

REPORT FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – AUCKLEY

Again, it has been a busy year for the Parish Council.

An important issue we dealt with recently involved highway safety, e.g. Cross-roads at Lidgett and a pedestrian crossing near the Hayfield School on Hurst Lane. Regarding the former, DMBC advised a survey would be undertaken.

Initially we wrote to various businesses for funding towards a crossing on Hurst Lane outside the Hayfield School – without much success. Cantley with Branton Parish Council, Finningley Parish Council and Robin Hood Airport (via the Community Fund) each pledged funding. However, ultimately this was not needed in view of s106 monies in connection with the application for the New College which will cover the cost of a crossing.

Members of the Parish Council met with the Principal of the new college for a tour around the building and were advised that it would be possible to hold some Parish Council meetings there to serve residents in that part of the Parish. The college has many facilities and will be an asset to the area.

A planning application submitted by DMBC for an access to the proposed development of the Yorkshire Wildlife Park on Hurst Lane, Auckley, was not initially sent to our Parish Council because the application was submitted in the name of Cantley with Branton Parish Council. When we learned of this, a request was immediately made to DMBC for the plans to be submitted to Auckley. Subsequently we wrote to Caroline Flint MP, Planning Department, and included narrative on our website so residents could have their say. Grateful thanks are expressed to members of the Parish Council who submitted concerns individually and to the many residents who wrote in to DMBC. Thanks are expressed to our 3 ward councillors who attended the Planning Committee meeting to voice theirs, and our, concerns. Sadly the Planning Committee decided to approve the YWP application and there is currently (although this is being looked at nationally) no right of Appeal as this is only possible when an application is refused. We could go to a Judicial Review if sufficient evidence is forthcoming but this would be a costly route to take. Also any resident (not the Parish Council) could complain to the Govt Ombudsman. We have not given up on this issue and will continue to fight the decision affecting an entrance off Hurst Lane. The Parish Council is not against the YWP per se but is totally opposed to an entrance off Hurst Lane. A letter has been submitted to Sajid Javid the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, and we await his response.

Recently to exacerbate the situation even further on Hurst Lane, we have been made aware of hgv vehicle movements to the washing plant at Hanson Quarry and, again, have submitted objections to both Nottinghamshire County Council, as the quarrying is in that county, and to DMBC.

An application for 89 houses down Common Lane has also been submitted to Planning Dept. Objections have been submitted by the Parish Council and residents. To date we understand the application has yet to be determined by Planning Committee.

Other issues identified were: Parking on Spitfire Way, unfinished footway Hurst Lane, dog fouling, blocked gullies and potholes. It took many months to repair potholes on Common Lane and School Lane, but some areas near the green at Common Lane still require remedial work

Speeding traffic - We continue to report speeding through the parish and hope to have SY Police with the speed camera again in the village shortly.

During the year we gave donations: £1k Auckley Show, Scout Hut - £2k towards roof repairs

Work at Riverside Park is ongoing, e.g. – conifers felling £400; remedial work to the steps £2064
Dyke cleaning £200

Members have attended meetings with Peel representatives to discuss the play facilities at Hayfield Lane, ie football pitch, MUGA and children's play equipment. The situation is currently ongoing. Funding for this is via Peel.

Recently a Neighbourhood Group was formed to take forward a Parish Plan. This involves a lot of work and we are grateful to those residents who take part, particularly Ronnie Dobson, Secretary, and Lynn Bramhill, Chairman. It will take some months before completion. Thanks to Ian Swainston who, along with myself, attends Parish Plan meetings in the Parish Centre. Also to Marjorie, our Clerk, and Jayne Stimpson from DMBC who provides us with much needed information. The group was set up as there were concerns regarding the ongoing developments in the Parish.

Football fees were increased from £260 to £300 as this figure has remained static for a few years. The Precept was increased slightly for 2018/19 to £38k, including a grant of £1240 from DMBC.

Christmas tree provision at Hurst Lane was £437 and this, together with the one at the Green, were lit for the required time scale.

Thanks to Jason Fletcher of the Eagle and Child for putting on refreshments for the Carol Singing in December, and for providing an awning and a gas heater – gratefully appreciated.. Thanks also to Armthorpe Elmfield Band for coming along to play for the Carol Service, and to those residents who attended on a cold/wet evening.

Thanks to the Allotments Society for the work they do and also the Gala Committee for another good show last year. It is hard work preparing and clearing up the day afterwards.

Sorry that we have lost Dave Ridge as Area Manager and our thanks go to him for his help and assistance whilst in post, his successor is Steve Thomas.

Special thanks must go to Steve Racjan, DMBC, who attends almost all of our Parish Council meetings and whose input is very much appreciated.

Thanks also to our Handyman, Chris who does a sterling job in keeping areas clean. Also to residents who tend flower tubs, and clear weeds around trees.

Many thanks to Marjorie our Clerk who works tirelessly without complaint and also at weekends and in evenings.

Auckley Parish is very lucky to have 9 members who give their time freely, even though some have full time jobs. We all get along well and although our views may differ on occasions, nevertheless it is good to have diverse opinions and a breadth of knowledge and this is where we are particularly fortunate. So a special thank you to all for your hard work and commitment.

J WORTHINGTON
CHAIR
MARCH 2018