

BPC Meeting 13th February 2024

Chairs Report

Gardeners Shed

Council agreed last year to renovate the shed and make it possible for the Handymen to work there particularly during the winter.

The work was undertaken by a company run by the electrician who supported the Christmas Lights Switch On. The work should have been completed by Christmas. However, progress has been slow. When Clerk and Chair visited the site last week the status was as follows:

- The material being used for insulation was polystyrene not that quoted for, Celotex. Not only will this result in a reduced level of insulation it is not fire retardant. It is only one third of the cost of Celotex.
- There was no evidence of the membrane quoted for, having been used, although it is possible this was hidden by the work already completed.
- There was no evidence of the insulation for the internal walls. Again, this could be hidden.
- Quality of electrical work completed so far looked good.
- Quality of joinery work was OK. Not great but acceptable for the type of building.
- Main concern was leaks in the roof. There are stains from old leaks but a significant new one, presumably a result of recent downpours.

We subsequently met with the contractor who failed to provide an acceptable explanation. We asked him to provide revised quotes and timescales. So far, this has not been forthcoming and work has paused. The cost of the work was expected to be circa £5k. So far BPC have paid out £3k approx. for materials.

The VM group is currently considering how to take this forward.

Integrated Neighbourhood Hub

We have continued to explore this concept. The text below which is intended to describe what it means, is intended as the introduction to a residents' questionnaire exploring the services required in the village. It

The Parish Council is in early discussions with the North West Anglia NHS Foundation trust about developing an Integrated Neighbourhood Hub to support all residents whatever their age, in improving their health and well-being.

The primary purpose of the Partnership which is part of the NHS is to 'Support people to stay well, be independent and live happier and healthier, ensuring every person matters and every contact counts'.

This includes

- *Activating people to care about and take control of their health and address prevention, using meaningful conversation.*
- *Supporting Health Inequalities*
- *Targeting the most vulnerable residents to offer support – Make every contact count*
- *Facilitating community engagement – offering support routes/pathways*

A key priority for the Partnership is to create Health & Wellbeing hubs.

A hub:

- *identifies all the support services that are currently available locally,*
- *makes sure that all services are well advertised, and*
- *coordinates and enables referral between the services. For example, a GP may decide that a patient would benefit from more exercise and social activity and refer them to a Walking Group and/or a social group.*

In Buckden many groups and activities already exist. Working collaboratively with Buckden Parish Council, we would initially like to understand which services are currently used, by whom, and what might be missing. What support is needed which is currently not available.

We are planning to meet with the various groups who may become part of the Hub during March.