

ANNUAL REPORT FOR PARISH ASSEMBLY 7th MARCH 2017

This year's Report begins with Chairman Mr. John Wake continuing his position he has held previously for many years. Councillor Mr. Dale Boyce continuing to be Vice- Chairman. Our Sympathies went to Mrs May and her family- Mr Jim May a former Councillor passed away just before Christmas. Council at this time are looking to co-opt another Councillor due to the resignation of Mr. Paul Smith- he will be missed- he worked hard for the 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 Upwell Parish Council, inviting Outwell 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 it was raised this year by 10% – this was due to the fact that in years gone by the Precept has been kept very low and Council and have not raised previously for the rate of inflation. Finances are kept to a minimal and Council considers that all requirements for the Parish are made at any request. This year the The remainder of the Section 106 donation made by Oceanview development for the benefit of youngsters in the village was given to Outwell Playing field and Village Hall Committee to build a MUGA pitch that planning had been approved of a couple of years back. This is now complete apart from the court and pitch markings required.

There is still an on going battle with Hastoe Housing and Oceanview developers over the toping of the Road running through Birckbeck Road and St. Andrew's Close. The Parish Council are endeavouring to this is resolved and the road become adoptable.

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, two cases this year being The Upwell and Outwell Luncheon Club and St. Andrew's Chapel whom provide our meeting room monthly. The Council buy and lay a Wreath at the Remembrance Service in November.

Training Meetings are attended by Councillors to keep them and the Council keep in touch with the many rapid changes of policies etc. A new Web Site has now been set up with the Help of Sadie Forth. She administered it for a few month's then the Clerk was trained to continue to maintain it with her guidance as is necessary.

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 a path along the riverside of Lowside. The other major issue has been the parking of vehicles near the school. Finally, some solutions are being put in place. A barrier has been erected near the entrance/exit gate where the children come in and out to prevent running straight across the road. Also signage been requested to 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. Unfortunately, the budget this year couldn't afford Sam2 signs as was hoped -but Lowside being the most reported road for speeders the NCC has agreed to paint 30mph onto the road itself. Various home owners at their expense have put up signage to try and deter speeders.

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 Annual Raft Race is a continued success, and in 2016 the first Music festival was a great success. This was planned instead of the usual Gala. 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 now ceased due to the location and the lack of tenants to make them viable.

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 and Mr Harry Humphrey- County Councillor and Mr Chris Crofts Borough Council report each meeting of matters that are of interest to the Council.

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.

