

Hunshelf Parish Council: annual report of the Chairman, May 2019

The parish council continues to rotate annually the roles of chairman and vice-chairman which gives preparatory time for all councillors to 'take the reins' confidently and effectively.

The chairman is usually the parish council's representative on Penistone Ward Alliance, however, as I was expecting a hip replacement, Councillor Popplewell kindly agreed to continue his attendance for this year. I thank him for his service.

Several groups are presently active in the parish and all working to the new HPC Sub-committees' Standard Procedures. These make clear the guidelines and parameters for sub-committees to comply with parish planning; funding; costs and VAT; accounting and auditing; insurance and child protection. Presently, the sub-committees include: Green Moor Carol Singers; the Parish Christmas Party and the Village in Bloom Volunteers.

The Carol Singers are expecting the new Green Moor carol book to be published later this year which will replace the 1968 edition. The parish and pub sings in December were a huge success and welcomed by all. We thank the carol singers and organisers for their contributions to parish life.

The Parish Christmas Party was again a huge success in this its fourth year. Sadly, the volunteers have decided the format is not sustainable for 2019. The group are to pass their residue proceeds to Village in Bloom. We thank them for their sterling work in giving inclusive seasonal pleasure to young and old.

The Village in Bloom Volunteers seem to have replaced the previous Heritage and Environment sub-groups in maintaining parish owned spaces to a high standard and winning the RHS Yorkshire Rose Small Village Summer Award - Gold 2018; Yorkshire Rose Small Village Summer Award - Gold and Category Winner; Yorkshire Rose Award - Best Village 2018 and Yorkshire Rose Discretionary - Best New Entry Award for 2018.

As a result of their success, Green Moor has been asked to represent Yorkshire in the RHS Britain in Bloom small village category, 2019. Recently, a special edition of the Hunshelf Chat outlined the planning and preparations which are now underway for judging in the summer. The parish council extends its appreciation and thanks to all the volunteers for their remarkable efforts.

Our thanks also go to Team Green Moor for their efforts in bringing funding to the parish for the furnishing of our open spaces. The parish precept does not extend to the many embellishments which this funding has delivered.

Many of the activities in the parish could not be undertaken without the support of Green Moor Methodist Church which is the hub of the parish. The parish council extends its thanks and gratitude to Green Moor Methodist Church Council for this close working partnership.

This partnership shared in the centenary commemorations of the Great War on Remembrance Day with a display of memorabilia in the Providence Room during the splendid lunch provided by the church.

The network of parish information continues to be kept vibrant by The Hunshelf Chat which has never faltered in nearly a quarter of a century. Our thanks go to the many contributors. Special thanks and appreciation go to Claire Derrick, the founding editor.

Most of the parish business is circulated in the pages of the Chat keeping parishioners updated on the routine, yet challenging, business of the parish council including planning issues; dog fouling; bin collections; lighting, kerb and highway maintenance; legal and statutory matters.

Councillor Barry Tylee continues to make monthly checks on the safety of the playground. However, Councillor Tylee is to retire at the end of this council's term of office having given nearly 25 years of dedicated service. He has led and worked on many diverse projects which have enriched our community. He will be sorely missed but has agreed to continue in the role of playground safety officer for the time-being.

Councillor Richard Popplewell and Councillor John Kerr will also no longer be on the parish council. Both have served this parish long and well with often unseen commitment. Their talents and contributions are all around us, giving testament to their time in office. They will be missed by their remaining colleagues.

We thank all of our out-going colleagues for their long and active service and wish them well in new endeavours.

Finally, we are saying farewell to David Horsfall, MBE, Clerk to the Parish Council for nearly 24 years and a councillor beforehand. His role as the Responsible Financial Officer for the parish and long experience in local government administration have given reassurance to his fellow councillors that Hunshelf Parish Council remains in order. He and his wife, Wyllan, will be sadly missed for the many projects on which they have led and undertaken. We wish them a long and happy retirement and thank them sincerely for all their unerring attention to the health and well-being of our vibrant parish.

For the future, we are fortunate in attaining the services of our new Clerk to the Parish Council who is well-experienced in BMBC central administration. Mrs Elizabeth Wright joins us at a time of considerable change and extend to her our thanks and support for her role in future.

While parish councils across the country falter for want of nominations for new councillors, Hunshelf stands as a beacon of activity with three new councillors joining our ranks. We welcome Louise Godley, Peter Garrity and Philip Watts as new parish councillors and wish them well in a demanding yet fulfilling role.

Kathryn Austin, Chairman, Hunshelf Parish Council, 2018-19