

**Report of Councillor Lynda Wallis**  
**Chairman of Seamer Parish Council**

Firstly I would like to welcome you all to this Annual Parish Meeting (Assembly) of the electors of Seamer and Crossgates.

As you are probably aware the Parish Council is made up of up to 10 members, 5 from Seamer & 5 from Crossgates. Currently there are 7 members, who all give up their time voluntarily to try to make our community a pleasant place to live.

The Parish Council gets a small share of the council tax every year to use to go towards making improvements to our area. In 2020 the precept was set at an average of £14.13 per year per household (or 27p per week) and we took the decision not to increase it for the last 3 years, whilst investing in community priorities for road safety, parks & open spaces and community resources, and maintaining low rents and service charges to community organisations and individuals from money that accumulated whilst we were unable to complete projects during and immediately following the worst of COVID.

A decision has been made to increase it slightly this year from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to an average of £16.93 per year per household (or 32p per week), whilst still maintaining low rents to community organisations ie the Youth Centre which houses Seamer Pre-school and Seamer & Irton Rainbows, Brownies & Guides, and the Seamer Sports Association site. This still compares very favourably with all of our neighbouring Town/Parish Councils, who last year were charging between £76.61 and £37.71 per household.

Through this the Parish Council also supports the Memorial Hall and Crossgates Community Centre, as the Custodian and a Management Trustee, and is working with North Yorkshire Council and local partners including the school and youth groups to develop the Centurion Way Community Woodland.

The Council provides and maintains:

- 2 community Defibrillators, outside the Memorial Hall and the One Stop Shop at Crossgates.
- 77 Allotments.
- The Green.
- 2 Children's Playgrounds at The Green and the Sports Ground.
- 2 Outdoor Gyms at the Sports Ground and at Crossgates, between Long Lane/Crab Lane and 'the Birds' estate.
- 4 Vehicle Activated Signs.
- Community Speed Watch equipment.
- 27 Public Seats (Benches and picnic tables/benches).
- 9 Road Salt/Grit Bins.
- 7 Noticeboards.
- 7 Planters.

The Council maintains a network of highway verges and parks & open spaces via a contractor and contributes towards:

- A Remembrance Service at the Memorial Hall on Armistice Day.
- Christmas Trees and Lights at the Memorial Hall, Village Green and Community Centre.
- A Christmas Carol service with refreshments at the Memorial Hall.
- Refreshments and a Band for Christmas Community Carol Singing at the Community Centre.

We have had repairs done to some of the play equipment both on the Green and Seamer Sports Association playing field and further work is planned, and we are adding a 2<sup>nd</sup> new bench at the green at the top of Curlew Drive in Crossgates, and beginning the process of having the benches in the parish repaired and re painted over the next 3 years.

Last year we set up a working Community Speed Watch group and purchased our own equipment. We have someone interested in being the new co-ordinator, so if anyone is interested in supporting Community Speed Watch, could they please contact the clerk. Full training will be given.

In May 2023 we celebrated the Coronation of King Charles 111 and the Queen Consort and several activities took place including a very entertaining evening on 6<sup>th</sup> May with Dave Marshall that included a buffet at Crossgates Community Centre, and a buffet lunch on 7<sup>th</sup> May at Seamer & Irton Memorial Hall, both were very well attended.

The traveller's horse fair went ahead as usual in July with no problems and for the first time the Council co-ordinated the reading of the Charter.

Last year the vicar at St Martins church left for pastures new leaving a vacancy that has still not been filled, but retired Deacon Terry Street, who has just moved to the area, kindly stepped in to hold our Armistice Day service and the Christmas carol service at Seamer & Irton Memorial Hall. Rev Dr Kevin Ridd officiated at the carol service at Crossgates Community Centre, with Simply Brass providing the music, and again both were well attended.

I would like to congratulate all the residents of Seamer & Crossgates for their hard work and wonderful displays in the Gardens and Allotments competition.

Once again we would like to thank The Friends of Seamer Village for all the hard work they put in to making the beautiful flower displays around the Parish, this greatly improves the overall environment.

I would also like to thank all the people who organise and run groups and events, these are greatly appreciated by all the residents.

The Council currently has 2 vacancies in Seamer & 1 in Crossgates, so if you may be interested in becoming a councillor, please contact the clerk to discuss this. It is a great way of volunteering, with opportunities, legal powers, resources and professional support to make a positive difference.

For my part, I will continue to work to try to make our community a better and safer place to live.

Finally I would like to thank the vice chairman, members of the Parish Council, the clerk of the council and our North Yorkshire Councillor, Heather Phillips for all their hard work and dedication.