

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 11TH MAY 2010

Due to a series of anti-social behaviour at Linchfield Road and other areas it became necessary after the last Annual Parish Meeting to call an Extraordinary Council Meeting on 19th May 2009 to enable the Council to discuss their dissatisfaction with the lack of police support in the village with Police Inspector Gary Stewart. It was noted that PC Capp & the PCSO's continued to do a good job locally within their working hours, but the overall lack of police provision and the police response to emergency calls was unacceptable. As a direct result from complaints, "Operation Rabat" was put in place by the police and the Parish Council was reassured that an increased level of policing would continue. This has been the case.

At the AGM on 28th May 2009, Cllr Jim Blessett stepped down as Chairman after a three year term, and Cllr Phil Dilks became Chairman of the Parish Council.

The three main projects planned for the last year are now complete and the Manor Court Open Space has at last been refurbished after SKDC agreed that the Parish Council could manage and deliver the project. The United Charities also made a financial contribution to this scheme, and provided the funds for the benches. After continuous negotiations with LCC, a scaled-down version of the cycle path link between the school on the Spalding Road and Frognall has also been completed.

Responding to local concerns, the Parish Council also invested in a late night summer street warden scheme on Friday and Saturday nights to visit the “hot spots” in the village and move youths on. This had the full support of the local police. This scheme started for this year at Easter and will continue until September. A summer activity events listing, aimed at youths was also promoted and additional funds have also provided an additional Youth Leader post at the Youth Centre, resulting in the centre being open four nights a week.

An activity day also took place in the October half term to mark the completion of the third main project, the Multi Activity Games Area, at the Woody Height site in Linchfield Road and over 100 children attended this event. £300 of funding was gratefully received from the police towards sports equipment for youths which has been provided as prizes and for use at the Fair Play Football promoted by South Kesteven..

Madcaps once again ran a very successful two week Play Scheme, held at DSJ community primary school on behalf of the council. Two items of additional play equipment have now been installed together with various benches, bins and picnic tables at various sites across the village.

As a direct result from requests from residents, temporary 30mph signs were installed along the Spalding Road and the Parish Council continue to work in partnership with the county council and road safety partnership to address all concerns. A dropped kerb has also been installed in Ryecroft Avenue. Cllr Baxter has been investigating the possibility of a local Car Club, and the possibility of reopening the railway station is being revisited.

Many local Events were attended by Councillors and the new Deeping St James in Bloom initiative led by Cllr Stevens was well promoted, and also has many local community groups involved for the main event this year.

The Probation Service has continued to provide unpaid workers who can be seen regularly litter picking, working in the cemetery and helping to keep the village tidy.

Planning Committee members had met with various representatives from SKDC and other agencies whilst considering their responses to the South Kesteven local development framework, and particularly the specific site allocations. In the last year, **over 30** planning applications have been commented upon on behalf of the residents.

Resignations – Neal (June) Broughton (July) Parr (October) Auger (November) Moore (January)

Graham Thompson & Chris Pearce were co-opted as councillors in August and three additional Councillors were co-opted in April. These are all members of the community who have volunteered their time.

The allotment at the Hall Meadow Road site were still in great demand, and the Parish Council are currently splitting full plots in two as they become available to allow more opportunity for allotment gardening. A half plot had also been created for SENSE, who have five houses in the Deepings area. An appeal had not only brought generous contributions from residents, but also from Phil from Nurseries who have planted out the raised beds with sensory and tactile plants.

The Parish Council continue to maintain the many footpaths across the parish, and the usual three guided walks held in the summer were well attended. Cllr Baxter also organised a Teddy Bears Picnic which was held at the nature reserve for the younger members of our community. The footpaths continue to be mowed to allow easy access, together with the river path, the Millennium Wood, Cemetery and Jubilee Field at Woody Heights, Linchfield Road. Over 5000 daffodils were planted in the village last year, and Cllr Barber has also planted out 25 trees and over 250 mixed hedges in community areas. More recently, the Ladies Fellowship raised funds for the planting of many snowdrop plants in the church yard.

Grants to community and voluntary bodies this year have included : £200 Friendship Club, £750 Sense, £1000 Exotic Pet Refuge, £250 Raft Race, £300 Probation Team, £232.82 Play Scheme, £200 Lincolnshire Playing Fields Assn, £250 Deeping Arts, £400 Deepings Cricket Club.

The Gilbert Scott design telephone kiosk had been purchased from BT for £1 and will be turned into an Information Kiosk.

An Assistant Clerk was appointed in January. Unfortunately Sheila Kostyrka the previous Clerk retired from her post at the end of April.. The Parish Council have continued to employ a maintenance operative who works in the village throughout the year, mainly litter picking, emptying bins, mowing and general maintenance work. Many enquiries are received annually from residents, and are channelled through the parish office to the responsible agencies. These range from parking and speeding issues, to fly tipping, overgrown trees and hedges, damaged street and road signs, street lights, graffiti and planning enquiries.

The Parish Council is a burial authority, and continues to provide and maintain a cemetery within the village. Fourteen burials have taken place in the last year.

The Parish Council still make provision for a Skip at the recycling centre, a commercial bin for the disposal of community waste and organise the cleaning and maintenance of the bus shelters and the telephone kiosk.

Continue to work with SKDC to improve the Leisure Centre facilities.

Cllr Barber puts in many hours as Web Manager.

All Council and sub-committee meetings are open to the public who are welcome to attend to see the work the Parish Council does. The Parish Council continue to meet on the last Thursday of the month at 7.30 pm at the Institute on Church Street and each full Council meeting starts with an open public forum for questions and issues to be raised. Agendas and minutes are usually published on the website and are displayed in the Parish Council Notice Board at the Institute.