



RYARTH PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TUESDAY 26th MAY 2015

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

Another year passes, one rather of dealing with little problems and tightening purse strings, although of course with the one exception, in the last few weeks works starting on the former brickworks

In May to everybody's delight Redrow having served notices on tenants finally closed the brickworks with the long running problems of operating hours, particularly involving Kelly Transport at last coming to an end

Streetlights became an issue we being advised a number, I recall 18, did not meet the required standards in particular regarding earthing and needed to be replaced

It was suggested some streetlights could possibly be taken out of use to save money but a poll within the village totally opposed such action. As a result in March this year PSR replaced the relevant lights using LED fittings which should considerably reduce running costs. This was an expensive operation costing in excess of £11000 slightly assisted by a KCC donation of £1000 arranged by our County Councillor Mrs Sarah Hohler

For many years flooding has been a problem in Woodgate Road after heavy rain from the stream on its north side overflowing This has been due to the narrowness of the watercourse and blocking of the grille protecting the culvert A meeting was held with the Guy Neville the new principal of the Neville Estates who are the land owners subsequently they considerably extending and widening the ditch As a result the problem appears to have been resolved Thank you Guy!

Despite concerns after minimal works were done in 2014 by KCC Highways there was no repeat of the flooding in Workhouse Lane albeit the last winter's rainfall was much less than in 2013/4

Sadly Alan Jenner after many years of loyal service decided to retire and spend more time with the grandchildren. Thank you for all your work Alan and wishing you and Barbara the very best for the future

Alan was replaced by Dave Peddie who I am sure will be a great attribute to the Council welcome Dave

There was some excitement in September when the bus stop opposite the Duke was demolished by an East European lorry who had lost its way and was attempting to turn round. Fortunately a quick witted villager secured the lorry's details, well done Yvonne, and we were able to claim on their insurance. The more modern replacement stop was installed early in the year.

A £200 donation was made to Deborah and Mark Nankivell who fund raise and organise the annual Christmas tree and ever bigger and better fireworks displays. Well done you

A further donation was also made to the Ryarth Rural Community Council who are owners and managers of the village hall. This was to pay for a new patio to the rear of the hall now built and looking great

We also sold the road roller for a £1000 monies being split with the Village Hall

Over the year we have considered a number of planning applications most being non-controversial. The one exception has been the proposed conversion of barns on the former riding stables site to a B1 industrial unit. This has been strongly opposed particularly on the grounds of creating a precedent for further development on the adjoining land. We have been strongly supported by Birling P C and many residents.

Highway repairs particularly to pot holes and loose or damaged manholes and drains are intermittent. We obviously have sympathy with KCC, who up to 2013/4 were required to cut their budgets by some £269 million, with more cuts anticipated. However from the Parishes viewpoint this is their problem so have

pressed hard with some success allowing the worst of these jobs to be done in particular where safety issues are involved

Funding towards the maintenance of the St Martins Church graveyard has been provided from the TMBC allocation always slightly less than the actual cost which have subsidised considering this an important village matter We ourselves are having to cut back and as a result have advised the PCC whilst TMBC funds will still be collected and passed on any shortfall hereafter will need to be found by them

Most people are probably unaware Parish Councils are strictly controlled by statute and regulation which many consider overkill especially since Councillors are volunteers and unpaid, but so be it.

We were therefore delighted to learn yet a new level of control is to be introduced with immediate effect by Central Government in the best interests of transparency. Our poor clerk already deals with reams of administration and mostly needless paperwork, sadly she picks these new rules as well. Sorry Lynne

On a brighter note as touched on earlier works have now started on the old brickworks and Redrow advise the site will be fully operational up and running by June. As a reminder after all these years 93 residential units from flats to 5 bed houses together with a 1000 sq. metres of as yet undefined amenity space

We will maintain a high level of communication with Redrow to deal with any problems and issues arising. We have already advised concerns on trade vehicles accessing the site by routes other than the A20 and Roughetts Road. They are advising all involved and considering signage and other measures in order that problem can be avoided.

We are aiming to ensure a seamless integration of the new site and resident's inasmuch it will inevitably have a major impact on the parish the number of residence increasing by over a third

I am now reaching the end so apologies for any omissions and noting I am happy to take questions after this report

All that remains therefore is for me to thank my fellow Councillors for their help and support over the past year. I would also once again offer a big thank you to Lynne who in fact keeps us under control and keeps the engine room running

Thank You