



Chairman's Annual Report 2018/2019

It's been a funny old year in some ways and certainly very hectic and at times very chaotic. It started out with the former Clerk of many years retiring in June and a new Clerk being appointed to take her place. It was a very hectic and even frustrating time for the new Clerk trying to take over the post, as well as picking up the pieces from the previous Clerk, not easy for anyone but harder still for someone with no Parish Council Clerking experience. In the end it all got too much for the Clerk and she resigned in March. Hence, we now have two Clerks working the same hours between them as the previous Clerk on an interim basis.

This last year has been a financially very expensive time for the Parish Council in terms of repairs and maintenance of two community centres, Brecks and Sunnyside. For instance, having the roof recovered and repaired along with some internal repairs at Sunnyside. What felt like a big uphill struggle with our Insurance company over repairs at Brecks due to subsidence of the extension causing considerable damage to the roof and walls meant we had to close the building until the insurance claim could be settled and repairs could be carried out all in all eighteen months and we are almost there but still not open yet.

From a more positive perspective the old allotment land on Dalton Lane (a third of which belonged to the Parish) has been sold thereby allowing developers to move on site and start building new homes which are desperately needed in this area. We as a Parish Council wholeheartedly support development of this kind across the Parish, which is why we apply pressure, whenever we can, to Rotherham Borough Council to make a start on developing the Whinney Hill and Chesterhill sites. Though, in fairness, some progress has been made with bore holes and land structure tests being carried out.

A number of grants were given to local community groups as well as a grant to the Mayors charity towards the Easter Extravaganza.

As a follow up to a grant the Parish Council gave to The Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry in the previous Financial year towards a Memorial for members of the Infantry who were killed in battles. The Parish Council received an invite to the grand unveiling of a bronze statue of a soldier and was attended by the Chairman and Vice-chairman last August, the statue is now situated in the grounds of Doncaster Museum.

One of the big events last summer was a young children's play area project on Magna Lane open space. This involved meeting with and talking to parents and children from the local junior school about what equipment they thought should be included. We invited the manufacturers to bring drawings and ideas to the Parish hall and meet the parents and children and let them decide, the outcome being the young children's play area that is up and running now.

We had a very good turnout of parents, children and others to the grand opening with the Mayor attending to cut the ribbon and declare the playground open with everyone invited back to the hall for refreshments.

The annual Remembrance Day Service was held in November with representatives of the British Legion and RAF Association present. The Service was led by Father Andrew Lee and Maltby Brass attended to play for the hymns. Refreshments were served in the Parish Hall following the service.

A hard surface has been installed around the cenotaph a pattern imprinted concrete in a black/grey finish.

This years' service is to be held on Sunday November 10th.

Additional Summer hanging baskets were provided along with extra Christmas lights this last year in Sunnyside, Woodlaithes and Brecks as well as in Dalton.

Two Christmas parties had been held in December 2018 – one at Dalton Parish Hall and one at Sunnyside Community Centre. Senior citizens were welcomed to the Centres and provided with a pie and pea lunch, followed by desert and also enjoyed entertainment, a game of bingo and free raffle. All attendees received a small Christmas present.

There are, currently, four vacancies for Parish Councillors. Anyone interested should contact the Clerk who would be happy to discuss the role of a Parish Councillor.

Lastly, I would just like to say thank you to all those people associated with the Parish Council the staff and Clerks as well as the Parish Councillors who represent all the Parishioners.