

Hunton Parish Council

Annual General Meeting - Chairman's Statement 2026

In my second year as Chairman, 2025/26 has seen the Council continue to enhance the community in which we all live.

Playpark - The Parish Council engaged a company (Treeboy Ltd) to carry out tree maintenance following a survey from the previous year. GCH Garden Maintenance, our mowing contractor has continued to keep our village tidy. Rospa Play Safety were engaged as playpark inspectors for the annual check. The Goal posts and barrier have been repainted and the goal nets have been replaced. The Hunton in Bloom team continue to do their voluntary work, enhancing planting around the recent raised bench on Greenacres. Cllr Wylie led a small team to plant crocus on the banks of the berm which were much admired this spring. Thanks to all who have contributed to making our park a popular attraction for villagers and visitors alike.

Cinder House/ Quoits Pitch - The Cinder house had running repairs carried out this year and thanks to Cllr Knight we have a new water butt which is very much in keeping with the surroundings. The Quoits team and supporters have made a very good start in developing their extension for a new pitch and recreation area. The Parish Council will continue to support their endeavours.

Highways – Undoubtedly the biggest change to the village this year is the introduction of the 20mph signage. Cllr Wylie has worked with North Yorkshire Council for over four years to get this project delivered. I thank her for her dedication in getting this finally over the line. The closure of the A684 caused much disruption throughout the winter, damaging kerbs and bridges alike. NYC have addressed most of the road edges on the Bedale road and the Leyburn bridge was finally repaired at the end of March. New roadside drainage was installed adjacent to the quoits pitch.

Planning – The first housing development for many years has begun on the Bedale road. The second development on Wild Hill Lane has not started, but in both cases the Parish Council are disappointed that developers continue to promise rentable/affordable homes when applying for planning permission, then renege on that commitment.

Public Right of Way – a small project has been started to improve right of way signage to ensure all public access can be enjoyed and farmers are reassured the public only keep to permissible paths/bridleways.

Finally, I have to thank my colleagues on the Parish Council for their support, Cllr Barber joined as our newest member at September's meeting.

Dee (Parish Clerk) and Kathleen (Treasurer) have both continued to provide great support to me and ensured Parish Council business is run efficiently.

As always, the PC remain grateful to all those members of the community that have supported our work, be it joining in with the playpark maintenance, litter picks, bus shelter painting or other voluntary work during the year.

If you are interested in becoming involved with PC activities or serving on the Council, then please let me or any other member of the Council know. It is important the local community maintains a voice in how our village is run and developed.

I will be standing down from the Parish Council in May 2027 after serving ten and a half years.

Ronnie Smith

20th May 2026