. Cake always helps !! We has continued with the publication of a quarterly newsletter, The Partney and Dalby Navigator. This newsletter this a effective way of sharing information, not only from the Parish Council but also from other organisations within the villages. In 2025 the council applied for a **District Council Grant** and were awarded £300 to cover the cost of the printing . Over the last year Will Grover, a District Councillor has attended some meetings and Colin Davie, a County Councillor has supported the Council, particularly in relation to some highways matters. District Councillors and County Councillors have shared information relating to developments at a District and County level. It is clear that there are going to be some major changes in the next couple of years which will effect the running of the parish council.

The Parish Council employs, Jane Slaymaker as the Clerk. Councillors would like to thank her for her calm approach and her excellent knowledge and expertise. She is always on hand to answer any questions regarding council matters. The Council contacts the grass cutting in the cemetery ad some areas within the village of Partney to a Partney resident, Karl Valentine. I would like to thank him for his work. I mentioned we have seven Council members for Partney, unfortunately we have recently received the resignation of Councillor Richard Jones and as such we have a vacancy.

I would like to take the opportunity in this report to recognise and celebrate the powerful force of community volunteers. Communities thrive and prosper when there is a team of dedicated and committed individuals who are willing to make a difference to others. This includes, people who run weekly and monthly events, raise funds, litter pick and care for public spaces . Partney and Dalby is extremely fortunate that these people are willing to give their time and share their enthusiasm.



## Highway Matters

Issues relating to highways has been a high priority for the Parish Council over the past year. In summer 2024 Richard Fenwick, Head of Highways and Local Management Services, met with Parish Councillors and Colin Davie to hear concerns relating to pot holes and the poor condition of the footways in Partney. Speeding on the A16 at Dalby and inconsistencies in speed restrictions were other issues raised during the meeting. Following this visit the large pot holes were repaired on Harding's Lane and there have also been some patch repairs on the Chapel Lane, outside the Victory Hall and to some footways around the village of Partney. The footways, however remain in a poor state of repair and are in need of a full resurface. Speeding remains a concern, particularly entering Partney from the A16 and on Dalby Hill.

## Partney Parish Plan

In 24/25 the Parish Council produced its first **Parish Action Plan** for Partney, this is to provide some strategic development and to address the immediate and long term needs of the community. Thank you to Councillor Packa Risi for his hardworking in putting this together. Areas for development / actions have been identified in this plan. To support its implementation the Council consulted with residents with a village questionnaire. One of the many actions identified on the Action Plan is the 'darker sky initiative' this follows the research around the harmful effects of light pollution in rural locations. Darker skies have shown to have many benefits for human health, wildlife conservation and energy saving. As such the village of Partney has commenced a twelve month trial period of the street lights being turned off at midnight, and some lamps have been deactivated. I would like also like to thank Councillor Andy Ratcliffe and Councillor Sue Sargeant for their work on the Emergency Plan.

## Finances

The rising costs of services and compliance with Parish Council legislation has meant that councillors have faced some difficult decisions when the **Precept** was set in January 2025. The Precept is the tax the parish council charge the electors to meet budget requirements. The budget for 2025/26 was set at £6697 and the Precept was set at £6253. It is hoped that the shortfall can be covered by a grant or savings to contractor costs. The reserves are not as large as recommended. There is £2686 remaining of the Covid grant. The Council will need to reserve funds for the replacement of the defibrillator pads, which have a expiry date. It is necessary to reserve funds for the replacement of street furniture, for example dog and litter bins. It is recommended to reserve the a years budget in case the precept is not allocated. All financial information is available on the website.

## Events

The Parish Council organised a 'tidy up' morning at the beginning of May, thank you to all those who gave up their time to support this. In partnership with the Church in Partney and the Victory Hall Committee the Parish Council celebrated the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day.

Finally, thank you to all my fellow Councillors for the past year, particularly to Councillor Sue Sargeant for all her support as Vice -Chair. The Council, in order to achieve its aims, needs the support and engagement of all of the community and partnership and collaboration with other organisations, both local and in a wider context.