

CASTLE CARROCK PARISH COUNCIL

9th MAY 2012

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Welcome to all present

Thanks to

- Parish Clerk Tricia Meynell
- Auditor Brian Edmundson
- All Parish Councillors
- Cllr Doreen Parsons and Cllr Nick Marriner

Please note that a new member joined the Parish Council during the year: Guy Widdowson joined as a replacement for Pete Miles, who had resigned, so I would like to thank Guy for stepping up and helping us at this time.

During the past year

The Parish Council has been asked to

- Formerly support, by way of a letter, the work of the CCPCC in its efforts to repair the church and offer it to the community as a venue for village events, either alone or when used in tandem with the Watson Institute.
- Support Music on the Marr and provide a donation towards its costs.
- Support the Highlights rural touring scheme with a financial donation to help offset the shortfall in their funding following the loss of grants from local authorities.
- Support the Watson Institute by making a donation towards the upkeep of the building.
- Join the Watson Institute management committee in planning and organising a celebration to mark the Queens diamond jubilee
- Try to establish the true status of Back Lonning, with regard to rights of way. Follow this up, if necessary, and see through an application for an official revue of this status in order to establish rights for Parishioners to cycle and ride horses along its length
- Address the continuing incidences of dog fouling.
- Address the amount of litter along the roadside verges in our parish.
- Consider the possibility of installing an additional street light on the Geltsdale Road
- Repair the drain in the pathway on the village green outside the Watson Institute
- Repair the damaged bench at Jockey Shield
- Improve the surface of the lonning between the school and the church

- Pressure the highways authority to cure the persistent problem of flooding at Tarn Lodge

The Parish Council took action on all of the above matters and made donations to Music on the Marr, the Highlights rural touring scheme and the Watson Institute. Furthermore it pledged to make a donation towards the cost of the diamond jubilee celebrations.

A small donation was paid to the Duke of Cumberland to cover the cost of the electricity used by the coloured lights used to dress the Xmas tree: a joint project of the Parish Council, the Watson Institute and the Duke of Cumberland. The Parish Council took note of a generous private donation by Richard Johnstone to cover the cost of obtaining extra lights for the tree.

The new streetlight proposal was rejected on the grounds of cost but the bench and drain projects were completed and these problems resolved at minimal cost.

The surface of the school laning was cleared of mud and surfaced with sub-base stone.

The annual litter pick took place and was a great success, while the fight against dog fouling and the attempts to establish the status of Back Laning are continuing.

Planning applications in the year were: namely

The change of use of the **Weary Sportsman Inn** to a small holiday let complex.

The fitting of solar panels to the roof of the former **Rectory**

The erection of a conservatory to the rear of **The Croft**

The erection of an extension to no. **1 The Glebe**

The erection of a porch at the front of no. **2 Rectory rd.**

The Parish Council had no objections to any of the above applications, but a when consulted by the Highways authority about the best site for a weight limit sign at Jockey Shield there were various concerns raised.

The sign has since been successfully placed following much correspondence..

The Parish Council invited the following guests to speak prior to meetings

- **Steve Griffiths** of Wetheral Parish Council. He was asked to attend to update everyone on the status of the government's rural broadband improvement plans.
- **Nigel Armstrong** and others from the **Electricity Northwest** group of contractors who were currently re-routing electricity cables in Geltsdale and burying them underground. He was asked to outline their plans for road closures to enable residents to best plan their journeys during that period.

Both guests were questioned by the Parish Council and by Parishioners who were particularly keen to learn more.

Parish Councillors have taken part in

- The regional Accessible Broadband conferences. These have been attended by the Broadband Champion Richard Johnstone.
- Continued to tidy up the village by undertaking litter picking, tree pruning and grass cutting tasks.
- Represented the Parish Council during the Watson Institute management committee meetings
- Participated in the Neighbourhood Forum.

To sum up

The Parish Council came to an end on the 2nd May prior to the elections held on the 3rd May when a new Parish Council will begin. Therefore I would like to thank:

- Doreen Parsons and Nick Marriner for their continued support and financial contributions during the year.
- Brian Edmundson for helping us fulfil our financial obligations.
- Tricia Meynell our Parish Clerk for all her hard work throughout the year.