

ANNUAL REPORT FROM DAVID ROBERTS THE CHAIRMAN
OF THE BLINDCRAKE PARISH COUNCIL
TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING TO BE HELD ON
14th MAY 2012

1. Introduction

As Chairman of the Parish Council it is my duty to present an Annual Report to the Annual Meeting of the Parish which we hold every year. This is not the same as the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council although for convenience the meetings are held on the same date. The Annual Meeting is an occasion when the Electors for the Parish area are able to meet and discuss matters of importance to them. Where appropriate resolutions can be passed on a vote. The majority of resolutions which might be passed at an Annual Meeting would be persuasive on the Parish Council. The Annual Meeting is therefore a forum where Electors in the Parish can make their views known. This is of course in addition to the part of every Parish Council Meeting, when the proceedings are adjourned to allow parishioners to bring matters to the attention of the Parish Council. In addition your Parish Councillors are available to be contacted at anytime throughout the year. Their contact details are shown on the Parish Newsletters.

2. Matters of note since the last Annual Report

(a) Roads, Drainage and Potholes

The deteriorating infrastructure of the road surfaces throughout the Parish, and in fact the County, is obvious to all. The Council draws the attention of the Highway Stewards to problem areas when they are identified. Some sections of road have been re-surfaced but in most cases it is patching which takes place. It is obvious, in many cases, that the damage is made worse by water being allowed to flood onto the roads when with comparatively little time and effort problem drains and ditches could be attended to. It was fortunate that we were spared the harsh winters of the previous two years.

Grit boxes have now been positioned.

As part of the possible future development of the Moota Motel site, stabling lanes and islands have been constructed on the A595. The need for such improvements was pointed out by the Council at the Planning Application stage.

(b) Low Farm

After years of pressure applied by the Council, it is gratifying to see that major work has been carried out on Low Farm.

(c) Village Green

The Conservation Kerbing to protect the green has been installed. The works on the pond are complete: being the children's play area and the work on the drain from the sump beneath. The contracted grass cutter attends regularly.

(d) Police Matters

The continued high price of Fuel Oil makes this an attractive target for the dishonest. Theft of agricultural machinery and stock has been a recurring theme. Vigilance is required to try and thwart the thieves.

(e) Queens Jubilee

The Council had planned to purchase Medals for the under 17's in the Parish. The quality of these appeared poor. It has been resolved to purchase Mugs instead. There is to be a 'Big Lunch' on the Green on Sunday 3rd June.

(f) Broadband

The Council has conducted a survey and hopes to draw some conclusions with a view to improving the internet access in the Parish. The fundamental problem is that we have three different lines servicing different areas, all of them requiring substantial upgrade.

(g) Locality Working

There have been a number of meetings about these proposals. The idea being to devolve decision making to a local level. This is not the first such initiative and how and when it might work in practice remains to be seen.

(h) Elections

Problems were caused last year by Electors in the Old Park area being sent to

Bassenthwaite Sailing Club. The Council has asked that voters should come to one Polling Station only, namely Blindcrake. For those who do not wish to travel, postal votes are available. A Notice Board is to be erected in the Old Park area, subject at the moment to some requirements of the Highways Department.

(i) Footpath group

This is a group of volunteers formed with a view to improve the local Public Footpath network. Attention is presently focused on the back lanning at Blindcrake.

(j) Garden Safari and Arts Trail

The event this year is on Sunday 8th July; and has become very popular.

(k) The Council

In the last year Jackie Jackson and John Thompson both retired from the Council. I would like to express my thanks for their service to the Parish, particularly John who served as a Councillor for many years.

To fill the vacancies the Council has Co-opted Annamarie Desmond and Mike Livingstone to join the Council.

Dated the 14th May 2012

D.Ll. Roberts
Chairman for the Blindcrake Parish Council