

Cantley with Branton Parish Meeting

Chairs Report for 2021/2022

After finally coming out of lockdown in April 2021, England embarked on a phased return back to normality. This was not officially complete until all legal restrictions were lifted in February 2022. Throughout this last year, the parish council has continued to meet as normal with face to face meetings resuming in June 2021.

After the May 2021 elections, I was the only person who applied to be a Cantley with Branton parish councillor and was elected. 3 parish council members from 2021 chose after the election to co opt and we welcome 3 new members to the parish council who also applied to co opt. With help from our Ward members, Jane Cox and Steve Cox, we were able to conduct a meeting to co opt the 6 members needed and both Ward councillors resigned from Cantley with Branton Parish Council.

In addition to the change of members, it was the Parish Council's new Clerk, Bev Walton's first year in role. As Clerk to the Parish Council, Bev has introduced new procedures and policies to improve the running of the council and embarked on a challenging training schedule completing ILCA qualification (Introduction of Local Council Administration) and nearly completed FILCA qualification (Financial Introduction of Local Council Administration) in addition to many other training courses throughout the year.

The Parish Council Handyman of over 20 years decided to leave towards the end of 2021 and we sadly said goodbye to him and wished him the best of luck in the future. We have been incredibly lucky to have had a handyman who has kept our village looking so good over the years and the Parish Council thanked him on behalf of the parish for his hard work. 3 Members of the parish council formed a recruitment committee to employ a new Handyman/lengthsman. In April 2022, our new Handyman/lengthsman started and is currently working to bring the village back to its former glory. The Parish council is looking forward to discussing new ideas on how to further improve the village garden areas.

The parish council has continued to maintain to the best of their ability, 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. I have listed below some of the work we have been involved with over the last 12 months.

Community Projects

Storage extension at Kilham Hall and the Multi use Games area at Kilham Park, Branton.

After further delays to the progress of this project, all of which were outside of the control of the Parish Council, we now have an approximate date for the commencement of the storage extension. We are hopeful that the extension work will start in August 2022. Plans for the Multi Use Games Area are underway, and we await a date for them to be submitted to DMBC Planning Department. Due to the delays, the cost of the project has increased by approximately 10% and the Parish Council have applied to the National Lottery Fund for a grant to cover the increase.

The Parish Council were thankful for the two benches for the park donated by the Plymouth Brethren Church community. The benches provide rest for those in need as they walk around the park.

Christmas Decorations and festivities

After many years of investigating festive options for the parish, the Parish Council agreed to purchase Christmas lights for 2 trees at the junction off Warning Tongue Lane roundabout and a new Christmas tree and lights on Doncaster Road at the junction of Whiphill Top Lane. This decision was made in June 2021 and the trees were lit for Christmas 2021. The Parish council is to purchase a further tree and lights for Bawtry Road at

the junction of Warning Tongue Lane and hope this will be in place for Christmas 2022. There is one further location being considered within the Parish at the entrance to Manor Farm. A decision will be made for Christmas 2023. The health of the current tree on Doncaster Road at the junction of Glen Road is under assessment by DMBC, if the tree does not recover, DMBC will endeavour to replace it.

December 2021 saw the Parish Council return to singing carols around the tree on Doncaster Road at the junction of Glen Road. The event was well attended by the local community, the Armthorpe Elmfield Brass band provided the music and Cantley with Branton WI kindly donated mince pies.

The Parish Council and Kilham Hall Management Committee subsidised a festive pantomime at Kilham Hall. There was a nominal ticket price and refreshments were included and all the children left with a selection box. This event was a huge success and something the Parish Council would like to organise annually with the help of the KHMC. This year, we have been able to secure 2 performances so more residents can enjoy they event.

Defibrillator

The Parish Council successfully applied to the Doncaster Sheffield Airports Community Investment Fund for a grant to cover the cost of another defibrillator in the parish. It is yet to be confirmed where this will be sited but options include The Premier Car Park and the 3 Horse Shoes Public House.

Platinum Jubilee

The Parish council have plans to celebrate this event with an open day at Kilham Hall on Thursday 2nd June with pipers, a choir, coffee, cake and refreshments. The plans also include a scarecrow competition and art competition for primary school aged children. Kilham Hall Management Committee are funding a face painter for the day and sweets for the children. All residents are encouraged to take part and are welcome to attend.

Remembrance Day

A resident has started to knit poppies for a possible display within the parish and requested help from the Parish Council – We have promoted this project and have several people in the village currently contributing to the poppies. Our Clerk has the pattern for both knitting and crocheting, we hope to have enough for a display, the location of which is still to be decided.

Branton Litter Pick Group

The parish council created a litter pick group which is now approaching its 5th year. The group continues to grow at each meeting which are normally held quarterly. This year, the Parish Council applied for a grant to purchase litter picking equipment and personalised hi vis vests, to the Doncaster Environment Fund and were successful. Equipment is currently stored by members of the Parish Council and thanks is given to them both. 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. Residents contacted our Ward Councillors individually to ask for support in making these roads safer. We have not received any further update regarding the outcome but understand the Ward Councillors have raised the issue with Highways and not been able to achieve any further support as this area is not seen as a priority and there is no current DMBC policy on traffic calming.

The parish council have been in touch with South Yorkshire Police to see if there is any further support we can have regarding statistics and managing the speed problem. They have made us aware of a tracking system which can be used for approximately 7 days to measure the speed of traffic on a road to enable us to identify whether the road on Whip hill Top Lane should be a higher priority. Unfortunately, the survey was conducted whilst other work was taking place on the road which naturally slowed the traffic, so we have requested

another survey and advised where the speed monitors need to be placed. We have also asked for a breakdown of the figures so we can apply context. The Parish council has also requested this take place on Warning Tongue Lane.

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

The park has had fewer incidents in the last year which is really positive and largely due to the CCTV we have installed. The Hall is also used throughout the day and most evenings which helps reduce anti social behaviour. 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 at Kilham Hall. These sessions are often poorly attended despite advertising. Although this is disappointing, it is largely due to the lack of crime in the Parish. We would like to continue with these sessions but hope that residents can come along and meet the PCSO's and voice any concerns they may have.

Village CCTV

The Parish Council agreed to post pone any decision on the Village CCTV until there was clearer information on both initial and continuing costs.

Other events

Persimmon Development off Warning Tongue Lane

We have met with the developers to discuss the impact of this new development on the Parish. The Parish Council also arranged and facilitated a public meeting where residents were able to attend and direct questions to both DMBC Planning and the developer prior to the closing date for comments and objections. The Parish Council have remained neutral and have requested that the developer invests in road safety for pedestrians, street lighting and maximises their car parking allocation so it is above the standard requirement for new developments.

CWBPC Facebook Page

After the Parish Council agreed to launch a new Facebook page last year, the page has increased in followers and provides a useful platform for news and information relevant to residents.

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 over the last year. A special mention to the 3 new members who have all made a valuable contribution to the work we do. Thanks to the Vice Chairman who provides support to me as chairman and the Parish council. We have all chosen to offer our time to be a Parish Councillor and we all have the best interests of the parish and residents in any decision we make.

I would also like to thank the Clerk who has worked incredibly hard in her first year with Cantley with Branton Parish Council and continues to do so.

I have decided to step down as Chairman due to other work commitments but will continue to be a member of the council and support the new Chairman wherever possible. It has been a great pleasure to be Chairman of the Parish Council and I have never underestimated the responsibility such a role in the community deserves. Thank you to all residents for their support over the last 7 years.

Kind regards

Michelle Sidebottom
Chairperson
Cantley with Branton Parish Council