

Asenby Parish Council

Annual Report 2024/25

Summary

The year has seen some stability return to the Parish Council. We now have a full complement of councillors who are all willing to be actively involved in creating policy and seeing it through.

We also have a new Parish Clerk who, as well as ensuring the council operates on a firm foundation, is happy to assist whenever needed to ensure we keep our promises and deliver for the residents of Asenby.

Asenby Community Park

The Parish Council has worked very hard to give the village and surrounding area a space we can be proud of. This has been achieved and we receive favourable reviews from all who visit.

In 2024 and early 2025 we held 4 events in the park. All were very successful. We intend to maintain the momentum with a summer event, details of which are being currently worked on. A new basketball ring will be supplied very soon. The council also intends to make the storage container watertight and empty it of years of rubbish stored there.

The play equipment has been inspected and given the all clear for another year.

Village Maintenance

Our grass cutting contractor has done a very professional job in the year, giving the village a welcoming appearance.

At the end of 2024, the parish council began a consultancy exercise involving the village residents. This was to look at areas requiring improvement. The plan has now been adopted and work is underway.

The bus shelter is now no longer overgrown with ivy and looks much better. The village stone at the South entrance has been resealed and is now vertical again.

In the next 6 weeks, we will plant flowers at the two village stones, clean the village benches and replace the one outside Orchard Gardens which is becoming unsafe. We will also install signs in the village to encourage drivers to be more aware of children playing.

We've been made aware that some trees on the riverside path may be dead. We will therefore employ a tree specialist to advise us on what action is needed to keep the area safe.

We have also received complaints about the footpath between the village and Topcliffe Bridge. The path will be monitored regularly and action will be taken to keep it clear and safe.

HGV's through Asenby

Although our issue is nowhere near as serious as in Topcliffe, we average about 10 large vehicles a week driving through. We have recently installed a camera at the South end of the village to capture images. The camera is checked regularly and we have reported a number of drivers to their companies. Although we are seeing a steady improvement, we have agreed to work with Topcliffe and Essay Parish Councils to make North Yorkshire Council respond to our concerns over poor signage.

Social Media and Website

Although we have significantly improved our visibility on social media and our website, the council will appoint a member to take on responsibility for this function to ensure we optimise our presence on the above.

Financial Situation

Asenby Parish Council operates frugally, however we have felt it necessary to increase our precept for 2025 - 2026 to ensure we remain in a situation where we can keep our promises and deliver an acceptable service to our residents.

To ensure we optimise the funds available to us from central and local government, we have decided to give responsibility for this important topic to a member of the council.

Our clerk Colin Grimston has done a great job in clarifying and documenting our financial status. He has also guided through our yearly audit efficiently.

Other Matters

We would like to thank all those individuals outside of the Parish Council who give their time gladly. Our beautiful community park would not have been possible without the help of our volunteers. Special thanks go to Catherine and Matilda Catterick for their involvement in staging our park events and of course thanks to Doug Allen whose Sunday email and Tatler Magazine have proved a great asset for the Parish Council to publicise our news.

Steve Gallon
Chair
Asenby Parish Council
25 May 2025