

Report of the Parish Council for the year ended 31 March 2008 to the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 8 May 2008.

Meetings

Last year it was agreed that the Parish Council should meet on the second Wednesday of odd-numbered months. Extra Parish meetings would be called if there was a planning application to consider. In the event the Parish Council met seven times during the year to discuss various issues including ten planning applications.

The Parish Council met on the following dates:

2007 - 10 May, 12 July, 13 September, 15 November and 20 December.

2008 - 10 January and 20 March.

The running order of Parish Council meetings was changed to give precedence to items of interest to residents. In July 2007 a timed agenda was introduced to enable residents to know when items of interest to them would be discussed.

Parish Councillors

During the year Councillor Neil Huntington resigned after which there was a by-election when four residents stood for the vacancy. Mark Barrett was the successful candidate. The Councillors thank Neil for the work that he put into the Parish Council both as Councillor and Chairman and welcome Mark on to the Parish Council. Since Neil's resignation Roger Hildreth has been acting as Parish Council Chairman.

Accounts

The Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2007 are attached to this report. They show that the Parish Council spent £135.95 more than it received. The year end balance is £4,104.17. Council funds used to be kept at the Halifax but the interest rate was so low that the Councillors agreed to close the Halifax account and transfer the money to the HSBC where it is earning interest at 2.80%. It was found that the Halifax had been paying the incorrect rate of interest for a number of years. This was investigated with the result that a sum of £39.56 of back interest was received during the year.

PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS

At last year's Parish Meeting a number of issues were raised. The Parish Council has taken action on most of the issues with the results outlined below.

Traffic

7.5 tonne limits

The first successful action was the erection of a sign at the exit of the Industrial Estate telling HGV drivers that there is no right turn.

The next result was the installation of a sign at the end of Mill Lane directing HGV drivers to turn left and so avoid travelling through the village. Other signs direct drivers to the A59.

30mph limit on Shirbutt Lane

Parish Councillors met with Officers of the City Council to discuss the possibility of a 30mph limit down the whole of Shirbutt Lane. With a great deal of help from the Ward Councillors the City Council has agreed to extend the 30mph limit and is currently going through the legal formalities of implementing the new limit.

Directional signs

Signs in Main Street have been upgraded and placed in more appropriate positions.

New Lane/Main Street junction

The City Council altered the road markings at the junction to assist drivers turning out of New Lane. Bollards were erected in the pavement to help prevent the wall from being hit by large vehicles.

Vehicle activated sign

The Parish Council have been notified that the City Council is to carry out a traffic survey in the village to ascertain the best location for a vehicle activated sign.

Sat-Navs

Councillor Jefferson has written to all the manufacturers of sat-navs that he found to ask that they re-program their equipment to show that Shirbutt Lane is a No Through Road.

Cycling

Much work has been carried out by Councillor Booth on this subject. A questionnaire was given to all households in the village. Consultation has been carried out with the City Council's Cycling Officer and other bodies with the ultimate aim of having a cycle route established between Hessay and Poppleton. Whether there is the will and the funding for a cycle track to be built is yet to be seen.

Communications

Questionnaires

All residents received a questionnaire covering various subjects such as the future use of Parish Council land and cycle routes. The Parish Councillors are still going through the process of analysing the returned questionnaires.

Church Magazine article

Councillor Carlyle has written articles for the Church magazine.

Newsletters

News has been circulated to all households in the village. The City Council has agreed that future Ward Newsletters can be delivered by Parish Councillors for which the Parish Council will receive payment. This will be an opportunity to deliver a Parish Council Newsletter with the Ward Newsletter

Email

Parish Council news has been circulated to all those residents for whom we have an email address. Residents are invited to give their email addresses to Councillor Carlyle if they would like to receive communications from the Parish Council.

Website

Parish Council agendas and agreed minutes are put on the Hessay Parish Council pages on the Local Channel website which can be found at <http://www.thelocalchannel.co.uk/hessay/home.aspx>

Parish Land

Over the last year there has been much discussion about the use of Parish Council land. At the March 2008 Parish Council meeting the following resolution was passed:-

To discuss the future use of Parish Council land

Councillor Hildreth explained that he had taken legal advice with regards to the existing tenancies of Parish Council land. As there are no tenancy agreements all the tenancies are deemed to be “pre-1986 tenancies”. This means that the tenanted plots cannot be split without tenants’ agreement and that the Parish Council cannot terminate any tenancy providing that the annual rent is paid. It was agreed that the subject of the future use of Parish Council land would be looked at as and when a tenancy was given up.

It was agreed that the resident who had asked to buy some Parish Council land be advised that the land cannot be sold and that there is no will by the Parish Council to progress this subject.

It was agreed to maintain the status quo on all the other parcels of Parish Council land.

Village Pond

This year an island was built in the middle of the pond and the seat by the pond was painted.

Boundary Stone

There is a boundary stone which marks the border between Hessay and Upper Poppleton. It was erected in the 18th century. In the 1930s the inscriptions were recarved as the original inscriptions had been worn down by cattle rubbing against them. The stone is not upright. It is currently lying at an angle. It has no protection from cattle. At the January 2008 Parish Council meeting it was agreed in principle that the stone should be put upright and steps taken to protect it. It will be necessary to have permission from various agencies which look after ancient monuments. The task of obtaining permission is ongoing.