



POTTO PARISH COUNCIL

Potto

**December
2020**

2020 - A Very Challenging Year



Inside this issue:

2020	2
Footbridge	4
Road Safety	5
Village Hall	7

**A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy
New Year to everyone in the Parish of
Potto from your Parish Council;**

**Andy, Elma, Ian, James, Steve, and
Joanne**

2020—A Very Challenging Year !

2020 will be a year that will be remembered for a very long time, The onset of the Covid-19 Pandemic, Lockdown I for the whole country, do you remember panic buying, empty supermarket shelves, clapping on the doorstep, Nightingale Hospitals, cancelled public events, closed Pubs and Restaurants and the introduction of Home Working ?

Just when we thought we were seeing the light at the end of the tunnel, the Tier system was introduced, only to be followed by Lockdown II, a little bit of Déjà vu and a reminder of the deadly nature of the Coronavirus, and the devastation that it can cause.

We have seen the outstanding efforts made by our National health Service, and conversely the tragic human cost this pandemic has caused across the World. There are now signs of a vaccine to combat the virus, so hopefully as we approach the end of the year we can welcome the new Year with renewed hope and a sense of optimism for a better World in 2021.

The Parish Council has continued to work through the Pandemic, meeting remotely in line with government guidelines and working with our partners to move forwards in a positive way in-order to improve the parish for the benefit of all our residents, if you wish to join the any of our regular meetings please contact the Clerk.

Potto Christmas Tree

A Very Merry Christmas and a big “Thank You” goes out once again to Ann Preston and all at Preston's of Potto for kindly providing the Christmas Tree to the village.

I am sure that you will agree the tree sets the festive mood of the village at this time of year, and helps make “Potto Sparkle”

We would like to thank Amy for organising the tree once again.



Stell Inspection

In September, we undertook the Bi Annual inspection of the Potto Stell system. The stell network is a combination of open and culverted waterways that directs the water from field drains through the residential areas of Potto and finally drains into Potto Beck. This ensures that the low-lying areas of Potto are adequately drained behind the flood barrier.

Residents are to be commended for maintaining the stell system in good order. A few areas of improvement were noted and these were followed up with the land owners.

Parish Plan

The 2018 - 2028 Potto Plan has now entered the second year of its term. The current plan builds upon the great work carried out in the initial 2008—2018 plan. The Parish Plan reflects the views of Potto residents obtained from the Parish Plan Questionnaire; it provides a democratic guide for Potto Parish Council and other public bodies in order to influence how our community manages change and develops over the next five to ten years.

The Parish Council agreed to adopt the Parish Plan and monitor and help implement the Action Plan with the assistance of other bodies and volunteer parishioners.

Currently the majority of the actions in the plan have either been addressed or are in progress.

Cycle Routes

Councillors are working with Sustrans and NYCC to explore a number of enhancements to the current cycle network in the area, these include;

- Re-routing NCN65 through Osmotherley
- Re-route to Swainby using Back Lane (part of North York Moors Cycleway), which avoids cyclists speeding down Shepherds Hill
- Moving the crossing of A172 to High St. / Swainby Ellers junction .
- Re-routing via Cooper Ln. bridleway into Potto (which may require further improvement to meet NCN standard as discussed) and away from current Blackhorse Ln. alignment
- Re-route along Station Ln. into Hutton Rudby (less traffic than Blackhorse Ln.)

Sustrans are the custodians of the National Cycle Network;

[Home - Sustrans.org.uk](https://www.sustrans.org.uk)

It is hoped to feed this realignment into the Network Development planning process including North Yorkshire County Council highways and Hambleton DC, hopefully leading to some action on the ground in terms of new signing, A-road crossing safety measures, quiet way treatment for the on-road sections etc.

Bridge Over Swainby Ellers



The Parish Council in partnership with Swainby Parish Council and the NY County Councillors have been working closely with NYCC highways in-order to implement plans to improve the current footbridge over Swainby Ellers.

We will be replacing the existing footbridge with a wider bridge to allow pushchairs, wheelchairs etc to use the crossing. The project is part of the Parish Councils on-going efforts to provide open access to all, on the footpaths throughout the parish. The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for exercise in the open air,

And a marked increase in the usage of footpaths in the parish has been noted, in particular the route of Cooper Lane connecting the parish to Swainby. Funding for the project has been shared between Swainby and Potto Parish Councils with financial support from County Councillors David Hugill and Bryn Griffiths. In addition NYCC Highways will fund the installation of the bridge and supporting infrastructure..

This has been a truly collaborative initiative and has shown how projects of this nature can be realised by engaging with partners and stakeholders.

Traffic Calming in the Village

One of the items highlighted in the Potto Parish Plan was reducing the speed of traffic within the village.

The Parish Council together with Crathorne and Seamer Parish Councils submitted a joint bid to North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner AJ1 Project Road Safety fund and have been successful in securing a grant to fund a radar speed sign to be shared between the three Parishes.

An initial speed survey was undertaken in the village during June and although we were in the grip of lockdown the results of the survey were clearly worrying. While an average for the period was around 36 mph some vehicles were recorded going through the village at between 60 and 65 mph !!



These speeds while being excessive for the village are also extremely dangerous for residents, their families and their pets. Hopefully this road safety initiative will help reduce speeds through the village, and make Potto a safer place., however we all need to be aware of the speed limits and “Kill our Speed”

Make Potto Sparkle



Make Potto Sparkle is a great initiative for the festive season, especially with the challenging year that we have all had to endure. Decorations are already going up in the village as well as the Christmas Tree at the Church. Many homes are already lighting the way to a better year in 2021 for all of us.

Footpath Maintenance

While the Parish Council is working hard to improve the footpath network within the parish, it remains the responsibility of the land owners who own the land that the footpaths cross to comply with the statutory requirements of the Highways Act 1980.

Under these regulations the landowner is responsible for;

Cutting back vegetation from the sides and from above (the footpath but not from the surface) so that it does not inconvenience the public or prevent the line of the right of way being apparent on the ground: allowing a minimum of 3 metres (10 feet) headroom on bridleways, and byways open to all traffic.



It is also the responsibility of landowners to maintain stiles and gates in a safe condition.

While it is the responsibility of the landowner to keep cross field paths clear and open, it is up to the County Council to maintain the surface of the footpath free of vegetation.

Not all public rights of way are the same, different categories of public rights of way have different widths, the widths are specified by reference to the Rights of Way Act 1990 and are dependent upon whether the footpaths have cross-field or head-land status.

Rights of way	Minimum width
Cross-field footpath	1 metre
Field-edge footpath	1.5 metres undisturbed
Cross-field bridleway	2 metres
Field-edge bridleway	3 metres undisturbed
Cross-field BOAT*	3 metres undisturbed
Field-edge BOAT*	5 metres undisturbed

BOAT—Byway open to all traffic

Councillors and volunteers have invested a lot of time and effort maintaining public rights of way in-order to keep the footpaths in good condition for everyone to enjoy.

We would like to thank landowners for supporting the Parish Council in our efforts to improve and maintain one of our greatest assets, access to the countryside for everyone.



The time during the first Covid 19 Lockdown was used to very good effect at the Hall. At the end of March The Village Hall Management Committee finally obtained the necessary grant funding to upgrade the toilet facilities and entrance to the hall. We were then immediately able to appoint the building contractor Simpson & Hill Ltd. of Seamer who commenced the work after the Easter break on Monday 20th April

The work was completed in early September and provided level access and accessible toilet facilities to the hall, as well as updating the ladies toilets, rearranging the gents and helping to bring the Hall into the 21st century.

The completion of the work has certainly transformed the appearance of the hall and provided much awaited facilities to make it more accessible not only to the disabled but also for parents with young families and all others with mobility requirements.

Having composed the necessary risk assessments and put in place the required regulations we were able to open the hall as a Covid-Secure premises in September.

Suddenly life returned to Potto. We held the first Potto Picnic to celebrate the end of a locked away summer, with a fine warm day, and many Villagers celebrated in the Barbeque Field at the rear of Village Farm.

Thank you once again to Keith Davison for providing us with such a fine location for our outdoor Village events

With the hall open for business, we attracted new classes, with Gemma Tribick hosting Zumba on Thursday evenings and Suzanne Calvert starting a Yoga Class on Monday mornings.- And the Quiz Teams returned around socially spaced tables for the regular Sunday Night Quiz.

Everything was going well, and then Lockdown 2 came !!

Since Lockdown 2 ended on December 4th Yoga & Zumba have both been able to start up again. We have had to postpone the Sunday night quiz however until can return to Tier 1 and the Monday night cub meetings are still not allowed to resume indoors. Hopefully we'll be able to fully reopen the hall again in the New Year.

Thanks to all those who have bought 100 Club tickets this year. Decembers results are;

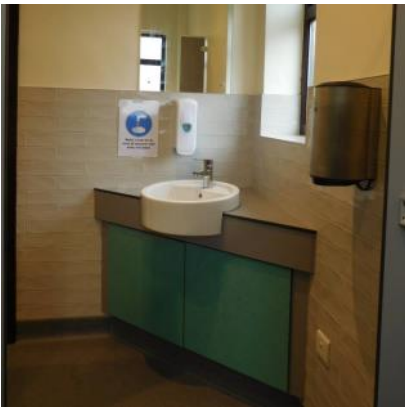
1st prize £100 No 117 Janine & Simon Wilson.

2nd prize £50 No 104 Diane & John Hitchin

3rd prize £20 NO 90 Olive & Arthur Smart



POTTO VILLAGE HALL



Next year's events are in the hands of the Gods (?) We'll hopefully be able to greet you in the Hall in 2021 - All suitably vaccinated and free to continue with life as we did before Covid 19.

Keep smiling!

Your Village Hall Management Committee

Please contact Potto Parish Council at PottoPC@btinternet.com, if you would like to contribute to the newsletter.