



WARMSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Report 2011/12

Chairman's Report

It is once again that time of year when it is my privilege as Chairman of the Parish Council to report on the past year's activities by the Council. I wish to again place on record my personal thanks and appreciation to our Clerk, Caretaker and my fellow Councillors for their outstanding support and commitment to the village and the residents over the last 12 months.

Unfortunately, fairly soon after the re-election of all your Councillors last year, Steve Butters had to tender his resignation for personal reasons. Steve served the Council well with his considered views on any issue and he will be sadly missed. The vacancy left by Steve was advertised and eventually Janet Szlamp was co-opted to serve on the Council. Janet's background was with the local authority and her knowledge and experience of the workings of local government were recognised as an asset to the Council and we hope Janet enjoys her role in the Council.

As I have previously reported in issues of the 'Warmsworth Chronicle', the Council has been particularly active in maintaining and improving the valuable assets it controls on behalf of the village. These are namely; the community centre and cottage, the King George cricket field and Lions Football Club changing rooms and the allotments. I will briefly report on the various issues we have addressed during the year on each of these together with other issues which the Parish Council has been involved.

It may be appropriate to begin with the financial situation.

Finance – Residents will remember that in April 2011, the Parish Council levied a village precept of £40,000. This was slightly down on the previous year and reflected the considerations and aspirations which we felt were necessary to satisfy our obligations to residents and the village in the management of their assets. We also considered that we could fund some improvements and facilities elsewhere in the village. Included in this report is a summary of last year's accounts. It will be noted that income and expenditure for the year almost balanced out, with a slight surplus of £369, indicating your Councils firm commitment to keep within it's budget. A more surprising coincidence is the identical figures for income over the last two years.

One obvious figure from the accounts is the amount of income generated by the use of the community centre, which at over £17,500 represents almost 28% of the Councils revenue. This is an extremely valuable income stream and allows the Council the flexibility to target expenditure in a cost effective way. A substantial amount of this income derives from the rental paid by the Pre-School. The group has occupied the centre for many years serving not only our children but also grandchildren and, I suspect, great grandchildren. So it is with regret, that we may soon be losing the Pre-School to new premises to enable them to expand, have a larger outside play area and to be more flexible with the setting-out of the children's equipment, which unfortunately, we are unable to do at the centre due to other users. The loss of this income was a major consideration in our deliberations in setting the precept for 2012/13.

On the expenditure side, there has been an increase of approximately £8000 over the previous year, the prominent reason being an increase in the misc/contingency category of over £9000. This figure includes expenditure on the refurbishment of the Lions changing rooms on the King George cricket field which I will report on later. This additional expenditure also had a knock-on

effect on the VAT payments. The remainder of the figures on the expenditure side are as expected and we would anticipate no adverse change in the coming year.

Looking forward, the loss of the Pre-School income to the Council is substantial, but not disastrous. We have obviously seriously considered our expenditure requirements for the coming year and have tempered our expectations to reflect the shortfall and also the austere times we are experiencing. We have as in the previous year targeted our resources on maintaining and improving Council assets and also included some money to assist local groups in their endeavours for the village. The overall result, as you will have seen from your recent Council Tax demand is no increase in the precept of £40,000, roughly £34 extra on a band D property.

Community Centre – As I have indicated above, the centre continues to provide a valuable income stream and I would again invite any group or organisation wishing to use the centre to get in touch with our Clerk, Caretaker or any Councillor. During the year the wooden floors in the two front rooms were sanded and re-varnished, a small serving hatch was installed in the kitchen for more convenient transfer of refreshments to the new hall and some further upgrades to the electrics undertaken.

No further money has been included to renovate and refurbish the cottage. In the circumstances the work has a lower priority and will be revisited when financial conditions are more favourable. The building will continue to be monitored and any deterioration in its condition will be addressed as appropriate.

King George Cricket Field – As reported earlier the majority of the increase in the Council's expenditure last year was the cost of work on the Lions changing rooms. It is worth me providing a little more detail as to the circumstances of the decision to carry out the work. As I indicated, it was intended to set-aside money from the precept over a three year period to fund an extension for which planning permission had been obtained by the Lions. As the rewiring work would involve major refurbishment on completion it was decided to consider the repair or replacement of the gas boiler and central heating system, with which there had always problems. After consultation with the Lions the Council took the decision that it would be cost effective to embark on a complete refurbishment, including the removal of the gas boiler and central heating system and replacement with storage radiators, refurbishment of the kitchen, replacement toilets and wash basins and complete re-decoration throughout; to be funded using the monies set aside for the extension and the rewiring and some from reserves. The work was contracted to a local resident tradesman and after some initial hiccups was satisfactorily completed and I am happy to report, in a recent letter to the Parish Council, is much appreciated by the Lions.

Repairs have been carried out on the main gate to the King George cricket field and refurbishment has been carried out to one of the kissing gates. The whole of the field, apart from the cricket square, has been treated with weed killer and regular maintenance together with children's play area is ongoing. Litter is still an issue and Councillors along with DMBC personnel carried out an extensive litter-pick on the field during the year. This will be considered again this coming year as necessary.

Allotments – The Council considered the request of the Allotments Holders Association to repair the main entrance to the allotments from Sheffield Road due to the poor state of the road surface which had deteriorated over a number of years and consequently funded a new kerbed entrance road part-way into the allotments site. Yorkshire Water, the site owners were approached for a contribution towards the upgrading of the road, but since the reservoir site is no longer operational they felt any contribution would not be beneficial and declined to provide any support. The Allotments Holders Association is in the process of trying to obtain additional funding for its completion.

As I have regularly indicated, it is the Council's ultimate intention to purchase the allotments site for the village and has been deliberately setting-aside money over a number of years for the eventual purchase. Additionally the Parish Council has agreed that if necessary they would seek additional short term top-up funding for the purchase of the allotments site, if Yorkshire Water suddenly put the site up for sale.

Residents will be aware that the last 18 months have been particularly dry, which has resulted in an increase in water usage by allotment holders. The Parish Council is responsible for the payment of water charges and recognised this increased use was unsustainable. Following input from members of the Allotments Holders Association the Parish Council decided it would pay for a fixed amount of water each year and that any water used above that amount would be paid for by the Allotments Holders Association. The Council recognised the difficulties of the Allotments Holders Association and agreed to fund the purchase of a water butt for each of the allotment plots. The water situation will continue to be monitored.

A further problem is that although there is an access gate onto the allotments from Warmsworth Halt, access is across a grass verge which makes entry difficult to aged or plot holders with mobility scooters. A request for financial assistance has been received from the Allotments Holders Association and the Council has agreed to fund a tarmac path across the grass and extending into the allotments site. The Council has also funded the cost of a 'portaloo' for the allotments site which we felt was a civilised and reasonable request. Costs of emptying and supplies will be borne by the Allotments Holders Association.

The Allotments Holders Association continue to maintain the allotments site to a very high standard, which is reflected by a waiting list for plots and they have also embarked on a project to 'lay' the Lunbreck Road hedge. This work has been suspended for the nesting season but when complete will encourage a thicker growth, provide more effective security to the site and will also be more manageable to maintain.

Other Activities – The Council has provided financial support for several groups in the village including the Scouts, who provide refreshments at the Carols in the Park event, the Environmental Group, who enhance the appearance of our village with planting, weeding and general tidying of public areas and Warmsworth Community Partnership, who organise Santa's Grotto, Carols in the Park, the Halloween Walk and more recently the running of the library with volunteers from the village. The Council will continue to consider supporting any group which strives to improve our village and provides benefits to its residents. The gala was again a great success with good weather and substantial attendees. We look forward to a repeat this year. We again thank all those involved.

A Wormley
Chairman

Freedom of Information Act

The Parish Council has adopted the Model Publication Scheme, which can be viewed on the Parish Council website - www.warmsworthparishcouncil.org/documents.htm

Parish Councillor Attendance Record

Councillor	Monthly PC meeting	Councillor	Monthly PC meeting
A Wormley	11 out of 11	C Pattison	10 out of 11
G Mullis	10 out of 11	D Somers	9 out of 11
T Farrar	9 out of 11	J Szlamp	3 out of 4
P Medlock	10 out of 11	S White	10 out of 11
R Mullis	11 out of 11		

Un-audited Summary of Accounts

2010/11		2011/12
£		£
RECEIPTS		
42,000	Precept	60,000
15,422	Hall lettings	17,635
1,100	Allotment Rent	1,100
56	Bank interest	178
1,150	Playing field rents	1,150
2,465	VAT refund	2,674
587	Double rating grant	0
694	Miscellaneous	737
63,474	Total receipts	83,474

The £60,000 precept figure for £2011/12 includes £20,000 for 2012/13 received on 30 March 2012

PAYMENTS		
15,742	Staffing costs	16,017
368	Section 137	300
2,917	Allotments	2,860
8,914	Community centre	6,476
4,441	Administration	4,066
460	Audit	475
2,748	Grounds Maintenance	3,085
2,674	VAT	4,621
596	Publicity	685
0	Members	198
15,100	Misc/contingency	24,322
1,345	Parish Plan	0
55,305	Total payments	63,105

Brought forward 1 April 2011	82,451
Add receipts	<u>83,474</u>
	165,925
Less payments	<u>63,105</u>
Carried forward 31 March 2012	£102,820

Contact Details

Councillors

Anthony Wormley (Chairman)
01302-854167
anthony.wormley@btinternet.com

Georgina Mullis (Vice Chairman)
01302-851901
georgina.mullis@hotmail.co.uk

Tracey Farrar
07835-453064

Patricia Medlock
01302-850864

Raymond Mullis (Ward Member)
01302-851901
ray.mullis@hotmail.co.uk

Christine Pattison
01302-853080
chrispattison1@hotmail.co.uk

Diane Somers
01302-854426

Janet Szlamp
01302-858212
janetszlamp@aol.com

Stewart White
01302-852498

Dennis Aitchison (Clerk)
01302-537370
warmsworth-clerk@live.co.uk
24 Cranwell Road, Cantley,
Doncaster DN4 6EP

Jill Sharp (Caretaker & bookings)
01302-858377
jtsharp@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Council Meetings Provisional dates for 2012/13

Monday at 7pm:
21 May, 18 June, 16 July, 20
August, 17 September, 15 October,
19 November, 21 January 2013,
18 February, 18 March and 15 April