

NAFFERTON PARISH COUNCIL

REPORT TO ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

May 2011

Mike Jackson

Over the past year the Parish Council has held 11 meetings, there being no meeting in August 2010. The meetings are held on 2nd Wednesday of the month in the village school.

The attendance of parish councillors was 71%, which was similar to previous years.

Members of the public were present at every meeting, the largest meeting having 21 members of the public attending. We also have had PCSOs, and the dog warden come to the meeting to report.

I took over as chair in May 2010 and would like to thank the previous chairman, Andrew Oliver, for his work as chair.

Over the last 12 months quite a lot has happened in the village. Probably the most obvious has been the building of the Nunnings development down Station Road by Beal Homes. The building was started in June 2010 and first home opened in September. The “commuted sums” money from this development has given us approximately £50,000 which has paid for new equipment on the playground.

There was also ongoing work to develop a new under 5s community building on Westgate, which received much attention until the plans were dropped around October. Although the Parish Council remains supportive of the Under 5s preschool and continues to want to help them out in any way we can.

Parish Councillors continue to attend meetings about flooding and are monitoring the arrangements to upgrade the pumping station after the floods of 2007.

There is also the ongoing work of the Parish Council as we discuss the regular topics of grass-cutting, dog fouling, planning, tree pruning, the search for allotments and damage to grass verges.

The village playground has grown larger over the last year with the addition of a wooden mushroom and snail, a wooden picnic table, the willow dome, the zip-wire, pendulum swing, goal end, basketball hoop, slide, and extra lighting. The members of the playground committee are to be congratulated for their work on this as the playground is now one of the best in the area. It is a credit to the village and is very heavily used by a wide age range of children, youths and adults.

Sadly we have had some vandalism to the youth shelter and the slide as well as the wall by the mere. However the Parish Council has established a precedent of asking the vandals (or their parents) to pay for the cost of repairs, which I hope will act as deterrent to vandalism going forward.

We now have a village maintenance committee who has done a good job keeping the village in good order and I would like to thank them too. This year we have obtained a £1000 grant for a salt gritter and extra salt bins. We have also bought a new grass-cutting tractor to replace the old one, which was beginning to be something of a liability. The cost of the new tractor has been met from reserves.

Over the year there have been some changes in the people involved in the Parish Council. It was sad to report the death of Malcolm Jackson over the winter, who has served for many years on the Parish Council and I would like to say how sorry we all were to hear the news of his passing. The village PCSO Adrian Clarke has left and moved on to Bridlington but has been replaced by PCSO Chris Webster and I would like to thank both of them for their work, particularly with the young people in the village. Also the journalist Alister Webb, who attended the Parish Council meetings to report for the Driffield Times has moved on to a new job and I would like to thank him for his accurate reporting over the years.

As we have local elections tomorrow the elections of the Parish Council takes place at the same time. This year we have heard already that there were 10 applications for 13 places so there will be no election for the Parish Council, although on the 5th of May it is the local East Riding Council elections and the referendum on AV. This means that several of the existing Parish Councillors will stand down and will not be carrying on next year - Cllr Cliff Horsman, Cllr Jean Towers, Cllr Kath Foster and Cllr Louise Render. I would like to thank them all for their much valued contributions. Cllr Cliff Horsman has been on the Parish Council for 20 years and served as the chair and clerk during that time and has been a great help with his knowledge of local history, Cllr Jean Towers has also served as chair and contributed greatly over many years and recently with her sterling work on the youth club and the playground, Cllr Kath Foster has worked really hard over many years and particularly as chair of the playground committee and we are all very grateful to them for the excellent playground we now have in the village, Cllr Louise Render has also been a valued member of the council and served on the village hall committee. I don't think that people in the village realise how much time these councillors have spent working on various village projects. All of these councillors have worked on much more than just the projects I mentioned above. They spend a lot of their free time doing work for the village and it is all voluntary and they very seldom get any thanks so I would like to thank them all for their contribution and hard work over the years. We also welcome Geoff Omerod who will be coming on board as a new Parish Councillor at the next meeting and it looks like we will have 3 vacancies so will be inviting extra councillors to be co-opted to the council. So if anybody here wants to apply or knows somebody who would do a good job then please let us know.

On the financial side the precept this year works out at £12.33 for a band D property, which is actually a drop from £13.02 last year, despite insurance costs having almost doubled again ! Grass-cutting remains the largest expenditure accounting for 29% of the budget.

Finally it is the Parish Council AGM next Wednesday as we prepare for another year with our new councillors.