

Hunshelf Parish Council: annual report of the Chairman, July, 2020

The annual rotation of the chairman and vice-chairman's roles have been delayed this year with the unprecedented effects of the Covid-19 lockdown affecting all our communities. As a result, parish council meetings were put on hold and I have continued in post until government guidance deemed it safe to meet in a socially distanced environment. This annual parish meeting has been delayed since May and the roles will now be handed on at this parish meeting.

Ivy Millenium Green, the space bequeathed to the parish by Mrs Ivy Bacon, gives us a properly low risk assessed environment in which to hold this first outdoor meeting of the parish council, to our knowledge, and reflects the annual moot held at boundary stones in ancient times.

While some parish business has continued electronically between the clerk and some councillors, the use of video conferencing was deemed unfair to those who were not familiar with this form of communication and until all councillors are able to use internet methods, we shall continue to hold traditional meetings which do not exclude elected members, sub-group members or the wider public.

At present, the telephone box and the playground remain closed due to Covid-19 and many of the activities in the parish have been on hold with lockdown, but after a brief period, the Village in Bloom volunteers and TWIGGS have recommenced their fettling of the delf, playground and verges to the delight of residents and to the many visitors who are now walking in the area.

Our thanks go to BMBC who, it is understood, donated the hanging baskets this year as a goodwill gesture. The parish councillors also extend their thanks to TWIGGS and the healthy number of volunteers who have continued to make the village centre attractive.

We have seen an increased number of visitors, including those who are taking advantage of the new picnic tables on the delf, meeting with social distancing for picnics. This area is becoming a safe environment for families to enjoy the natural environment.

After their national success of Britain in Bloom, small villages category, 2019, a celebration event was held funded by Penistone Ward Alliance to mark and thank all the volunteers and organisations involved. Our congratulations to the dedicated teams who also went on to win Penistone Area Community Celebrations Award in October, 2019.

The new carol book was published in November and was quickly sold out. A number are kept by Green Moor Methodist Church and a revised edition is

hoped to be published before Christmas, 2020, and is gratefully supported financially by Penistone Ward Alliance.

Other parish council affairs will, in the near future, recommence:

- Councillor Garrity and the clerk have improved the transparency of our account system with a new spreadsheet ;
- SYPTE continue to reassure us that the bus shelter is to be replaced although long correspondence has not improved the weather resistance of the intended design;
- The parish council website has been improved and includes links to other essential services;
- The parish plan is to be linked to BMBC neighbourhood plan;
- The British Horse Society applied to BMBC planning and achieved bridleway status for Tenter Lane and Blackmoor: the parish council will continue to monitor the use and maintenance of these by-ways;
- Monthly safety reports are still undertaken by Mr Barry Tylee, however, Councillor Watts has offered to take over this role in future. Our thanks go to Barry for his professional experience and reports;
- BMBC legal department has deemed our Standard Procedures for PC sub-groups 'appropriate' with the inclusion of the safety of young adults;
- An inventory of parish council key holders is now displayed in the parish notice board;
- The Hunshelf Chat will continue its unbroken record under the editorship of Clare Derrick: a parish institution. New councillors have taken over the delivery of the Chat from previous members. Our thanks go to Claire for her unwavering diligence.
- Items of social concern continue to be recorded from speeding and stolen vehicles to minor vandalism and planning contraventions all of which are reported and monitored through close links with BMBC, SY Police and reporting methods of Neighbourhood Watch and It's Your Neighbourhood;
- Walls have been surveyed for repair and the Sandstone to Southwark sub-group are working to preserve and repair the lane and wagon way from Chapel Lane to the Isle of Skye.

Many other planned activities may slowly start to recommence but until then, your parish clerk and councillors are working together and are contactable at any point. We thank all those who are working to keep us safe and to allow the increasing numbers of visitors to use our facilities without hazard.

Lastly, my thanks go to Elizabeth Wright, our clerk in what has been an unusual inaugural year, and to my fellow councillors for their new responsibilities in office.

Kathryn Austin,

Chairman, Hunshelf Parish Council, May, 2019-July, 2020