



WARMSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Report 2010/11

Chairman's Report

Following the recent elections, I am pleased to report that all your existing Parish Councillors were returned unopposed. Unfortunately however, the vice- chair of the Parish Council, Mrs Georgina Mullis was beaten in the election to retain her position as Ward Councillor for the Edlington/Warmsworth ward. On behalf of the village of Warmsworth, I would like to take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation for all the hard work and effort Georgina has put in over the last four years for not only Warmsworth in particular but also the ward in general. We still have husband Ray as a serving ward councillor and I'm sure Ray will continue to ensure that Warmsworth's interests are protected and preserved within DMBC.

An important issue which affects every resident is the parish precept. Many of you will be aware that the budget of the parish council for the maintenance of assets owned by the village comes from residents in the form of a variable deduction based on property value. This year your council set the precept at a level of £40,000 which is a reduction of £2,000 on last year and which has continued a year-on-year fall from its height of £60,000 in 2008/09 when the community centre extension was completed. The precept is used to finance the administrative operations of the Council e.g. wages, utility bills, rates etc as well as maintenance and improvement of the assets owned by the village; the community centre and cricket field. Last year, the Council's income including the precept amounted to £63,500. Also included in this figure is direct income from lettings in the community centre of £15,500. Expenditure for the year amounted to £60,500 which included £5,000 set-aside for the purchase of the allotment site, which I will talk about later.

As I have already indicated the precept includes money the Council wishes to expend on capital projects and other expenditure which we consider will improve/enhance facilities within the village. We make no apologies for concentrating on those which are cost effective in increasing the value of the village owned assets. With that in mind we spent nearly £14,500 on improvements and running costs to the community centre, the major one being the lowering of the front room ceiling and insulation which should substantially reduce heating costs. We have also stripped, sanded and revarnished the wooden floors, which is long overdue and installed a small serving hatch and upgraded some of the electrics. We believe all these improvements will add to residents experience when visiting the centre and we will continue to look at further ways to add value in the future.

Patronage and usage of the centre by village groups and organisations is good and provides a valuable income stream, but use by residents is not as good as we would wish. There may be some specific reason for this and I would invite all residents to give us some feedback on how we can attract and increase the usage of the centre.

The adjacent cottage is owned by the village and is currently used as an office/store. We have plans to restore it to its former glory as an historical example to school children, but in the present economic climate we do not believe this to be essential or cost effective. We do however continue to search for possible funding streams from external sources to enable us to carry out the expensive remedial works required.

As I have said the other asset owned by the village is the King George V field and the parish Council have an established ongoing improvement plan which we consider will improve and enhance the facility for the enjoyment of residents. To those not aware part of the field is leased to the cricket club on a 25 year lease. Use of part of the field and the use of the changing room building is the subject of an agreement with Warmsworth Lions football club. Both activities are well represented and we believe their activities should be protected and encouraged and as a result as part of the ongoing improvements we are investigating the refurbishment of the changing rooms, which are in dire need of attention. It is necessary in

order to comply with current legislation for the electrics to be renewed and also the heating/ hot water system needs replacing. Planning permission has been granted for an extension to the changing rooms for additional storage and the Lions are seeking funding to finance this. It is proving difficult and the work is on hold until monies are forthcoming.

Apart from regular maintenance of the field i.e. grass cutting, hedge trimming, litter collection etc. we have employed a local gardener to regularly cut the grass and litter pick the children's play area during the growing season. He has also been retained to visually inspect the play equipment throughout the year and report any defects or problems. Money was considered to be raised in the precept for the installation of three more seats on the field, but it has now been realised that the main Stapleton Road entrance gate will need replacing or refurbishing in the near future and for security reasons this work is considered more of a priority than the seats. We are also conscious of the state of the surface of the football pitches and cricket outfield. There are more weeds present than grass and we have been asked to consider the reseeded of this area of the field. This is proving difficult however, since parts are in constant use throughout the year both as football pitches and cricket outfield. The situation will be monitored.

The only other operation within the village in which the Council has a direct financial interest is the allotment site on Sheffield Road. The site is owned by Yorkshire Water and is leased to the Council for a current annual rental of £1,500. This is due for revision in September and will increase. The management of the site is delegated to the Allotment Holders Association whose members have occupied the site for over 50 years. The site is well managed by the Association and has a waiting list which reflects the demand for plots. The Council has always been aware of the importance of the allotments to the village, none more so than in the present economic climate and whilst I have served on the Council, now over 10 years, it has always been our aim for the village to own the site. To that end about five years ago we started a programme of setting aside money annually from the precept with the ultimate aim of the purchase of the allotment site. Yorkshire Water remains unwilling to consider our regular requests, but we believe we have a strong case which will eventually prevail. The Allotment Holders Association continue to improve the site and the council has recently approved their request for the funding of the installation of a toilet facility on site and also the purchase of a set of replica plot numbers for easy identification. Later this year, using some of the money which has been set aside this year, it is the intention to relay the Sheffield Road entrance with tarmac, which will improve the state of the entrance and also improve its visual impact.

On other matters, the gala last year was again well attended and the fine weather enhanced the occasion. Our thanks go to the gala committee and we look forward to a repeat this year. The date for your diaries is Saturday 9th July.

Can I also mention and commend to residents with young children, the Santa's grotto in the community centre near Christmas. This was again well attended by parents and children and seeing the looks on the kids' faces is a delight. The children are given a present and with the permission of parents have their photographs taken with Santa. A letter from Santa is sent with the photograph following the event and our thanks go to Pam and Dave Gill and to all other helpers. Diary date for this year is Saturday/Sunday 3rd and 4th December.

Carols in the Park fell on particularly bad night weather wise. However over 50 courageous souls turned out for the event which for safety reasons was held in the multi use games area at the top of the park. The event was foreshortened because of the cold but feedback indicated that it was still enjoyed and some were positive about the use of the games area for future events in similar circumstances.

In the village generally, we have finally seen the completion of the resurfacing of Edlington Lane which we believe was due in part, to constant lobbying of our resident ward councillors. I'm sure you will agree the vast improvement and I only hope that the utility companies do not decide to dig it back up again as they have had a habit of doing in the past.

The re-opening of Moses Lane as a public footpath as been approved and is a testimony to the determination of both residents and the Council to ensure that the rights of residents are protected. Our thanks go to those residents who provided evidence for the consideration of

the Inspector. In the same area we understand that the farmer is once again going to introduce livestock onto the "village fields". We welcome this move which we feel will bring back the rural feel to the village and protect what has become a valuable green space.

We have a fly-tipping problem on Common Lane between the sewage works and Broomhouse Lane. The Parish council has sought through DMBC the installation of gates at each end to prevent vehicles entering but still allow pedestrian access. The farmer has voiced no concerns as he will have keys, but we are having difficulties legally with a Gating Order, but we will continue to seek to protect the lane from inconsiderate people.

Continuing the environmental theme, can I mention the activities of the village Environmental Group, who have undertaken sterling work improving the look of the village with their planting and weeding amongst other activities. The group can be seen regularly throughout the growing season normally on their knees, weeding and sprucing up the village and green areas. Our thanks go to Chris, Tracey her mum Sue and Aileen for their efforts and I would ask that any resident who would like to get involved with the girls would be made most welcome.

Residents will have noticed an increase in litter/dog bins in the village particularly in the High Road area. Again lobbying and pressure by our Ward councillors has proved beneficial. Dog fouling continues to be a problem and I would implore all dog owners to clean up after their pets to protect the health and well being of children who can be badly affected.

For those residents who are interested in knowing what development is taking place in the village, our Clerk is going to set up a dedicated web-page on the Parish councils internet site which shows planning applications submitted for development within the village. On this issue applications within the village have mainly involved domestic extension/conservatories, but recently an application was submitted for the extension of Edlington cemetery which residents will be aware is wholly within Warmsworth. The extension involves the purchase of the adjacent field and the erection of fencing around the perimeter and access via the existing cemetery. Also included are improvements for parking and an extension to the existing building for the benefit of patrons and employees. Residents may not be aware, but three of your Parish Councillors also serve on Edlington Town council and have been actively involved in the project to ensure that Warmsworth's interests are protected. Permission has been granted and work is ongoing. Residents may wish to know that the cemetery is one of the best kept in the area.

Another application involves the construction of a temporary access road for the construction of a fish pass at the weir on the river Don. The road passes through the sensitive and historically important area of Levitt Hagg and the SSSI. The Parish Council, although not against the fish pass have objected to the route of the road. We also understand that there is an intention to construct a hydro scheme in the same area to generate electricity at the falls, but as yet very little information has been seen and we await detail for consideration.

The only other major issue in the village is the future of the library. Residents will be aware that DMBC have a moratorium on library closures, but be in no doubt the library will close if we as a community do not become involved in its operation. To that end a consultation document was delivered to each household seeking residents' views. A public meeting was then held to discuss the situation and from that meeting resident volunteers were identified who agreed to become involved in community participation in the library. A further meeting is scheduled for 24th May with the Executive DMBC officer responsible for libraries, to which the volunteers have been invited. It is hoped that this meeting will identify our next move and a willingness of DMBC to recognise the commitment of residents to retain the library. Further information will be forthcoming following that meeting.

A Wormley
Chairman

Summary of Accounts

2009/10 £		2010/11 £
	RECEIPTS	
50,000	Precept	42,000
13,155	Hall lettings	15,422
1,100	Allotment Rent	1,100
163	Bank interest	56
1,000	Playing field rents	1,150
0	Grants	0
5,346	VAT refund	2,465
587	Double rating grant	587
686	Miscellaneous	694
72,037	Total receipts	63,474
	PAYMENTS	
15,572	Staffing costs	15,742
167	Section 137	368
2,478	Allotments	2,917
8,556	Community centre	8,914
4,856	Administration	4,441
600	Audit	460
3,066	Grounds Maintenance	2,748
2,465	VAT	2,674
415	Publicity	596
0	Members	0
13,077	Misc/contingency	15,100
613	Parish Plan	1,345
51,863	Total payments	55,305
	Brought forward 1 April 2010	74,282
	Add receipts	63,474
		137,756
	Less payments	55,305
	Carried forward 31 March 2011	£82,451

Parish Council Meetings Dates for 2011/12

Monday:
20 June, 18 July, 15 August,
19 September, 17 October,
21 November, 16 January 2012,
20 February, 19 March and 16 April
at 7pm

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