



POTTO PARISH COUNCIL

Newsletter

December
2021

2021 - Another Year Dominated by the Covid-19 Pandemic



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

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

2021—Another Year of Uncertainty !

No one imagined back in 2020 that the Covid-19 pandemic, would have such a devastating and long term effect on the world. With another lockdown possibly scheduled for Boxing Day we can only hope and pray that 2022 brings some hope for an end to this pandemic and all of its variants.

We can take some comfort in the excellent national response to the pandemic, we are certainly in a better place than many countries around the world.

The Parish Council has continued to work through the Pandemic, initially remotely, then back to face to face meeting in line with government guidelines. We continue to work with our partners to move issues and projects forwards in a positive way in-order to improve the parish for all our residents. We have completed a number of major projects in 2021 with the new footbridge and improvements to the surface of the bridleway to Swainby, as well as the speed improvement project. There are a number of projects planned for 2022, Covid-19 permitting !!!

New Councillor

Councillor James Grecco has had to stand down from the Parish Council this year due to personnel reasons. We would like to thank James for all his efforts on the council over the years.

Following on in Jame's footsteps Shaun March has been co-opted onto the parish council. Shaun and his farther Peter have worked closely with the parish council over the years as active members of the community helping with bridleway maintenance , tree cutting and general footpath maintenance. We welcome Shaun as member of the parish council and look forwards to having him as a positive member of the team

Potto Christmas Tree

A Very Merry Christmas and a big "Thank You" goes out to Ann Preston and all the staff at Preston's of Potto for once again kindly providing the Christmas Tree for 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 , and Councillor Macpherson for installing the tree and the lights.

Stell Inspection

In December, 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.

Budget Setting

Hambleton District Council is consulting on its 2022-23 budget.

BUDGET CONSULTATION
HAVE YOUR SAY
 on Hambleton's budget for 2022-23

Have your say on the council's services and future budget
 Your views and ideas matter

visit [hambleton.gov.uk /survey/ budget](https://www.hambleton.gov.uk/survey/budget)
 or call 01609 779977 for a paper copy

The consultation closes on Friday 7 January 2022

HAMBLETON DISTRICT COUNCIL

New Council for North Yorkshire

On 21 July the government decided that the current councils would be replaced by a new, single council for everyone in North Yorkshire with City of York Council remaining as it is.

The new council will be simpler and easier for the public to access. There will be one council with one point of contact for all the support and services.

Around 30 local access points around the county will give everybody, everywhere the chance to have direct, face to face contact about services.

The new council will aim to drive a revolution in empowering communities. There will be new powers and money for local people across communities, market towns and parishes to drive local change, local enterprise and local solutions:

- local priorities will be decided by initially around 25 community networks based around market town areas
- greater powers and funding will pass to parish and town councils for those that would welcome it
- there will be greater transparency through powerful area constituency committees that will hold the new North Yorkshire council to account on issues such as planning and transport
- there will be just one set of councillors who will be accountable for all services

Bridge Over Swainby Ellers



The Parish Council in partnership with Swainby Parish Council and the District and County Councillors have been working closely with NYCC highways in-order to replace the old footbridge over Swainby Ellers and provide better access to the countryside for all.

Funding was provided through Grants, Contributions from the two parishes and contributions from NYCC.

The work was completed earlier this year, and the parish council received this email from David Hughes just after the bridge had been opened, David has kindly given his permission for us to share his email.

Dear Council Members,

I am a regular walker around the Potto area along with my disabled daughter and we particularly enjoy the accessible footpath between Cooper Lane and Swainby Beck. The width of the original footbridge across the beck precluded us travelling further as her wheelchair would not fit within the confines of the bridge. A month or two ago, during one of our walks, we bumped in to Mr. Ian Macpherson who advised that the bridge would shortly be replaced with a wider unit with a view to extending the accessible area to the less able. We have spent quite a lot of time away of late for various reasons but we went out walking in Potto only yesterday and were delighted to find the new bridge has been installed.

It is particularly commendable that a relatively small parish council have the foresight to try and open up the countryside to the less able like this and we would like to express our gratitude. We can now extend our walks greatly and the cafes at Swainby are within reach. I have attached a photograph of my daughter enjoying her first trip across the new bridge.

As mentioned we are quite regular walkers here, despite living outside the area, and a contribution which may go some way towards helping other less able people through your Parish Council is a very worthy cause.

Once again, thank you so much for helping to open up the countryside to us and we look forward to further enjoying Potto and it's surroundings for years to come.

Regards
David Hughes



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 in place throughout the village which lifts peoples spirits during this time of uncertainty. The Christmas Tree at the Church is also looking splendid, with its lights providing a welcoming entrance to the village. Hopefully the many homes displaying lights in Potto are already lighting the way to a better year in 2022 for all of us.
Merry Christmas

Bilsdale Television Mast



Since the Bilsdale Mast fire, we have been working closely with Arqiva to bring back TV services.

If you, or someone you know, is still struggling please contact Arqiva's free phone line: 0800 121 4828.

Alternatively, we have a team of specially trained advisers at Age UK North Yorkshire and Darlington who can help you get the support you need, please ring 0300 302 0100.



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 which was successful in securing funds for the project. Unfortunately due to the issues around Covid-19 production of the units have been delayed, the good news is that they should be available for installation early in the New Year.



Planning Issues in the Parish

Planning is a very emotive subject to those who are closely affected by it. Potto Parish Council is a small part of the planning process in that we can provide opinions but are not responsible for granting or refusing planning permission.

The parish council is acutely aware of some of the planning issues raised by members of the public regarding some of the decisions made by Hambleton planning for our parish.

We have raised these to Hambleton's Chief Planning Officer Mr Jon Berry who has been receptive to our concerns and attended the December Meeting of the parish council to answer some of the parish councils concerns over decisions made on recent planning applications.

He also answered some of the questions posed by members of the public at the meeting.

The parish council explained that we are committed to working closely with the planning team to improve communications between the district and the parish as this seems to be the area that is causing the biggest problems. Questions were also raised as to why decisions often go against the local input provided by the parish council who are best placed to raise specific local concerns and issues

Understanding the reasons behind planning decisions and being able to communicate these to parishioners is something that we hope to improve on working more closely with HDC planning in 2022.



POTTO VILLAGE HALL



The Potto Village Hall committee have endeavoured to bring a program of events to the Village Hall throughout the Covid-19 pandemic where possible.

A program of exciting new and returning events have been scheduled for 2022 and Covid-19 restrictions permitting will take place for your enjoyment.

- Yoga Class with Suzanne Calvert - Mondays 9.30 – 11am
- Zumba with Gemma Tribick – Thursdays 6.00 – 7.00pm
- Hutton Rudby & Potto Cubs
- Sunday Night Quiz
- Saturday 11th December – Sparkle Night
- New Years Dinner – Saturday 29th January 2022
- Panto(Jack and the Beanstalk) Mon 3rd Jan 2022 @ 7pm, Tailgate Theatre
- Birthday Party – Saturday 12th Feb 2022
- Potto Bake Off – 19th March 2022
- Elephant Rock – Friday 13th May 2022 – Badapple Theatre
- Swainby & Potto WI – Wednesday 8th June 2022
- BBQ/Jubilee 2/3 June Weekend 2022

Unfortunately the best laid plans of mice and men can all come to nought, hopefully any new government guidelines will not have a disruptive effect on the village hall program.

We'll hopefully be able to greet you in the Hall in 2022 - 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.