

ANNUAL REPORT FOR PARISH ASSEMBLY 5th MARCH 2019

This year's Report begins with a new Chairman Mr. Fred Keer being nominated as the New Chairman at the May 2018 AGM. His term has been a big learning curve for him, and he has taken on the role admirably. He has kept a tight rein on the budget and also very much involved with the Neighbourhood Plan.] Councillor Mr. John Wake became Vice- Chairman, he has been a great support for the new Chairman.

The general public are invited to all 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. The Cemetery is now maintained by CGM who have after a few teething problems tidied the cemetery and kept it under control- this is funded by the Parish Council. St. Clement's Church were kind enough to donate towards the cost after an appeal for help was sent to the local churches and the Cemetery Dissenters Trustees.

The Annual Get Together was hosted by Upwell Parish Council, at a new location in Upwell this time- the Five Bells were the host s and Upwell Parish Council are thanked for their hospitality. 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 since 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.

There is still an ongoing battle with Hastoe Housing and Oceanview developers over the topping of the Road running through Birdbeck Road and St. Andrew's Close. The Parish Council now believe that they have done everything in their power to sort this issue. Now the Council believe the residents need to contact the authorities involved themselves.

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 and this year particularly- the Police have invited Councillors to discuss and hear issues that are prominent in the County, they are trying to be more involved with the parishes, now that there are no longer any PCSO's, are attended by Councillors to keep them and the Council keep in touch with the many rapid changes of policies etc. The Web Site is updated monthly- Council is open to having other information on there that is useful to the Parishioners

Traffic and Highway matters are problems that are reported every month and the NCC endeavour to resolve these issues. The other major issue has been the parking of vehicles near the school. This has been ongoing for many years. The new Head Mistress Mrs Michelle Munday and Councillor Mrs Tara Rust meet up for discussions about this matter. New signage is to be erected at the each end of the zig zags to enforce notice to people who park in this area- this initiative is offered to all Parishes that have zig zags a certain length.

Speeding is a major problem through the village and the regular presence of police speed radars seems to help deter this problem. Speed circles have been painted on the road in Lowside as was requested. There is now a Speed Watch team that keep records on Speeders and volume of traffic passing through the Village- they also monitor traffic in Upwell, and

Three Holes. There is hope another team will be formed. 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, the third Music festival was a great success, getting bigger and better. This is 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 to get this area completely cleaned up through years of neglect.

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. This year they ran a Poem Competition to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Armistice at the end of the first World War. Thirty year 6 Pupils from Beaupre Primary School entered, and the winner was Preston Harrison who won £50.00 kindly donated by Bloom and Wake- £25.00 for himself and £25.00 to his chosen charity- He was presented the winnings at the Remembrance service held in November where he read out his poem at the War Memorial before the church service.

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. In May 2019 there is to be a local election whereby any parishioner who believes they can be part of a committee that strives for the Parish can be nominated and voted for. Parish Council will welcome anyone who is interested.

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

