

# COLLINGHAM *Parish Council*

**Chairman Michael Davies 01636 892911**

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Rik Hatton	01636 892865	Lee Marshall	01636 892567
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**Parish Clerk Caron Ballantyne**

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**Or visit in person in the library on Mondays 2-5 (during Library Opening Hours)**

As Tim mentioned in last month's Fleet the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April at the Youth & Community Centre at 7.00 pm. Refreshments will be available. This is an opportunity for local groups to update Parishioners on their achievements over the past year and plans for the future. We would like to see a wide variety of groups represented. Please contact the Parish Clerk or any Councillor if you wish to take part. As well as welcoming old friends, we would love to hear from those groups who have not been to previous Annual Parish meetings. We have a wealth of community groups in Collingham. This is your chance to spread the word, attract new members or simply let us know what you do. It is also an opportunity for you to find out about the grants available to local groups from the Parish Council

Parish Council elections will be taking place on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May and notices from some current Parish Councillors have been put on noticeboards and on the Parish Council website to give a flavour of the role and responsibility of being a Parish Councillor. This is a great opportunity to become involved and be part of the community. The Parish meeting is also an opportunity to meet current councillors (some of whom will be standing for the next term) and those wishing to stand for the first time will be invited to come along to the meeting.

The official opening of the Skatepark will take place after the Parish Council elections have been held in May. In the meantime, the grass around this area is beginning to grow but needs to be allowed to flourish by not being trampled. Additional seating around this area is being planned and will be installed once the final design is agreed.

Once again, we are hoping to enter the "Best Kept Village" competition, the first round of which is judged during June each year. If we are successful in round one there will be further judging during July. Villagers can play their part by ensuring their front gardens and verges are kept neat and free of weeds. Litter picking will be stepped up to give us the best chance. This year we have been notified of additional volunteers from the Football Club and the Cub Scouts who will contribute to the sterling efforts of our regular volunteer village litter-picker, Rodney. If other groups would like to be involved, please don't hesitate to contact the Clerk to discuss this. It is also hoped that improvements made to the Cross Site by planting wildflower turf will improve our chances. This should reward us with a good summer display and attract bees and butterflies. Bulbs planted in previous years are giving us the first taste of spring and additional bulbs (paid for by Village Care and planted by volunteers) have also been added to expand this display and leave a legacy for many years.

*Jean Davies & Michael Davies.*

*Collingham Parish Council meets on the fourth Thursday of every month and the second Thursday in December. The meeting in August may be cancelled if there is insufficient business. The meetings are held at the Youth and Community Centre on Low Street and begin at 7:15pm. The general public are welcome at all meetings, though they have no rights to participate except at the beginning of the meeting or at the Chairman's discretion and with prior notice to the clerk. Once the meeting is under way the public are welcome and encouraged to stay and listen to the Council. There may be times because of the sensitive nature of the business being discussed that the public and the press are asked to leave though this happens very rarely.*