

Good evening and thank you for joining us.

That is another year completed, we still face some hurdles but on the whole I think it's been a successful year.

We still have some residents that continue to challenge the Clerk, The Council or individual Councillors. They claim they have the Community's best interests at heart but all this actually does is cost the community money with additional wages for the overtime it causes with investigations, reports and administration. This money would be better spent being put back into the community! Hopefully this past 12 months residents will see that the Council only has the best interests of the Community at heart and will continue to do so.

Here are some of the highlights

- The phone box is back in position and looking great – just need to work out a use for it now
- Finally had a response back from the external auditor, which I believe was positive and hopefully will now be closed off
- A Standard's Board investigation against myself has been concluded. It was found that I wasn't guilty for any of the allegations set out by the two complainants
- Looking forward to the new notice board being installed
- Had a very thorough positive Internal Audit with just some minor recommendations for the Councillors to discuss
- Trees that have been planted on Jubilee Way
- A great party that the whole village was able to attend

Now the outstanding Audit Challenges have hopefully been concluded, it would be great to bring the Precept down and be more inline with other parishes of a similar size. We need to learn from the past, so we don't end up spending in excess of 45K on unnecessary expenses.

Some of the above points will be discussed in more detail at the full council meeting so I will not go into to much detail now.

I would like to say a few Thank you's.

Firstly, I would like to thank all the councillors for the support, help, advise and ideas

I would like to thank Simon for his continued hard work and keeping the council legal.

Thank you to a number of local businesses that have supported the Council or Residents, especially Ashton's Composting and Salko. Dean was the driving force behind a lot that has been done over the last 12 month with funds donated to the community from his business – Phone Box, Party, Tree's and noticeboard to name a few.

It has also been really nice getting back to having face to face meetings again with residents still having the option to join via Zoom. Its great to see that so many residents are still attending the meetings.

I am proud to be a Councillor and I will continue to do my best to support the Parish we live in.

Ross Ashton  
Chair of Spaldington Parish Council