

Report of the Hessay Parish Council for the year ended 31 March 2012 to the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 9 May 2012.

Meetings

Parish Council meetings are held on the second Wednesday of odd-numbered months. Extra Parish meetings are called if there is a planning application to consider. Last year the Parish Council met on the following dates:

2011 - 11 May, 23 May, 13 July, 14 September and 9 November.

2012 - 11 January and 14 March.

Parish Councillors

Helen Candy was co-opted onto the Parish Council at the May 2011 meeting. All Councillors have served throughout the year.

Councillor Barratt was elected Chairman at the Parish Council meeting in May 2011.

Accounts

The unaudited accounts for the year ended 31 March 2012 are attached to this report. They show that the Parish Council spent £641.08 more than it received.

The year-end balance is £8,305.31. Council funds are held in the HSBC. Most of the funds are kept in a Business Money Manager Account. Interest is still a paltry 0.01%.

Planning Applications

Six planning applications were considered by the Parish Council over the last year.

PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS

Registration of Parish Land

The Parish Council's endeavours to register the ownership of its land with the Land Registry is taking much longer than anticipated. The Parish Council currently holds five Statutory Declarations for the six parcels of land that it owns but more are needed. Councillor Hardcastle has produced plans of the Parish Council-owned areas ready to be attached to the statutory declarations. When these have been completed they will be presented to the Parish Council's appointed solicitor who will be consulted about registering the Parish Council-owned land with the Land Registry. A sum of £600 has been set aside for solicitor's fees.

Willow Garth

We learned from past Parish Council minutes that the Parish Council-owned land in Shirbutt Lane was called Willow Garth so we have re-adopted the name for this area of land.

Last year the Councillors asked BTCV to draw up a schedule of work that could be carried out on the land behind the fence to make it tidier and more friendly to flora and fauna. The Parish Council has asked Yorventure if it will make a contribution to the cost of the work.

In January 2012 it was reported that a willow tree in Willow Garth had shed a limb and had bracket fungus. Two tree surgeons were consulted as to whether the tree was safe and they agreed that the tree should be removed. T Hirst was appointed to remove the tree at a cost of £500. The Councillors agreed that the tree should be replaced with an oak tree which will be planted at the appropriate planting time. The tree will be known as the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Oak Tree.

New hawthorn hedging has been planted along the fence. Thanks to Stuart Cariss for helping Councillors Barratt and Hildreth in planting the hawthorn.

Pond Area

Thanks go to Stuart Cariss who has cut the grass round the pond for the last year.

Main Street Seat

Thanks also to Jack Holliday who refurbished the seat in Main Street.

Communications

Website

At the September 2011 meeting the Councillors reconsidered their decision not to proceed with a Parish Council website. Councillor Candy has created the Hessay Parish Council website which can be found at www.hessay.org. The website includes details about the Parish Councillors and the Rural West York Ward's City Councillors, minutes from January 2006 to date, the Annual Reports from 2007 to 2011 and the Annual Returns for 2009 to 2011. Also included are details of current planning applications, the agenda for the current Parish Council meeting and Newsletters from July 2011. There is a feedback form and a request form for subscribing to Newsletters.

The Councillors feel that the website would be enhanced by the inclusion of some photographs. A request for photographs was made in the next November Newsletter but none have been forthcoming.

Newsletters

The Parish Council now holds the email addresses of many residents. Parish Council Newsletters and agendas for meetings are emailed to residents regularly.

It is hoped to be able to send information to all residents by email. To try to reach more residents an advert is being placed in the Parish Church Newsletter.

Councillor Training

Councillor Candy and Councillor Hardcastle attended the YLCA "Joining the Council" course in July 2011. Councillor Barratt attended the YLCA-run "What Councillors Need to Know" course in November 2011.

Bulb Planting

Using a City of York grant the Parish Council bought a supply of daffodil, crocus, snowdrop and English bluebell bulbs.

A working group of 15 to 20 families planted the daffodil bulbs on 9 October 2011. Thanks to Amanda Carlyle for organising the event.

Complaints Procedure

The Parish Council has adopted a Complaint's Procedure. This will be put on the Parish Council's website.

Ward Committee Funding

The Parish Council's claims for £200 funding for more bird and bat boxes and £1,000 for allotment fencing in the 2012-13 budget round was accepted and was to appear on the ballot paper in the next edition of "Your Ward". We have learned that the City Council has changed the rules on Ward Committee funding so the grant will not be forthcoming.

Geographical Centre of Yorkshire

An article appearing in the 28 February edition of The Yorkshire Post saying that Hessay is the geographical centre of Yorkshire was put on the website. The implications of Hessay's position as the Centre of Yorkshire will be discussed at the May Parish Council meeting.

Allotments

At the time of writing this report all existing allotment are taken but there is room for an extra allotment if a resident wishes to develop it.

Roger's Slide Show

At the beginning of the March Parish Council meeting Councillor Roger Hildreth gave a slide presentation of Hessay it was in the 1980s.

James Mackman
Clerk to the Parish Council
9 May 2012