

CASTLE CARROCK PARISH COUNCIL

13th MAY 2015

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Welcome to all present

Thanks to

- **Parish Clerk Tricia Meynell**
- **Auditor David Rawsthorn**
- **All Parish Councillors**
- **Cllr Doreen Parsons and Cllr Willie Graham**

During the past year

The Parish Council has been asked to

- Support Music on the Marr and make a donation towards its costs.
- Support the Village website by making a small donation towards running costs..
- Support the Watson Institute by making a donation covering the cost of insurance for the building and the associated public liability risk.
- Address the continuing incidences of dog fouling.
- Address the amount of litter along the roadside verges in our parish.
- Press for an improvement in the broadband service provided by the BT equipment supplying the village.
- Pressure the highways authority to cure the recurring problem of flooding and ponding within the village. Also to meet with them to discuss the options.
- Tackle the concerns of villagers regarding reports that excessive speed is used by some motorists on the Geltsdale Road.
- Continue its search for land to provide allotments for those Parishioners who expressed an interest in renting a plot if the Parish Council was successful in providing one.

The Parish Council took action on all of the above matters and made donations to Music on the Marr, St. Peters Church autumn show, the Watson Institute and the village website. Further to this

⑩ Land was secured by Councillor Graham for the provision of allotments in the village and a public meeting was arranged to explain the Parish Council's intentions regarding this land.

⑩ The annual litter pick took place and was a great success but it confirmed the continued extent of the dog-fouling problem and it highlighted the obvious disregard

shown by some dog owners for the health and welfare of their neighbours and farm livestock. Similarly, the dangerous problem of glass bottle dumping along the verges re-emerged accompanied by an intolerable quantity of cans, plastic bottles, assorted cartons and various papers. Frustratingly however, approaches to Carlisle City Council for a replacement litter bin at Jockey Shield proved fruitless. The City Council has proven to be no help at all with litter issues.

⑩ The village had a new fibre optic cable switched on by BT and we saw the long wait for good broadband speed, frequently demanded by the Parish Council, come to an end.

⑩ A first aid course was set up in the Watson Institute by the Parish Council using instructors from the St. John's Ambulance organisation. This was an open event that we provided for the benefit of villagers and was greatly welcomed by organisers of Music on the Marr. The instructive evening was very well attended and well received.

⑩ Approaches to PFK, agents for the Diocese and the Church Commissioners - owners of the Glebe Field – were made by the Parish Council and this triggered two meetings with representatives from Carlisle Diocese concerning the future of the Glebe land. The Diocese revealed their plans regarding this land and at the second meeting they allowed both the Parish Council and the Parochial Church Council to voice their concerns with a view to passing these views on to other members of their finance committee.

⑩ The loan of a roadside speed checker, to be placed on Geltsdale Road for measuring and displaying the speed of passing vehicles, has been requested from the Highways Authority, but there is a long waiting list for these machines. It is hoped that this machine will reduce the speed of vehicles on this road when it is eventually obtained.

⑩ Meetings with Mike Foster of the Highways Authority proved very fruitful and work is planned to bring about improvements to the drainage network in the centre of the village. Larger pipework is to be laid across the village green to cope with both persistent rain and sudden downpours, both of which have proven too much for the existing system. It is hoped that this scheme will bring about a solution to the long standing problems in this part of the village.

⑩ Perth Lonning was repaired using funds provided by Councillor W. Graham.

⑩ Two trees were removed from the village green because of their close proximity to the Duke of Cumberland Inn. It was felt that they had outgrown their location and had become a liability to the PC and were a danger to the adjacent building.

Planning applications in the year were:

Modification to the exterior of the planned dwelling on land in **Cross Lonning** known as **Miller's Field**.

Revised application for proposed new dwelling on land opposite **Hallsteads**.

Revised application concerning the proposed group of four dwellings on land in **Cross Lonning**, behind **Townfoot Farm** to include garages.

Extension to **Poacher's Pocket**.

Erection of an agricultural shed, adjacent to an existing agricultural shed, sited behind Gelt Hall along **Back Lonning**.

Erection of an agricultural building in the yard of **Tarn Lodge Farm**.

While many positive and encouraging things took place during the year, previous failures to prevent the loss of the Weary Sportsman, for example, together with the subsequent unpopular planning decisions made, concerning replacement buildings, still haunt us. Sites like this are a nuisance because of the unfinished buildings and the unreasonable length of time that has elapsed since the project began. This site is an eyesore that the village does not deserve. The Parish Council is powerless to tackle this blight, however, and consequently this makes it very wary of further development, such as the Glebe field. New development is bound to turn the village into an even bigger building site for an indeterminate period.

Even the good news that the allotment project is to go ahead and that the land is nearly ours, is tempered by very slow progress.

Nevertheless, I would like to make special mention of Hilary Holland for her resolve and perseverance in seeing through this scheme. Without her hard work, it is difficult to imagine how the project would have got even this far.

I would also like to thank all the other members of the Parish Council for their hard work and the Parishioners for their continuing support.

George Devereux
Chairman 2014-2015