

KILHAM PARISH COUNCIL
REPORT TO ANNUAL MEETING
APRIL 2014

At the time of last year's Annual Meeting the village was in a mess as a result of the damage caused by the winter flooding. After many meetings and much effort the village is now in a much better condition with respect to the road surfaces and drainage. The roads have yet to be top dressed with chippings sometime this summer. Before the roads were resurfaced, improvements were made to the drainage in Beech Close, Middle Street and West End. The sewers and surface water drains have been thoroughly cleaned and now have a much improved capacity.

The Council has delivered most of its declared intentions for this past year. These were outlined in my report last year as:

- the continued financial support of the Kilham Playing Field Association;
- hiring someone to maintain the Village Hall Playground area, pond and cemetery. This being in addition to a new contract for the grass cutting;
- the replacement of the village map and signage;
- the resurfacing of the churchyard footpath;
- the completion of the Kilham Community Emergency Plan.

There is now an arrangement in place for the maintenance of the Village Hall playground area, pond and cemetery and we successfully negotiated a new three year contract for grass cutting.

Research into a replacement Kilham Map is ongoing. The design of the structure and the map content is agreed, but the work in providing the detailed copy for the designers is yet to be done. Meanwhile funding is being sought for this project.

Most of the work to resurface All Saints Church footpath was done last month with the non-slip top surface to be applied later in warmer weather.

In last year's report there was mention of a new replacement website. We had hopes that it would provide the improvement that was so badly needed. Unfortunately, for unforeseen reasons, it has not been possible to use this website as expected, however, we have plans which will be outlined by councillor Buckle later in this report.

Litter was then as now a persistent problem both within the village and on its approach roads. Some people are without regard for their environment and will drop litter only a few steps away from a litter bin. A small and decreasing number of dog owners still allow their dogs to roam and foul the village unattended. Anti-litter markings were lost last year when the pavements were resurfaced, but they will be renewed soon. A request has been made to the Community Pay Back Team for a litter pick on the Pockthorpe Road which is particularly bad.

Repairs to the final section of churchyard wall are still on hold until a tree is completely removed. The sycamore tree in Church Street was partially removed in the new year and in its present state is much less likely to present any danger to the public.

A number of changes have been made to the personnel in the Council since the last Annual Meeting.

In June 2013, Claire Boston was appointed as Clerk to Kilham Parish Council following the resignation of Annie Smith in May.

It was not until Claire's appointment that replacements were sought for councillors David Knight and Ruth Rawson who both resigned last April. First in September Christine Snowden then in October Gerard Conlin were co-opted as councillors.

In November Denise Hayhurst was co-opted to the council to replace councillor Paul Carter who resigned in October. It is worth noting that we have been fortunate in recruiting three new enthusiastic members to the council who all bring with them the benefits of their breadth of experience to the Council.

Support was granted to KPFA sufficient to pay for the essential running costs of rent, insurance, toilet hire and water rates. This was agreed so that the fund raising efforts of the Association could provide tangible improvements towards the development of the site.

(Report from **David Sheader**)

Kilham's Emergency Plan was published last month. This plan is designed to enable the utilisation of our own resources in the event of an extreme emergency. The Council has worked closely with the County Council Emergency Team and with Simon England, Kilham School's Head Teacher, as he has recently produced an emergency plan for the school. Emily who won the competition to design a logo for the PC was given her prize. Her original design was developed by Jake Sheader.

(Report from **Richard Zerny**)

The accountancy skills of our Clerk and the banking background of two councillors helped the process of analysing the Council's finances in preparation for setting the 2014/15 precept in January.

(Report from **Mark Buckle**).

We are all aware that WW1 started one hundred years ago. The war memorial is our constant reminder of the horror and sacrifice of that war and that of WW2. Public subscription paid for the Remembrance War Memorial to be made from Welsh Portland stone and was erected in 1922. The original plinth was subsequently extended to the rear and both sides. This addition, cast in concrete, is in a poor condition and needs repair. We are currently seeking quotes for this work and looking for sources of funding.

Inspection has revealed the need to do some renovation work to the cemetery wall and railings. The council is gathering quotes for this work and also for the replacement of the unacceptable part hedge part fence to the front of the newer cemetery plot. This is part of our forward planning to invest in the assets of the village, to improve and restore them where needed.

(Report from **Reverend Glyn Owen**)

The Council is concerned to look after the future development of the village. The material assets mentioned previously are only part of what makes Kilham unique. The physical

character of the village is perhaps the most important asset. We do not have the luxury of simply conserving what we have because there is a constant pressure for change. If you only think of the new homes build in Kilham in the last 10 or 20 years you will understand that this process of change or development is a reality. The Council has this past year studied the draft development plans for Kilham very carefully. This plan identifies plots of land sufficient to construct 90 new homes between now and 2029. The initial draft plan was rejected by the Council because too much was allocated to the west of the village which meant adding more stress to the drainage infrastructure. There were also concerns about the loss of open spaces and about the increased traffic on narrow lanes. The arguments we put forward against the plan together with our alternative proposals were fortunately noted and the revised plan is one that the Council endorses without equivocation.

The residents of Kilham provide the financial support to enable the Council to do its work, but certain groups also benefit in return. The recently published Emergency Plan has the needs of its vulnerable residents very much in mind, and seeks to provide a practical response to the needs that might arise from extreme events.

There is continued support for the Twilight Bus facility for Driffield School students who wish to remain at school after hours. And finally the leaders of Kilham Youth Club approached the Council for support.
(Report from **Lucy Savile**)

Members of the public are welcome to make comment, offer suggestions or ask questions.

Geoff Seward

Chairman, Kilham Parish Council

April 2014