

CASTLE CARROCK & GELTSDALE PARISH COUNCIL

10th MAY 2017

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 St. Peter's Church by making a small donation towards the Autumn show.
- Support the Watson Institute by making a donation covering the cost of insurance and towards the cost of their membership of the Highlights organisation.
- Address the continuing incidences of dog fouling.
- Address the amount of litter along the roadside verges in our parish.
- Address the concerns of residents and users of the Geltsdale road and the B6413 with regard to speeding motorists.
- Address the problems arising from the use of the Village Green for private events.
- Continue to develop the field behind Meadow View, now owned by the Parish Council, as an allotment site.

The Parish Council took action on all of the above matters: firstly, by making donations to Music on the Marr, St. Peters Church's autumn show and the Watson Institute then considering matters listed below:

- When the Parish Council acquired the field on 29th February 2016 it was clear that much work had to be done to turn it into an allotment site. Subsequent to the transfer, Councillor Doreen Parsons had donated £300 towards the provision of a rabbit proof fence for the site and this helped to fund the task which was completed in a timely manner. It was clear however, that the boundary wall on the southern edge of the field was in need of a complete rebuild. This large drystone wall was in a poor state in many areas. Councillor Johnstone applied to the Rural Payments Agency for a grant to rebuild the wall and a promise of funds was obtained from them. The wall was duly rebuilt and an application for the funds was submitted.
- A litter pick took place and was very successful but once again confirmed the extent of the dog-fouling problem in the area and it highlighted the obvious disregard shown by some dog owners for the health and welfare of their neighbours and farm livestock. Similarly, the continuing problem of glass bottle dumping along the verges re-emerged accompanied by an intolerable quantity of cans, plastic bottles, assorted cartons, car body parts and sundry papers. The Parish Council is once again grateful for the body of volunteers that cheerfully come forward.

- The two trees on the village green that had been vandalised and which then subsequently died, were removed but their stumps remain in place.
- A defibrillator has been obtained and sited on the outside of the Watson Institute. Planning permission was obtained for this project by The Parish Council and now power is supplied to it from the Watson Institute.
- The loan of a roadside speed checker, to be placed firstly on the Geltsdale Road and secondly on the village exit to and from Brampton, is still desirable and is still the subject of a request to the police. Sadly, there is a long waiting list for these machines but it is hoped that it will, when available, prompt a reduction in the speed of vehicles since it displays a vehicle's speed for all to see.
- Temporary signs reminding motorists to watch their speed were obtained by the Parish Council and placed on the grass verge at different sites in the village, but they all went missing very shortly after placement. They have not been replaced.
- The bench sited on the grass verge beyond Garth Head Farm on the Geltsdale Road was noticed as in need of repair so timber was obtained and the job completed. Thanks due to Councillor Knight and the late Pete Brown.
- The endless saga of the Weary Sportsman project has continued to blight the village for yet another year.
- Councillor Johnstone drew up a set of guidelines for anyone planning an event or function on the village green.
- **Planning applications** in the year were:

Plans detailing the complete change of use and layout of buildings contained in **Garth Head Farm** were amended and resubmitted. The changes were considered acceptable.

An application was received for the proposed development of a barn behind Townfoot Farm. This was a re-submission of an application made some years previously. The Parish Council pointed out that the original plans included extending the footpath on the B6413 from outside Townfoot Farm to run past Peels Garth as far as the entrance to the lonning known as **Cross Lonning**, which runs from the **Briggs/Miller** developments. This was felt to be an important condition of approval.

A proposed extension to No. 9 Rectory Road was considered to have no adverse impact, in our opinion.

There were no objections to the proposed development of Gelt Hall and Gelt Hall Gardens, other than that they represented an unsustainable development, contrary to the City Council's own guidelines, in our opinion.

Similarly, an application to develop part of The Glebe Field was also felt to be unsustainable. These plans were submitted and later withdrawn following widespread opposition to the proposal.

Once again, I would like to thank all the members of the Parish Council for all their hard work, as well as the City and County Council representatives for their support and also, of course, the Parishioners for their valued support.

George Devereux
chairman 2016-2017