

ROSSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

FOR 2009/10

This time last year we were celebrating the reopening of the Parish Hall following substantial upgrading and extension of its capacity to serve the Community. Under the chairmanship of Jackie Clark, the management committee was in constant contact with the contractors, and with the added expertise of John Adam completion of the work was secured to the satisfaction of the parish council and user groups.

The official opening day on the 10th October was a tremendous success, attracting participation from a wide variety of interest groups and the public. The ceremonial major of Doncaster Ross Jones was the guest of honour.

Jackie Clark

Throughout the start of the work to its completion Jackie Clark had worked with total commitment, suffering in silence from the terminal illness that ended his life on the first of October shortly before the official opening day on the 10th of October, the day after his funeral on the 9th. It was fitting that his family chose the hall as the venue for the congregation to gather after the funeral.

Accusations of Disrespect

In May last year I was informed that charges of bringing the parish council, and myself as chairman into disrepute were being investigated by DMBC Standards Board as a result of complaints by former parish councillors Malcolm Clark and Barry Johnson, who had both resigned from the parish council at the March meeting. My response to the statements made by councillors Clark and Johnson which were insulting to members of the parish council and in particular towards Jackie Clark and myself resulted in the statement I made, and formed the basis of their complaint against me.

On 6th April 2010 the Standards Board threw out the charges in what could only be described as a shambolic example of judicial procedure. There is little wonder the Standards Board did not escape criticism in the recent Corporate Governance Inspection findings in respect of DMBC mismanagement as being "weak and ineffective".

Inland Port

Defying all logic in respect to long term and environmental sustainability, DMBC Planning Committee gave approval for this monstrous development on green belt land prone to flooding sacrificing farms, wildlife and sites of scientific interest, in order to secure speed of access for goods and produce

from abroad at the expense of home based production and employment with total disregard of local considerations, which exposed a predetermined decision in favour of the developers by DMBC.

Good Neighbours

The loss of the meals service over a year ago has resulted in long-term negotiations to re-establish the service. Prospects for the re-introduction of the service are now in the pipeline and as more information becomes available the public will be informed.

Joint Consultative Committee

The Parish and Town Councils and DMBC have the potential to improve mutual benefits in our communities and progress is being made. However, there are difficulties that need to be overcome particularly in respect to planning applications where all too often local considerations are dismissed in favour of land and property developers.

Christmas Fayre

With Siberian style weather conditions, the employment of a snow machine was surplus to requirement. In such conditions it was not surprising that attendance was down on the previous year although the scouts because of the cold did a roaring trade at their food and drinks stall. All round in the circumstances the event was worthwhile.

The enhanced Christmas street lighting was a success and further extensions are planned for Christmas 2010.

Eco Town Proposal

The Government announced it was no longer seeking to establish an Eco Town in Rossington, as it made clear when scaling down its earlier ambitions. The proposed Rossington project was no longer considered a viable option. The decision confirmed the position of the parish council and that of the electorate that such a development was incompatible with local considerations.

New Members

In the past year Paula Haigh resigned from the parish council due to declining mobility. She was replaced by the co-option of Chris Judd. This was followed by the election of David Clark following the death of his father Jackie Clark.

Wadworth Bridge

The unceremonious destruction of 'Waddy Bridge' by DMBC gives the parish council serious cause for concern and we are seeking its restoration as a matter of urgency.

Hazel Roberts

Having served 11 years as caretaker of the hall, Hazel decided to call it a day (or so she thought). Due to unfortunate circumstances Lynn Docherty our new caretaker broke an arm but is now well on the way to recovery. So for Hazel her retirement is within grasp with our best wishes and good memories.

Finally I would like to place on record my appreciation of the support throughout the year from members of the parish council and for that matter, members of the public.

I would on behalf of the parish council express its appreciation for the quality of services provided by the parish council clerk Steve Merriman.

Yours sincerely

Clbr. Terry Wilde

11/5/10