

# HUSTHWAITE PARISH COUNCIL

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR MAY 2010 – APRIL 2011

At the annual parish meeting last May we were three Parish Councillors short, so the areas of responsibility within the council were assigned as follows: -

Peter Davison	- Easingwold & Villages Forum, Easingwold & District Council Liaison, Hambleton Play Partnership, Parish Plan Chair and Communications
Robin Houlston	- Highways and Police Liaison
Elaine Smith	- Easingwold & District Council Liaison, YLCA and Vice-chair
Carol Fenwick	- Beckwith Trust, Neighbourhood Watch, Public Footpaths, Risk Assessor, Street Lighting, Village Hall and Chair

At the bi-monthly meeting that followed, it was reported that new street lights had been installed in Prospect Cottages and the re-routing of the Public Footpath at Angram Grange would not be pursued due to objections from local residents. Peter advised the Council that the Recreation Area Committee had secured funding from LEADER for the Young Children's Play Area and adjacent Grass Play Area and a meeting had been arranged with Playscheme (the selected contractor) to discuss the project. He also informed us that the Stage 1 Community Spaces application for funding to install an Adventure Area & Fitness Trail had passed the vetting process and a facilitator would now work with the Recreation Area Committee on the more detailed Stage 2 application. The final piece of good news was that Broadacres had granted £455 towards providing a seat and some litter bins in the Recreation Area.

Before the July meeting the new Village Green Seats had been installed on an extended concrete base and the Village Green Railings had been painted. Notification had been received that the installation of passing places on Carlton Road and Malton Street was postponed until next Financial Year and Barrie informed the Council that no further progress had been made regarding the structural problems on the Amplecarr. It was unanimously agreed that we should continue to pester Highways for a speedy solution to the problem. Peter reported that the Recreation Area Annual General Meeting had been well attended and the attendees had been treated to a pictorial presentation of the developments on site over the last two years produced by Mark Gambles. It was also noted that Phase 2 of the Recreation Area was taking shape and should be completed by mid-August. Peter informed the Council that a programme of sporting activities would again be organized for children each week during the school summer holidays, a day of Children's Summer Team Fun was planned for 4<sup>th</sup> September and the Play Rangers were due to host an event there on 11<sup>th</sup> September so the area was being well used.

By the September meeting the Village Green Seats had been treated with preservative and the painting of Kendrew Green Railings had been completed. The Parish Council were asked to comment on proposed changes to Concessionary Fares and agreed NOT to support the suggested limited time use. The Amplecarr situation was again discussed at length and a letter expressing our extreme dissatisfaction was sent to Highways. It was reported that our request for funding from the Beckwith Trust towards the installation of fencing, with gated access, across the lower part of the Recreation Area field had been approved and donations for two benches had been received from two anonymous parishioners. Peter informed the Council that the Young Children's Play Area equipment had been installed and the area was now only waiting for the laying of the impact absorbing rubber surface for completion. Also a bench and litter bins had been purchased with the money received from Broadacres.

On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November the Young Children's Play Area was officially opened by Mike Horrocks, manager of the LEADER programme, who assisted with the funding application and the Parish & Methodist Churches provided refreshments for the sixty guests who attended.

A fortnight later I was again honoured to lay the Parish Council Wreath at the Remembrance service at St Nicholas Church. At the Parish Council meeting later that week we discussed the Amplecarr situation yet again and it was agreed to write to Councillor Dadd regarding our frustration at the lack of action. This is also the meeting at which we set the precept for the following year and, given the financial climate, it was unanimously agreed to maintain our precept at £7000 for the sixth year in succession. Therefore provision was made for development the Recreation Area, Village Hall Maintenance and Cemetery Extension fund as well as the ongoing costs for grass cutting, insurance, annual audit and, as 2011 is an election year, a sum was added to cover Parish Council Election costs. Peter reported that the fencing, litter bins and seats had been installed in the Recreation Area and the Annual Safety Inspection had been completed by Playsafety Ltd.

Just before Christmas the Recreation Area Committee were advised that their Changing Spaces Bid had been successful and £34,746 had been awarded for the provision of an Adventure Area & Fitness Trail and upgrading of the access track.

At the January meeting we were joined by members of the Village Hall Committee who wanted to discuss the possibility of applying for lottery funding to build a new Village Hall. The Parish Council wholeheartedly supported the idea and it was decided that if parishioners were in agreement then the Village Hall Committee would proceed with the application. We were advised by Councillor Patmore that the Amplecarr situation was being delayed due to legalities but the Parish Council agreed to request a detailed work programme and expected timescales. Peter informed us that, following the successful Changing Spaces bid, the Recreation Area Committee were seeking tenders for the installation of the Adventure Area & Fitness Trail and the upgrading of the Access Track and it was hoped that work could commence in April.

By the March meeting, Highways had created a one way system on the Amplecarr and traffic entering the village from the A19 was being diverted via Easingwold. After lengthy discussion the Clerk was requested to write to Highways with some suggestions for a way forward. Other items discussed were the Equality Act, the closure of Easingwold Library, the discontinuation of local Bus Services, the disappearance of the Cemetery Wheelie Bins, the possibility of nominating our Recreation Area as a Queen Elizabeth Field and a new cheaper insurance quote from Zurich. Peter reported that the Recreation Area Committee had considered the tenders submitted and had unanimously agreed to award the contracts to Image Playgrounds of Sheriff Hutton and Mark Fairweather of Helperby!

During the last year we have been asked to consider 13 planning applications, ranging from the installation of a wind turbine to the felling of a tree and the Parish Council had no objections to any of these. One application was withdrawn and Hambleton approved ten and are still considering the other two.

Hopefully we have kept parishioners aware of the activities in which we have been involved with regular articles in the Husthwaite Newsletter and reports in local papers. Councillors have attended meetings of the Beckwith Trust, Easingwold & Villages Forum, Hambleton Play Partnership, Husthwaite Village Hall, Husthwaite Neighbourhood Watch, Husthwaite Recreation Area, Yorkshire Local Councils Associations and District Parish Liaison Committee. This, in addition to our regular meetings, has kept us all busy throughout the past year and I hope that we have all represented our parishioners to the best of our ability.

Unfortunately only four candidates stood for nomination at the recent Election of Parish Councillors in Husthwaite so we are still three Councillors short. Therefore I would like to invite any interested persons who would be willing to join our small, friendly group to inform any Councillor, or our Clerk, of your willingness to be co-opted onto Husthwaite Parish Council.

I would like to end my report by thanking my fellow councillors for their hard work and support over the last year. I would also like to express our gratitude to Barrie, our Clerk, who performs his duties so skillfully, to Percy Featherstone, our retiring District Councillor, who regularly attended our meetings, kept us extremely well informed and supported most of our village projects and events and finally to Caroline Patmore, our County Councillor and new District Councillor.