

ANNUAL REPORT FOR PARISH ASSEMBLY 1st MARCH 2016

This year's Report begins with Chairman Mr. John Wake continuing his position he has held previously for many years. Councillor Mr. Dale Boyce the new Vice- Chairman. This year saw new Councillor's elected in May 2015. They were Mr. John Hollands, Mr Fred Keer and Mrs Tara Rust. Mr Danny Cuckow stepped down from Council and didn't nominate this time. He was thanked for all the work he had put into the Community. He also resigned as a Charity Trustee and Councillor Mrs Jill Gooch stepped into his place but soon decided that she would step down. A new Councillor member is required as a Trustee. Unfortunately, the Council lost a stalwart to the village. Mrs Margaret Hodgson after a long fought illness lost her battle. She was a hive of information and always very helpful. She was also a member of several committees and liaised with the Police. The Council have this last meeting co - opted a new member Mr Alan Mould. He has a keen interest with village.

The general public are in attendance at most meeting's and are given a chance to bring any matters of concern to the meeting. The Village Cleaner Mr M D Ellington – keen to keep the village clean and reporting any issues that crop up. He is an asset to the Council and the village. On behalf of the Council he should be thanked. Mr and Mrs Rayner continue to maintain the Cemetery.

The Annual Get Together was hosted by Outwell Parish Council, inviting Upwell Parish Council at the popular location of Crown Lodge in the village. It was noted that this time that it was well attended. This occasion is a chance for both Council's to socialise as well as chat a little about issues.

Council kept the Precept this year as low as was possible by only raising it this year by £500.00 – 2013 saw the introduction of Central Government Council Tax Support Grant-this is based on the Tax Base for the following year. Finances are kept to a minimal and Council considers that all requirements for the Parish are made at any request.

In 2012 saw the application of a New Social Housing Development- by Hastoe Housing at the rear of Birdbeck Drive-. This development was finished early 2015 and applicants that bid for these houses were homed in May. There is still contention about the finishing of the highway and footway in Birdbeck. The developers have now agreed that they would ensure its completed early Spring of 2016. The development has also been entered into the BCKL&WN Mayor's Design Award. The judges are to have a look at this development either Wednesday 2nd March or Thursday 3rd March. Residents are being informed.

Local PCSO's are in contact with Parish Council, but not as frequent as in previous years. Council can contact them at any time.

Parish Council are continually being asked for donations and financial help from many organisations, but Council considers that money should be donated to help local causes, three cases this year being The Hunter Rowe Trust (a donation made in memory of Margaret Hodgson), The Upwell and Outwell Luncheon Club and St. Andrew's Chapel whom provide our meeting room monthly.

A Council representative lays a wreath every year at the memorial. Training Meetings are attended by Councillors to keep them and the Council keep in touch with the many rapid changes of policies etc.

Traffic and Highway matters are problems that are reported every month and the NCC endeavour to resolve these issues. Parish Council along with Upwell Parish Council along with Parish Partnership have requested a path along the riverside of Lowside. This still to be constructed. 2016/17 Parish Partnership Outwell Council are hoping to get a safer crossing put in the A1101 near the Crown Pub and Isle Bridge. This will consist of a red strip put across the road with metal studs either side. Signage will be put up indicating a people are crossing. The other major issue has been the parking of vehicles near the school. Finally, some solutions are being put in place. A barrier is to be erected near the entrance/exit gate where the children come in and out to prevent running straight across the road. Also signage to be put on the bridges indicating routes to the school. This is to try and get vehicles traveling in one direction to the school and then continuing out another direction. The Head - Master Mr Rhodes to also write to all the parents indicating this system is to be put into place and it would be helpful if its followed.

Speeding is a major problem through the village and the regular presence of police speed radars seems to help deter this problem. It is possible that Sam Signs might be erected in 2017/18 to help with this problem.

Outwell Playing field is home for Outwell Swifts Football Club. The Recreation Ground is now no longer used by the youths.

The Village Hall continues to be a successful amenity in the Village with continual use and various bookings made both regular as well as for functions. The Village Hall and Playing field Committee are in the process of gaining grant aid to help towards funding the extension to the building to make this amenity more viable. The Annual Gala is a continued success, this originated from the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations. A true community spirit has been gained.

The Council continues in making Tramway and Back Lane a more pleasant and tidy area for the locals to use. Several issues are still to be sorted, this will take time and funding in order get this area completely cleaned up through years of neglect.

The Garden Allotments have had a few issues raised with two being neglected and the original tenant giving them up. These have now been tidied up. At this time there are four vacant plots. A suggestion of £50.00 deposit to be made when re- hired. This will help with cleaning up plots if they are neglected.

Several enforcement issues continue to make more work for the relevant authorities and Parish Council endeavours to continue to make sure that people are acting in the appropriate manner when planning applications are made.

Each meeting representatives from the various village committees report to the Councillors how the local amenities are progressing.

Outwell Parish Council endeavours to support any local project. They consider that any issues raised made by residents can be resolved. They continue to move forward with policies and the changing governing bodies and hopefully as voted by the local people are endeavouring to do what is right for them.

As Clerk I would like to thank all the Councillors for all the help and support that is given when requested.

