

Report to the Annual Village Meeting on Glanton Parish Council activities during 2010/11

People

The members of the Parish Council apart from myself are:

Susan Collingwood Cameron
George Dodds
Norman Dunn
Joe Easton
John Guiry
Susan Rogers

all of whom were on the council last year, in addition this year there have been two changes - Chris Livsey and Ben Tansey resigned and Angus Collingwood-Cameron and John Lang joined

All the councillors' contact details are on the website and on the notice board.

We still have one vacancy if anyone would like to become involved.

Our Parish Clerk is Linda Lazenby.

Finance

We maintained the level of the precept at £1500pa for 2011/12 which is the same as last year and approx 20% lower than it used to be before that.

We made donations to:

- Whittingham Churchyard £150
- Memorial Hall £150
- CAB £20
- Age Concern £30
- CAN £25
- HospiceCare £55
- Playhouse Trust £20
- Air Ambulance £50

We ended the year with about £1450 in our general fund and about £2880 in the Millennium Fund, which is probably more than we are supposed to have and which we will continue to try to spend wisely but cautiously.

Activities

We continue to do regular routine work such as:

- monitoring planning applications and making comments where appropriate
- organising the regular Clean Sweep in May

- with the help of numerous volunteers we have funded the floral planter displays around the village
- we continue to monitor the Millennium Oaks and they are pruned when necessary, the support posts and tree guards have been removed and we trim the hedges around the trees where the hedge cutter cannot get to them.

We adopted a new set of model standing orders as recommended by NALC and drawn up by Norman Dunn.

We adopted the red phone box and entered into an agreement with a group of residents who agreed collectively to maintain it at no cost to the parish, hence the missing door which is currently being repaired prior to repainting. Our thanks go to Tony and Tina Meikle, Richard Verrill, John Lang & Susan Williams, Mike Mason and Susan Rogers.

We continue to implement some of the matters highlighted in the Village Plan, in particular we have:

- worked with Bellview and with neighbouring parishes on a Care in the Community project, which seeks to identify the needs of people in the parish and ways of providing those needs. One result was a useful booklet listing service providers in the area. Another is a regular monthly coffee morning funded by the project which is proving to be popular, over twenty people came to the last one and these will continue for the rest of the year. There is a plan for a shopping trip and also for transport to classes at Bellview. Special thanks to Lynne Livsey and Norman Dunn for their work on this project.
- sought funding to replace the fingerpost signposts in the village with traditional cast iron signs, we have not succeeded yet but we continue to seek funding sources. Susan Rogers has lead on this front.
- with the tremendous help and support of Tony Meikle the village website has gone from strength to strength and is a great example of what can be achieved, many thanks to Tony.
- we enlisted the help of NCC and had a speed survey done – we have only just got the results and we will discuss with NCC and the Speed Partnership what steps can be taken to keep speeding through the village to a minimum.

We have carried out various works in the village including:

- refurbishing the wooden seats
- replacing two litter bins
- buying and fitting a new Notice Board – Thanks to Pat & Marion Guiry for the use of their railings
- replacing the “Children Playing” signs
- repainting the street name signs and refixing one which had been down for some time.

We had a public meeting attended by a senior planning officer and 27 villagers to discuss the suggestion that there should be an Article 4 Declaration giving up certain permitted development rights, after which the Parish Council decided to take no further action on that matter.

We considered and responded to various draft policies put forward by NCC including one which proposed charges and red tape which would have threatened the services brought to the village by mobile traders. This resulted in the policy being called in and substantially amended, we have now responded to the revised draft which is much better but still needs further amendment.

We had a village photo and a party at the time of the Time Capsule opening in September which was very successful. It included a pig roast and the event was subsidised by the Millennium Fund to the tune of about £120. We also reburied the Time Capsule with new letters inside it. The new village photo will soon be on display in the hall. Thanks to Tony Meikle for taking the photo and to Richard Verrill for identifying the people.

We had a party to celebrate the Royal Wedding which was a great success and was subsidised to the tune of about £50 from the Millennium Fund, we thank Angus Collingwood-Cameron and his team for the organisation of that event.

We have faced the possibility of service transfers from NCC which in the event did not go ahead, but which is still a very live issue and which we will have to confront during the coming financial year. We have also monitored the progress of the Localism Bill which if it becomes law will make more duties and powers for Parish Councils.

All in all it has been a year of considerable activity and achievement for the Parish Council, I hope you will think that we have carried out our functions reasonably well and with the best interests of the community in mind. We face a future in which parish councils will probably have to take on more functions and I for one welcome that because it should give us greater control over the way services are provided, the challenge for the Parish Council will be to manage that process so that it does not end up costing the ratepayers more.

Jon Radgick
16 May 2011