

STEETON WITH EASTBURN PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT to the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

This is the report on the Council's work for 2018/19. The last Parish Meeting was held on 4th April 2018. There have been 11 full Council meetings, and 7 meetings of the HUB Management Committee. Staffing Committee and the Neighbourhood Plan working group meetings have also been held.

BMDC are in the process of making the Neighbourhood Plan ready for formal consultation. This consultation will be held after the Election in May.

In June David Gallagher was instructed to organise the cleaning and re lettering of the village name stones. These are located at the three entrance points to the Parish. This work was done extremely well and the stones now look like new again.

Pippa Chapman from Those Plant People was engaged to plant up beds around the stones. After much discussion between Cllr Lambert and Pippa, a design for the beds was finally arrived at. Even after such a short time the beds are looking really good.

We took the decision in summer to get a company to clean the area around the war memorial. This was done with great efficiency. The company then came back just before the 11th of November to clean the actual War Memorial. This was done by hand with great care, so not to cause any damage. The memorial now looks the smartest that it has done for years. As well as cleaning the memorial, the Council took the decision to replace the two lights within the memorial garden with heritage style lamps but incorporating LED bulbs and also to make the lamp on St Stephens Road match them. We also employed Pippa Chapman to undertake phase one of the planting scheme around the memorial. Money has been set aside for phase two which is planned to be done this year. The PC also took the decision to purchase the large poppy which was placed on the lamp column at the edge of the Memorial Garden in commemoration of the Centenary of the end of the 1st World War. I must thank Ross Turner for installing the poppy and Richard Thompson of Fat Cow Signs for providing the words to go with the poppy.

The Boardwalk at Eastburn Playing Field has proved to be an unmitigated disaster lasting only 7 years. A detailed inspection in June last year, revealed that large parts of the structure were in a very dangerous condition. The Council investigated the costs of repairing the worst parts and found that this was going to be at least £6,000. There would also have been more and even costlier repairs in the near future. Another option was to remove all of the wooden structure and replace it with a compacted gravel walkway edged up with railway sleeper type timber at a cost of approximately £30,000. After much deliberation the Council took the decision to remove the structure completely, make good any post holes and allow the site to revert back to natural landscape. Work to remove the structure was started on the 5th of August, and undertaken by a local contractor. The wood was disposed of in a safe manner.

The site will be allowed to revert back to a natural state but will be managed to provide a safe habitat for wildlife, and continued amenity use by residents.

CRIME

There has been no significant increase in crime in Steeton and Eastburn, and it is of a minor type.

We are however, still plagued by persistent anti social parking relating to the Hospital and the Station. This is encroaching further into residential areas. West Yorkshire Combined Authority are in the process of designing a new double deck car park to be built at the station. This I am told will give a capacity for 284 vehicles. The problem ensuing from this, is that during the construction phase, which will last up to 2 years, the existing parking will have to be closed and the vehicles displaced elsewhere. I have had discussions with WYCA about where they propose to relocate these cars but as yet they have not come back with an answer. The authority reports continuing efforts to identify possible solutions.

FINANCE

The Council's accounts for 2017/18 will be available on the Council's website in due course.

The Council decided to keep the precept the same as last year, £33.70 for a band D property. The budget for 2019/20 is £57,862 which is an increase of £1,833. This has come about because of all the new houses built in the Parish.

WEBSITE and NEWSLETTER

There has been one newsletter published since our new clerk took up post, unfortunately Sarah has been on maternity leave since the end of October. We were unable to find a locum clerk to stand in and have been rather tied up with Council business therefore not had time to produce a newsletter.

We continue to keep the website up to date and for this I must thank Cllr Thompson.

Finally, I would like to thank Councillors for their support, commitment and understanding over the last 6 months especially Su and Tessa without whose work we would have been in extreme difficulties

Cllr David Mullen

3rd April 2019

Chairman.....

Date.....

