

Cantley with Branton Parish Meeting

Chairs Report for 2019/2020 and 2020/2021

This past year has affected every single person in this Parish as well as worldwide. Back in March 2020, I fully expected, along with others, that the restrictions we found ourselves under, would last a month, maybe two months at the most. Never would I have expected to still be in lockdown the following year.

For this reason, my Chairs report will not just cover this last year, but will also cover the year before, as due to restrictions, we were unable to hold an annual Parish Meeting in 2020 in the normal way and invite members of the parish in person. We are currently still meeting remotely via Zoom and due to the plan to reduce restrictions, the parish council are currently awaiting guidance on future meetings to see if they are to continue to be held remotely or face to face meetings can resume.

I have provided a report outlining the parish councils work over the last two years. In addition, the parish council has continued to maintain the high standards expected to keep our parish looking presentable with grass cutting, bin collections, hedge cutting, gardening, general maintenance as well as safety inspections of the parish, Kilham Hall Park and Parish Council property.

Community Projects

Phase 3 of Kilham Hall Park

Back in 2016, the parish council consulted with the parish by way of survey to establish what residents would like to see in the parish. We were expecting Section 106 monies via the Badgers Holt, Sandhill Woodlands Walk and Chapel Lane Branton House Farm developments. Phase one and two completed in 2018 and included the improvements to the park at Kilham Hall along with the additional play and fitness equipment. The parish was awaiting the last 106 money from the Chapel Lane Branton House Farm development (which had to be used exclusively for improvements to the Kilham Hall park), so phase 3, which was the Multi Use Games area was put on hold until these funds were available. Once the PC were aware the monies would be due, a further survey was carried out to see if residents were still interested in the plans for the MUGA and any other ideas. The majority of responses received were still in favour so the PC began work to plan what the MUGA would look like, again asking for feed back from residents. The Officer Decision Record has now been signed off by DMBC and is supported by the parish council, local primary school and Finningley ward councillors who have taken an active role in helping the PC get to the point we are at today and are thanked for their efforts. In addition, there will be a new external storage extension to Kilham Hall to house equipment needed for the MUGA such as the tennis nets and litter pick equipment for our community group of litter pickers. The extra storage will also be a great benefit to our baby and toddler group who have had to store their equipment in the PC meeting rooms to allow the group to continue, for the last 2 years plus. The additional storage will hopefully attract other groups who have been unable to hire the hall due to lack of storage space. The Multi Use Games Area, which will provide a court for tennis, basketball, netball, cricket and football, will go through the normal planning process and it is hoped that work can start before Autumn 2021.

Christmas Decorations

We have investigated over the last three years several different options to create a more festive look for the parish. Initial enquiries were made for lamp post illuminations after a resident asked the PC to investigate. Unfortunately, the PC were unable to justify the cost which would have been in the region of £20,000 to £40,000 if we were to cover the parish as fairly as possible. The PC has been investigating costs of additional trees and tree illuminations to cover as much of the parish as possible and although no decision has been made at this point, the hope is that we can begin to add illuminations gradually over the coming years with the first area to be considered, being the junction off Warning Tongue Lane roundabout. This location will benefit

most residents within the parish. Other locations are Doncaster Road at the junction of Whiphill Top Lane, Bawtry Road at the junction of Warning Tongue Lane and the entrance to Manor Farm.

Branton Litter Pick Group

The parish council created a litter pick group which is now approaching its 4th year. The group grows at each meeting which are normally held quarterly. Equipment is currently stored by a member of the parish council and thanks is given to the member. We hope the new extension will provide storage for such items in the future. Everyone who is involved with any litter picking in the village is thanked by the parish council for their time and effort.

Road Safety

A key concern for residents is road safety and the speed of traffic on our roads. Our concerns relating to Whip hill Top Lane and Old Cantley have both been reported to DMBC (Highways) and SY Police. Following on from an incident in 2019 where a vehicle crashed into the rose garden off Whip Hill Top Lane, the Parish council asked for a site meeting with SY Police and Highways. The meeting was turned down by Highways due to higher priorities in the borough and after further requests for help regarding traffic calming measures, we were told these were not options we could pursue, even if we provided funding. Parish Council requested help from our ward councillors. Residents attended a meeting along with the ward councillors and asked for more support in pursuing their concerns. The ward councillors asked for residents to contact them directly with their concerns and a resident took on the challenge to provide a questionnaire that would be delivered to neighbours of Whip Hill Top lane, encouraging them to contact their ward councillor. Prior to this incident at the Rose Garden, the Parish council had researched costs for a new electronic speed sensor which is now in situ on Whip Hill Top Lane.

Old Cantley was visited by Highways due a resident's wall being knocked down on a number of occasions by vehicles. The road was considered in need of resurfacing and this has now been carried out and appears so far to have resolved the issue concerning the wall. The PC requested speed monitoring by Police Community Support Officers and this was carried out a few times prior to lockdown with warnings being given out to motorists. The PC will continue to support residents and the ward councillors in any way they can to achieve safer roads.

Crime Prevention

We are incredibly lucky that our parish does not suffer from high levels of crime and is considered a safe village to live and work. However, we are not complacent, and any crime is unacceptable, and needs reported, investigated, and actioned.

CCTV at Kilham Hall Park

After the installation of CCTV at the park, the Parish Council and South Yorkshire Police have been able to identify individuals involved in low level anti social behaviour and taken appropriate action where necessary to deter further incidents. The Parish Council continues to work with South Yorkshire Police, DMBC neighbourhood team and members of the public are encouraged to report any anti-social behaviour they witness.

Police Drop In Sessions

The parish council have arranged with South Yorkshire police, regular drop-in sessions prior to lock down restrictions where residents were encouraged to come along and talk to the PCSO's about any concerns they may have. We hope this can continue as soon as it is safe to do so.

Village CCTV

In January, the parish council was approached by an Auckley resident who asked for support for CCTV throughout the local villages of Branton, Blaxton, Auckley and Finningley. The CCTV is not monitored remotely,

and requests would need to be made by police or DMBC if they felt the footage would help investigate crime or road traffic incidents. The parish council agreed in principle this was a good idea and have since requested further information regarding costs and effectiveness. The parish council are keen to cover as much of the parish as possible and will discuss the outcomes of their research in the April meeting.

Black Carr Plantation – After it was brought to the PC's attention that illegal felling was taking place, the PC reported this to both DMBC and SY police – the PC also asked ward councillor Allan Jones for help to further investigate as the problem appeared to be ongoing. The PC requested an update at their last meeting and have now received an update. DMBC are carrying out patrols, SY police are investigating a lead and new signage has been put up at both entry points to make people aware it is illegal to remove wood without permission. It also prohibits camping and the lighting of fires in this area, thank you to our Ward Councillors for their support with this matter.

Other events

CWBPC Facebook Page

In addition to our recently updated website, notice boards and quarterly newsletter which is published and distributed to all residents via the Arrow and Today Publications, the PC agreed to launch a new Facebook page to help update residents on relevant news and information.

Handyman

Special thanks to our handyman who continues to look after the gardening and general maintenance of the parish and Kilham hall Park. He does a brilliant job and we are grateful for his efforts.

Parish Council

Thank you to every member of the parish council who have attended our meetings and external meetings in support and on behalf of the council and worked incredibly hard over the last two years to do what they feel is the right thing for our Parish. It is not an easy task and can be difficult to please everyone all the time, however, I believe that all parish council members have the residents of Cantley with Branton parish residents best interests at heart.

Community

Finally, I would like to congratulate every resident who has volunteered their time and effort throughout this pandemic, whether it is looking out for a neighbour, assisting the NHS or going out of your way for the benefit of someone else. You have helped to make this difficult time bearable and I for one am thankful I live within such a supportive community.

Kind regards

Michelle Sidebottom
Chairperson
Cantley with Branton Parish Council