

STEETON with EASTBURN PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT TO THE ANNUAL PARISH

MEETING

18th APRIL 2012 EASTBURN JUNIOR SCHOOL.

This is the report of the Parish Council's work for 2011/12. The last Parish meeting was held on 20th of April 2011. The Parish Council elections were in 2011 all the nominated councillors who stood were elected. Following the election we were still short of one councillor, Elizabeth Pugh, subsequently applied successfully to join the Council.

There have been 18 full and extraordinary council meetings, and 8 meetings of the Staffing and Community Facility Committees.

We have had two major projects to undertake this year:-

1/ The progression of our Community Hub building. We applied for and obtained full planning permission. We were also successful in securing £112,335 in grants toward the project, including a very generous donation from local company Cinetic Landis, a contribution from the Ward Councillors and from the Steeton Youth group.

We are now out to tender and are awaiting these to be returned. We hope to start building in the next few weeks.

2/ After 8 years our Clerk has decided to leave us due to other commitments. We have had to go through two selection processes, the successful candidate from the first selection procedure declined our offer so we were forced to run another selection process.

We held a first anniversary event at Eastburn Playing Fields, again as last year's opening event it was well supported. I must thank the players and mascot from Keighley Cougars for attending, they were well received by all the youngsters present, I think interest was equally divided between the Cougar fitness workout and getting locked up in the back of the Police van.

FINANCE

Full accounts for the year 2011/12 are available on the Councils website.

The Council has once again been prudent and kept the precept to the same level of 2009/10 and 2010/11. Band D property is £ 17.88

The Budget for 2012/13 is £25,693

We have made provision within the budget for youth activities, play provision and to continue to implement projects identified in the Parish Plan

The reserves at the 31st of March are £25,200 these will be carried forward to 2012/13. This is the level of reserves recommended by the National Association of Local Councils. We had to increase the levels of our reserves to make sure that we are able to fund any by-elections that may be called in the Parish. This is because Bradford Council will no longer fund by-elections and they now have to be paid for out of our reserves.

CRIME

Once again speeding and inconsiderate parking are the main issues. The Police are continuing with the community speedwatch initiative and are still catching people over the speed limit. Inconsiderate parking by visitors, staff and patients attending the hospital is still an issue Police and Bradford Council wardens are issuing enforcement notices where appropriate.

YOUTH

There is still positive engagement by Youth Services with young people in our Villages. (The youth group made a generous donation to the Hub fund for which I must thank them.) I understand that they can't wait to get into the new building.

NEWSLETTER and WEBSITE

Following problems with our previous method of delivery we now use a delivery service to have the Newsletter delivered, achieving approximately 80% coverage. The website continues to be updated with information about Council activities and other events.

OTHER ISSUES

We are going to plant 3 Hornbeam trees on the triangle of land on Station Road and hope to install a planter in Eastburn to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee.

I would like to extend a large vote of thanks to Councillors for all their hard work and support over the last 12 months.

Thanks also must be given to Cheryl for all the work she has done for the Council, without her hard work over the last 8 years the Council would not be in the position we are today. We are an active and well respected council and held up as a beacon to show how a Council should operate. I must also thank Cheryl for giving me more notice than she was obliged to give and also for agreeing to act as temporary Clerk until we could appoint a new clerk.