

Chairman's Report May 30th 2013

The Council created during May 2010 continued to function during the period May 2012 to May 2013 and was composed of Councillors Wiper, Lund, Ramwell, Thompson and Hunter. Meetings have been held regularly and the agendas have covered a wide range of topics which can broadly be subdivided into matters concerning planning, community, financial.

During the year we have had a change of Clerk. After twelve years of stalwart service Mrs Christine Jenkinson resigned and as a token of their appreciation for her efforts the Councillors presented her with two books. Mrs Paula Armstrong was appointed to the position of Clerk and resumed her duties on October 12th 2012.

Planning

Considering the small size of our parish we have had a considerable number of planning applications to consider. Some of these were small scale and straightforward, others more complicated.

Kirksteads and Gatehouse Barn continue to have unresolved issues with the planning authorities.

Successful applications included, a covered yard at Burnt House Farm, a drainage system at St Oswalds, a campsite at Thornbrook Barn, signage at The Marton Arms, the development of Wetherall Lodge and a garden shed at Garden Cottage.

Unsuccessful applications included Masongill Treatment Works and change of windows at Lodge Bank.

The application for Sunny Vale is ongoing.

To enable a greater understanding of planning issues councillors have attended two site meetings hosted by Mr Howson at Kirksteads and Mr Atkinson at Gatehouse Barn. Both proved informative and useful.

Financial

The finances of the Parish Council have remained in a healthy state even though at local government level cutbacks have been taking place. As always we benefit from the rent from the Turbary Pasture. Our healthy financial state meant that the Council decided not to levy a precept and were in a position to support several good causes. Charities supported included The Lune Rivers Trust, The British Legion, Citizens Advice, St Johns Hospice and Settle Swimming Pool.

Community

The Parish Council has again been active in more visible activities around the parish.

To commemorate the Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth 11 a beautiful stone plinth and plaque have been built on The Village Green at Low Westhouse. Carols were sung around the Christmas tree, on the green, at which occasion the opportunity was taken to officially unveil the plaque.

Smaller activities included painting the railings at the War Memorial, weeding at the Millennium Viewpoint, the planting of flowers on The Green and litter picking. Our thanks go to Councillor Hunter and Mrs Armstrong for ensuring that the Parish Newsletter continues to be produced.

Conclusion

Once again it has been a year where it has been a pleasure to chair the meetings and proceedings have been conducted in an amicable manner. Our thanks go to Christine, the outgoing clerk and to Paula who has commenced her duties in an extremely professional manner.

David Wiper – May 2013