

Report of the Hessay Parish Council for the year ended 31 March 2014 to the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 14 May 2014.

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:

2013 - 8 May, 3 July, 16 July, 11 September and 13 November.

2014 - 8 January and 12 March.

Parish Councillors

Councillor Barratt was re-elected Chairman at the Parish Council meeting in May 2013.

Roger Hildreth, Andrew Hardcastle, Helen Candy and Penny Taylor served as Councillors throughout the year.

Accounts

The unaudited accounts for the year ended 31 March 2014 are attached to this report. They show that the Parish Council received £4.37 more than it spent. The year-end balance is £8,534.57.

Planning Applications

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

Parish Council Land

Registration of Parish Land

The Parish Council's is still endeavouring to register the ownership of its land with the Land Registry.

Willow Garth

A working party met in January and coppiced a third of the small bushes. Dead trees and leaning branches were cut down and log piles created. Tree guards were removed. More tidying-up needs to be done. Arrangements are to be made to increase the depth of the pond.

The Councillors expressed their thanks to Councillor Hildreth for the use of his machinery by the working party and to Stuart Cariss who cut grass along the front.

Pond Area

Thanks go to Jack Holliday who refurbished the bench alongside the pond, Stuart Cariss who cut the grass round the pond during the last year and Roger Hildreth cut grass in front of fence.

Allotments

Rabbit-proof fencing was installed at the allotments.

Christmas Tree

The Parish Council bought and planted a Christmas tree in the children's play area.

Tour de France

A sub-committee consisting of the Parish Council Chairman, Councillor Candy and interested residents was formed specifically to run a Tour de France event in the village. The Parish Council agreed that:

1. An unsecured loan of £1,000 be made available to the Hessay Parish Council Tour de France sub-committee to organise an event which will be open to all Residents of Hessay to celebrate the Tour de France passing through the village.
2. The event will aim to at least break even with any profit being returned to Hessay Parish Council to be used to start a fund for future community events.

Communications

Website

Councillor Candy has continued to look after the Parish Council's website which can be found at www.hessay.org.

The website includes details about the Parish Councillors and many of the Parish Council's activities.

The agenda for the forthcoming Parish Council meeting is put on the website. Minutes of all Parish Council meetings from January 2006 are there as well as details of any current planning application. There is a feedback form and a request form for subscribing to Newsletters.

Newsletters

The Parish Council now holds the email addresses of many residents. Parish Council Newsletters and agendas for meetings are emailed to residents regularly. More residents have supplied their email addresses and are receiving emails from the Parish Council.

Broadband

The Parish Councillors have devoted much time endeavouring to get high speed Internet installed in the village. A questionnaire was sent to all residents and the vast majority of the many who replied supported the idea of having high-speed Internet installed in the village. Letters were sent to organisations involved in supplying high speed Internet as well as to Julian Sturdy MP and the leader of North Yorkshire County Council. Replies were received from everyone contacted but we are no further towards the goal.

Footpath along the Wetherby Road at Rufforth.

The Parish Councillors discussed the idea of the construction of a footpath alongside the Wetherby Road between the Hessay Footpath and the allotments. Rufforth Parish Council has agreed in principle to the idea and the City Council is being asked to progress the subject.

Signage

Following representation from the Parish Council the City Council installed information signs at the B1224 / Mill Lane junction to encourage goods vehicles to continue along the B1224. It would appear that these have had a positive effect.

James Mackman
Clerk to the Parish Council
14 May 2014