

CHAIR'S REPORT MARCH 2020

It has been another busy year for the parish council with some issues still ongoing.

Fires were started at Marr Plantation and the Fire Service had to be called out. Hopefully this sort of behaviour is now behind us. Litter picks have been carried out at Marr Flats Plantation and in other areas of the parish through the year – thank you to those worthy volunteers, including children.

ASB – Steve Racjan, DMBC Officer, has sent out yellow letters to parents and CAP (Community Action Partnership) meetings have been held during the year. CAP meetings are attended by ward members, PCSO's and Police Officer, myself and a representative of Blaxton Parish Council. Local shops also send representatives where possible. We contacted Peel to ask if it were possible to utilise the former Catholic Church off Hayfield Lane for young people to meet on occasions for a coffee and chat. However, it could not be available in view of the sale of the building.

Parking issues prevail – outside Hayfield Lane School and Parking Enforcement Officers have issued tickets to those parking in bus bay. We continue to liaise with Police and DMBC.

We contacted the owner of the car park at the Coop on Hayfield Lane in view of concerns received re access/egress. It would appear there is nothing which can be done in this respect.

A pedestrian refuge has been requested on Main Street near to the Eagle & Child, feedback awaited.

Water ponding at First Avenue, remains a problem despite much correspondence with DMBC and Peel. Jetting has been carried out but the issue remains and we will continue to pursue a satisfactory outcome.

Overgrown hedges, damaged verges and other highway issues are regularly commented upon and concerns forwarded to the Highway Authority- DMBC.

We said NO to taking responsibility for water catchment ponds for the development at Broad Lane, we did not think it was the responsibility of ratepayers.

The E.A. has carried out a weed cut along the River Torne following our request.

We carried out our budget exercise earlier this year and provisional included £10k for maintenance at Riverside Park.

Thanks to residents who open/close the gates leading to the Riverside Play area – greatly appreciated.

N/hood Development Plan – regular meetings take place with some residents, Cllr Swainston and myself. The group has done a lot of hard work and special thanks go to Ronnie Dobson – Secretary and Lynn Bramhill – Chair. The purpose is to submit results to DMBC as to where it is thought development should or should not take place. At the Auckley Show in August a tent was available for residents to comment on the Plan. The final outcome will be notified to all residents in due course.

Christmas lights – the display was very good this year and we were appreciative of positive feedback from residents. We are investigating trees being planted at Hurst Lane area so these too can be illuminated.

We continue to meet at the Parish Centre although we have tried in vain to hold meetings in the Hayfield Lane area and at the School and College on Hurst Lane. To date we have been unsuccessful due to issues with caretakers and security.

Recreational facilities are being provided via s106 monies – Hayfield Lane, Peel Holdings land and various items of equipment erected.

Remembrance bench at Hayfield play park provided together with a defibrillator. We aim to have an official opening ceremony for the new play area in the Spring. Provision of further seat has been processed for Riverside Park.

The under-8s football team contacted us regarding a donation towards a defibrillator and we agreed to pay half the cost as the team has already raised some funding. Well done to them.

We have agreed to contribute £500 towards provision of a shed requested by Auckley Primary School, ie a wooden lunchtime lounge.

We always fund a poppy wreath each November and Cllr Warrender kindly attends the service at Blaxton War Memorial and lays the wreath. Also we have donated £500 towards refurbishment of the War Memorial.

A few weeks ago with discussed the budget for 2020/21 and members agreed a Precept of £40k.

Recent issues of concern are a Licensing application by YWA for the hotel off Hurst Lane – with times being stated as up to midnight and 2a.m. The other is an application for 160 houses on Peel Land off Gatehouse Lane (actually in Blaxton Parish) but the ingress and egress to the site will involve traffic onto G/house Lane, Hurst Lane and Hayfield Lane. We have commented to DMBC on these issues.

Thanks to Garden/Allotments Association, Auckley Show committee who put on a great effort each August, and members of the Parish Centre Committee. To our Handyman – Chris Humphries, ward councillors and also to Steve Racjan, DMBC who is seconded for 12 months to the Flood Assessment Team.

Thank you to Jason Fletcher of the Eagle and Child for setting up facilities, a brazier and mulled wine and mince pies, for our Christmas Carol Service and to Armthorpe Elmfield Band to always do a splendid job. We made a donation to Firefly - £100 – as Jason supports this Charity

Grateful thanks to members who attend various meetings of outside bodies/Committees. To all members of the parish council who give their time freely to make a difference and to improve facilities etc. Very many thanks are due and your commitment is greatly appreciated..

Finally, last but not least, a big thank you to Marjorie – our Clerk – for her hard work, commitment and dedication. Thank you.