

ANNUAL REPORT – CANTLEY WITH BRANTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the elections in May 2015 there were insufficient members to fill the 7 vacancies on the parish council, ie 2 vacancies left. However, we did welcome David Chorlton who stood for election and then co-opted Nev Williams and Marjorie Caygill to fill the two vacancies. A thank you for those wanting to become involved and for other members who sought re-election.

During the year we have continually raised issues with DMBC of parking around the roads adjacent to St Wilfrid's school as parking takes place on pavements and grass verges. An officer from DMBC visited the area to assess particular problems. Parking issues on Valley Drive are being monitored.

We continue to receive concerns regarding speeding and asked SY Police to carry out checks – however we understand that the speed gun – to which we contributed – is sometimes away for calibration.

Dr Alan Billings, Police & Crime Commissioner, attended a recent meeting and gave a very interesting update on relevant issues, members asked questions and welcomed his regular Newsletters. Concerns were notified to him and it was agreed feedback would be welcomed.

Highway issues are raised at nearly every meeting, e.g. fly tipping, etc and we do press DMBC to deal with this issue, as we do with dog fouling. DMBC will reinstate the yellow markings on the pavements which have faded over time.

There have been meetings with some residents/DMBC with regard to horse riding at Black Carr plantation and it is hoped that issues raised will soon be resolved.

In 2015 we successfully carried out alterations to the former changing rooms attached to Kilham Hall – these did prove quite costly and we contacted Derbyshire Environmental Trust to see if grant funding could be obtained. Unfortunately however our bid was rejected. The alterations were not without problems and we appreciate the additional work carried out by our Clerk.

Our clerk and myself visited Ikea who kindly gave items free of charges: plates, tumblers, wine glasses, dustpans/brushes. We now have two meeting rooms and are currently in the process of obtaining quotations to provide a sink/cupboards in the store room in order for tea/coffee etc to be made when hirers use the building for meetings. On 11th August the Mayor of Doncaster will be using the meeting room to greet residents, as she travels around the Borough. This is an excellent initiative for the electorate to speak with Ros Jones at first hand.

We have for many months been pursuing the provision of a pedestrian crossing in Branton on the main road and funding for this will come via s106 monies from the new adjacent housing development. There have been meetings with DMBC officers and ward members to bring the issue to a satisfactory conclusion. Thankfully we have recently been advised by DMBC that this provision will be implemented during 2016/17 and thanks to the efforts of all who participated.

Members attend training courses, as does our Clerk Julia. These cover Planning and Councillor Skills.

Cllr Warrender represents the parish council on the PCJC (Michelle Sidebottom is the substitute) and I attend meetings of the Robin Hood Airport Committee. Two members are our reps on the Kilham Hall Management Committee, ie Gillian Warrender and Michelle Sidebottom. I also attend meetings of iGas at Beckingham/Austerfield along with parish councillors from neighbouring villages, which covers drilling of bore holes and possibly, in the future, Fracking,

although not in our parish. Representatives on the Cantley Pools' Land Trust are Cllrs Warrender and Butterworth, and Colin Kingston.

New legislation recently came into being which allows anyone to record meetings of the parish council. However, to date no-one has done so.

A senior planner attended our p.c. meeting in June regarding the Doncaster Local Plan, showing the vision and objectives for Doncaster's development, which are to identify aspirations and covers how green belt and flood risk areas should be treated.

Although a parish council has no power to determine planning applications, it can make comments and we do view relevant plans and peruse the Planning Dept website to view observations from third parties. These are then taken into account when we discuss our submissions to DMBC.

We are concerned, because of traffic issues, regarding the new 6th form college at the Hayfield Academy. Therefore we have contacted our MP, Rt Hon Caroline Flint and DMBC, outlining our concerns and await a response.

We continue to maintain the playing field to a good standard but unfortunately have to engage the services of the Mole Catcher from time to time. We are concerned about safety of the goal posts and are in touch with the Football Team on this issue.

Our Handyman trims hedges, cuts the grassed areas and carries out planting in the various tubs etc.

At the beginning of each year we turn to budgets and setting a Precept. This is a carefully executed task and, due to monies spent on the conversion outlined above, it was agreed that a 1.37% increase be levied on the Precept which for 2016/17 will be £30,157.

We did give a donation to the Royal British Legion to also cover the usual wreath which is taken to St Wilfrid's school, in the sum of £80. In addition we agreed a sum of £20 to the Lions for the Christmas Sleigh which came to the parish and £100 to St Wilfrid's School towards a new notice board and signage.

Thank you to residents who write to us and to those who attend meetings, also to our Ward Councillors, Steve Racjan DMBC Officer and PCSOs. Thanks also to our MP Caroline Flint for pursuing issues on our behalf.

A thank you our Handyman – Martin, to members of the Kilham Hall Management Committee who do a wonderful job, without any pay, in caring for the Hall.

Thanks to Julia, our Clerk, for her hard work and carrying out tasks expeditiously. Her knowledge and support is greatly appreciated.

It should be remembered that parish councillors receive no payment whatsoever for undertaking their duties and I thank them all for their commitment to the community and the parish council. Without such efforts parish councils would not survive.

That is the end of my report for 2015/16.

Jennifer Worthington

Chair