

# BOYLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

## DITCH MAINTENANCE WORKING GROUP

Selwyn Adams – Leader;

Pete Hollins;

For the Parish Council: Matt Moore; George Upson & Helen Walker

Dear Resident,

### UPDATE 14<sup>th</sup> August 2024

The Ditch Maintenance Working Group has met twice since the last update.

Residents are always welcome to attend these meetings and where practical, notice and invitation will be issued in good time beforehand.

The latest meeting was held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> August and the following was reported.

- The roads were swept on 25<sup>th</sup> June and again on 13<sup>th</sup> August. We are very grateful to Paul & Lenore Harris for providing this service and their continued support for the Village.
- The gullies (drains) were jetted week ending 28<sup>th</sup> June over several days. Whilst this was being undertaken, the following issues were found:
  - The Square opposite Malthouse Lane – the wall of the gully has collapsed and cannot be jetted;
  - Outside The Lighthouse – there is a broken pipe at the junction with the gully;
  - A number of gullies are “raised” which is impeding the water flow into them.
- Since Derbyshire County Council (DCC) Jetting Team’s visit, at least 5 further gullies have been identified. The Team is scheduled to re-visit and to action work on the known broken ones and hopefully also clear the rediscovered ones.
- The Jetting Team also jetted gullies under the roads at Alkmonton Road - adjacent to Hunters Valley, the gateway to Highgrounds and at the road junction New Road/Twisses Bank.
- On 17<sup>th</sup> July Selwyn Adams met with the Derbyshire County Council representative responsible for roadside ditches and watercourses to discuss the list of problem locations that had been identified (see the attached list) and the possible solutions.
- From that meeting, DCC accepted responsibility and agreed to carry out works to resolve the majority of the problem areas identified. (Specific locations NOT covered by DCC are addressed later in this letter.) We were also advised generally that DCC will not carry out work that is either on private land and/or does not directly affect the highway.

- As always finance is an issue and whilst DCC have agreed to accept responsibility for the works, this may take some time and be carried out in stages. A further DCC department (the Flood Risk Team) may be become involved to “spread” the budget load.
- It has been agreed that the New Road ditch is a priority and a DCC job number is being raised for this work. The work may necessitate the closure of New Road and if closure is required then the work may be delayed slightly. Residents will be kept updated and notified if this is the case. It is anticipated that this (New Road ditch) work will be carried out before the end of October.
- The following issues that require works to be carried out but that will NOT be undertaken by DCC as part of the present work program are:
  - Alkmonton Road – New gateway requires piping. The landowner has agreed to carry out this work.
  - Outside Claremont, Alkmonton Road - Standing water. This is in fact a Highways issue as during winter, water collects on the road and can then freeze, which make the road dangerous. This area of road has been reported to DCC but as was the case regarding the incidence of potholes, the more that people report it the more likely it is to get a response. The Parish Council therefore encourages residents to report this and other highways issues that require attention.
  - Twisses Bank – water runs onto road from the field. There is no ditch. – Discussion with the land owner has taken place and the matter is under consideration.
  - New Road – small section of ditch behind telephone box. On private land \*
  - The Square/Sappertonfield Lane – section of ditch silted up. On private land\*
  - Chapel Lane – ditch requires cleaning. Ditch does not affect water on the highway so not DCC remit. There appears to be effluent in the ditch and this has been reported to Environmental Health at Derbyshire Dales District Council. We are still awaiting a response on this. \*

At the Parish Council meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> July, the Council considered all of the above in a report from the Ditch Maintenance Working Group and agreed that the (Parish) Council would liaise with landowners and without prejudice, this one time, aim to get the issues marked \* above resolved if landowners and budget allow. Work to the ditch on Chapel Lane would be subject to the report from DDDC Environmental Health.

When the Parish Council set the precept for 2024/25, £300 was allocated for Ditch Maintenance. It is anticipated that funding in the region of £1000 would be required to carry out the works marked \* above. A quote had been received for the work and a further quote is being pursued. In preparation for the works to be carried out, it was agreed at the Parish Council meeting that commissioning of the successful contractor would be on the basis of the lowest tender submitted and that when required, the funds would be obtained either from other revenue budgets, from reserves, or from a combination of both if necessary.

The Working Group will continue to press DCC for action and we will keep everyone advised of all works and progress.

Residents can also help with ditch and gully maintenance in the following ways:

- By NOT throwing grass cuttings etc in ditches – if this happens/continues to happen, this will be reported as fly-tipping;
- By NOT allowing hedges to encroach or cover gullies/drains/ditches (but please do not damage any wildlife habitats in so doing!). Also by clearing gullies/drains /ditches if they become covered in leaves etc - please if you're out walking even kick them away if you can!

Sincere thanks go to the Ditch Maintenance Working Group members Pete Hollins, Matt Moore and George Upson and very special thanks to Selwyn Adams for his thoroughness in dealing with the issues, and his continued determination to get results.

Helen Walker  
Chair Boylestone Parish Council