Oakthorpe Donisthorpe Acresford Parish Council

Chairmans Annual Report 11th May 2022

There wasn’t an annual parish meeting last year and this report will cover more than the last 12 months.

It has been a difficult time for many people, but the strong sense of community that has come to the forefront since the pandemic began has been inspiring. Voluntary groups and local businesses have worked hard to support those who have been struggling to cope or have needed someone to talk to in these difficult times and they have made a significant contribution to the care of the parish and its people.

I want to pay tribute to the work of members of the whole range of groups and to those who choose to stay in the background, making contributions in their own way. We also know there are those who, for a range of reasons and circumstances, are unable to be involved in activities and whatever the contribution, it is equally valuable to us all.

The council has been able to move towards usual business, returning to face to face meetings as we continue to carry out improvements to the parish.

A tree survey was commissioned on land the parish owns and the results of the survey provided reassurances most trees were healthy.

We continue to plant spring bulbs around the parish and the positive feedback from parishioners indicates the difference they make.

The project to improve the Memorial Gardens progresses and our application for funds to carry out remedial work to the gates is being finalised.

Responsibility for operational management of the leisure centre has now transferred to ME Sports, a Community Interest Company.

Three new benches and flowering cherry trees have been secured for the parish through an initiative by the district council, one in each village. The benches provide a place to sit and reflect on the those lost during the pandemic.

In response to the growing concerns about speeding across the parish, we purchased 2 Mobile Vehicle Activated Signs (MVAS), currently in use in Acresford whilst we await confirmation of other locations for MVAS across the parish.

A new notice board was erected on Chapel Street in Donisthorpe and others will be replaced.

Hawthorn hedging has been laid alongside the allotment boundary with the orchard. It will take time to grow and will provide important habitats over time as well as a robust boundary to the allotments.

This year marks an historic achievement by the monarchy, 70 years reign. In recognition of this unique historic event, the council has commissioned commemorative medallions to give to every child attending our two schools in the parish.

This is my final report as chairman of the council and I’d like to thank colleagues for putting their trust in me to lead the council for the last three years and for the professional assistance and advice of Kelly, the parish clerk for the last two years.

It also gives me great pleasure to offer congratulations to Kelly who has achieved a key qualification, the Certificate in Local Council Administration, otherwise known as the CILCA. This is the recognised qualification for local council clerks and along with at least two thirds of cllrs being declared elected to this council, it now means the council would meet the criteria to hold the General Power of Competence (GPC) should it so wish. The GPC enables council to consider a range of powers and the right to act, that would not otherwise be available. A great achievement for Kelly from which the council and therefore the parish, can benefit. I am happy to end my chairmanship with such positive news.

Cllr Sue McKendrick

Chairman

11th May 2022