

<p style="text-align: center;">CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 5th April 2011 Presented by Councillor John Peebles Chairman of the Parish Council</p>

It has once again been a pleasure to have served you as Chair of Crigglestone Parish Council for the past 12 months. And again I thank Councillor Peter Daniels our Vice Chair for his help and support throughout the year.

The administrative side of the Parish Council is in the very capable hands of Janet Mitchell our Parish Clerk, who besides having to attend to day to day correspondence and ever increasing emails, has to ensure that the correct procedures are adhered to. As I pointed out in last year's report, there are now more committees to look after and matters such as the Local Development Framework proposals also need to be addressed.

We are also very lucky to have a most capable Responsible Financial Officer. Julia Ford has now been with us just over two years. Due to her vigilance, the Council's financial matters are kept in order and Members are kept up to date with financial legislation.

On behalf of the Parish Council, I must express my sincere gratitude to both Janet and Julia for the work that they do on behalf of Crigglestone Parish Council. I would also like to thank our caretakers for the work that they do.

The Village Institute is now very well used by various groups and hire rates by what I have seen must be about the lowest around. The Parish Council also owns Hall Green Community Centre where bookings are now picking up following the enforced closure in 2009.

After great consideration, it has been agreed to raise the parish precept for 2011/12. For many years in the past we made no rise but this has not helped our reserves. The rise will be £3,000, taking it to £49,000 but we still remain one of the lowest precepts in the Wakefield District.

The Police Safe Scheme is now being managed by Police Sgt. Jonathan Day who attends our meetings along with PC David Laybourne, where either one or the other is in attendance to give crime reports within the Parish. They still deal with the priorities such as speeding, vandalism and anti-social behaviour by groups of youths. I thank Jonathan and David and the team for their dedication in trying to lower the crime rate within the Parish.

In July Cllr Mrs Debbie Margrave was co-opted to the Council, having been appointed to the Parks and Open Spaces Committee in May.

Five grants were allocated to local groups and organisations in the Parish. I would mention the residents of Newmillerdam who formed a Community and Conservation Association and are going from strength to strength with their work in the village. A grant was awarded for the purchase of bulbs to plant along the grass verges on Barnsley Road as this year they have entered The Village in Bloom competition. I would like to wish them every success.

The Parish Council continues to distribute a newsletter to all homes in the Parish. Parish Council activities are also publicised on the Parish website, in the Parish Link Magazine and through the Wakefield Express community columns.

The hanging baskets in 2010 were well praised by residents in the Parish. This is again due to Tim and Darren in the planting and maintenance of the baskets throughout the summer. The Parks and Open Spaces Committee along with the Clerk, meet regularly including walks to check on maintenance and Health & Safety issues. This year the Committee had regard to its responsibilities under occupiers' liability legislation and arranged a risk assessment of all trees on land which is the responsibility of the Council. This was followed by management works to ensure any health and safety risks were addressed. In Betty Eastwood Park, Members of the Open Spaces Committee and their families have undertaken some further tree thinning in the park. I will take this opportunity to thank them on behalf of the Council.

There were two nominations for the Community Hero Award 2010. The Committee felt they were equally deserving and it was agreed to make a joint award to Mrs. Jean Froggett and Mr. Ken Hartley in recognition of their valuable contribution to life within the community. Framed certificates were presented to Jean and Ken at the January meeting of the Parish Council.

A number of useful meetings have been held in the year – with highways officers, Arriva bus company and the police. Members and staff also attended the annual Scarborough conference and other training sessions.

Planning issues have been to the fore this year with further consultations on the LDF and a planning application for some 244 dwellings off Durkar Lane. The Council called a public meeting to allow local residents to give their views on this proposal.

In November a short service of remembrance took place at Newmillerdam Cenotaph and was well attended by local residents, church members and councillors. A wreath was laid by Cllr. Peter Daniels on behalf of the Parish. Thanks go to Stuart Marsden for organising the short service. This was followed with a service at St James Church, and then the wreath laying service at the Cenotaph. The names of L/Cpl. David Kirkness and Corporal Jonathan Beynon-Fisher had recently been added to the memorials in St James Church and the cemetery and their families attended the service.

Last but not least, and that is to thank the Parish Council members for their devotion in the work that they do on behalf of the residents, and for their help to both our officers and myself.