

ANNUAL REPORT FROM DAVID ROBERTS THE CHAIRMAN
OF THE BLINDCRAKE PARISH COUNCIL

TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING TO BE HELD ON

18th MAY 2015

1. Introduction

As Chairman of the Parish Council for the past 12 months 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 to 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) Mary Burkett of Isel Hall

Mary died in November. A thanksgiving service was held for her at Carlisle Cathedral on the 6th February. She was a great supporter of the Village Hall and the Church. Her other contributions to the world of arts, nature and museums are too extensive to list here. It is fair to say we shall not see her like again.

(b) Hilton Brough

Sadly Hilton passed away last autumn. As well as Vice Chairman of the Council he was a pillar of the community for years. His contributions to the Parish will be missed greatly. Joe Marrs was co-opted to the Council in his place.

(c) Low Farm

This site has, after persistent pressure from the Parish Council, been tidied up. It is understood once buyers are found the works will be completed.

(d) Footpath Group

Plans are well advanced to improve the path at the top of Blindcrake Village onto the Clints. This follows works done last year by LDNPA in diverting the water running there.

(e) Broadband

Cabling and new poles have been erected in Blindcrake. A meeting has been held with the contractors to ensure that the verges are re-instated.

(f) Buses

The hope that a bus service through the village would be re-instated seems to have been diminished due to the size of modern double deckers.

(g) Lighting

A new pole for a light has been erected at Crabtree Cottage.

(h) Village Green

Work has been done on the “manhole” and rodding the drain under the road to relieve the waterlogging problem on the green.

(i) C-ART

This event seems very popular and will be repeated in September.

(j) Evenings Inn

These “pub nights” are held every month between September and April. They are well supported and a great way to meet your neighbours.

(k) Highways

Some patching has now been completed including the road near the bus shelter in Blindcrake. Mr Church at Isel Bridge House has also cleaned off all soil and grass from Isel Bridge, for which he is to be thanked. The La'al Moota back lanning is still in a poor condition.

(l) War Memorial

As part of the commemorations of the outbreak of the Great War the Parish Council contributed £125.00 to the cost of the memorial refurbishment.

(m) Oil Buying Group

This is very successful with Alan Britcher being able to negotiate competitive rates by bulk ordering of oil.

(n) Recycling

It is possible that the recycling site in the Parish will be moved to Linskeldfield Farm from the pound at Blindcrake. Apart from the site being larger there is a full recycling collection in Blindcrake and Redmain but not in the east of the Parish.

(o) Crime

This remains low in the Parish. Last year in the county there were issues regarding sheep rustling in particular. Parishioners are encouraged to remain vigilant for any suspicious activity. Quad bikes are often a target.

(p) First Responders

The Council donated £500.00 to the local First Responders. This group deserves all our support. Their intervention can literally mean the difference between life and death.

(q) Village Hall

This is the only community asset in the Parish and is incidentally the only licenced premises! Consultation has taken place over possible plans to carry out substantial improvements., I am standing down from the Committee in May having served for the last 22 years. The Committee is always in need of “FRESH BLOOD”, and new members are welcome. As with everything if we do not use it and support it we shall lose it!

(r) Garden Safari and Arts Trail

This will be held on the 28th June. It is a popular event and it is hoped that there will be a good number of classic cars at the event. Any help with this

is greatly appreciated. It is a major fund raising event to support the Village Hall.

Conclusion

After 16 years as a Parish Councillor and Chairman I am standing down. This is due to the pressure of work as Coroner since the whole county became one Coroner's area in January. I should like to thank Graeme Forrester the Clerk who does a great deal of work on behalf of us all and of course my Co-councillors. Thanks should go to Jill Shaw, Annamarie Desmond-Storey and Mike Livingstone who have also stood down.

On my own part I would like to thank all the people who have supported me as Chairman of the Parish Council. It has been a great privilege to serve the people of the Parish.

Dated the 18th May 2015

D.Ll. Roberts
Chairman of the Blindcrake Parish Council