**Parish Council Report to Parish Meeting 2024**

Over the last year we have:

* Recruited a new Clerk – twice! Hopefully Sandra will stay.
* Co-opted new Councillor, Jeremy Middleton, to replace Mike Jackson, who resigned unexpectedly in July.
* Developed a new .gov.uk website – for which we would like photographs please.
* Held a very successful Coronation event on the village green.
* Installed a road sign for Highgate Meadows.
* Removed the old Christmas tree, purchased new lights and had the electricity supply pillar that serves it moved.
* Purchased a gazebo, Blue Tooth speaker and power generator, with grant aid, and a new printer for the Clerk.
* Kept pressing HBC to address speeding though the village, Fly Tipping and blocked gully issues – to no avail as yet.
* Continued to maintain The Batts, with a 5-year Management Plan agreed with Tees Valley Wildlife Trust, a new Information Board at the entrance, hundreds of Bluebells and an orchard planted, for the Queen Elizabeth Platinum Jubilee, with a Commemorative Stone and plaque now in situ.
* Had a tree survey completed for insurance purposes, and are in process of implementing the recommendations.
* Had the final section of the footpath to Three Gates completed by HBC, who have agreed to maintain it in the future.
* Re-sited the blue edging stones in front of The Terrace, and replaced in concrete those stolen from the village pond.
* Worked closely with Northumbia Water to resolve the issues of pond pollution and the root cause of the bad smell that pervaded the village from time to time – blocked drains.
* Maintained the defibrillator, with Cllr Middleton now acting as its Guardian.
* Sadly had to make the decision to remove this year, any flower tubs not adopted by villagers – we Councillors are all too busy/old to be carrying watering cans up and down the village.
* Continued to maintain the village green and Play Area for the benefit of all.