

Council the completed annual return would be submitted to PKF Littlejohn for external audit.

The Annual Governance statement 2016/17 was approved by the Parish Council and signed by the Clerk and Chair.

The Annual Accounting Statement 2016/17 was approved by the Parish Council and signed by Chair.

5. Chair's Report

The Chair reported that The Parish Council has been involved in a number of issues over the last 12 months. As in previous years this had been done so in something of a bubble with little or no interest being shown by residents of the Parish. The Parish Council continued to operate without a member to represent Gransmoor, although informal arrangements remain in place for the management of the Gransmoor notice board. It was noted again that a volunteer from Gransmoor to serve on the Parish Council and represent the interests of the village more directly than they are currently able to would be very much welcomed.

The Chair was pleased to report that the Parish Council had been successful in recruiting a new Parish Clerk, Miss Jennifer Hobson, to administer activities and keep the council on the legal straight and narrow. Sharing her services with Rudston Parish Council had led to economies of scale and offered very good value for money to the residents of the Parish and excellent support for the Chair and the other members of the Council.

East Riding of Yorkshire Council (ERYC) planning department continued to use Parish Councils point of contact in the planning application process and this was set to continue. This year about a dozen applications both residential, mostly for extensions to properties, and from businesses had been considered by the Parish Council. The Parish Council had offered detailed comments to ERYC on their 2017 revision of the 'Statement of Community Involvement' which describes how they intend to consult with and involve communities when it comes to the planning system and proposals for development. The Parish Council had expressed strong reservations about the decision, promulgated, without consultation, in 'Your East Riding', to cease notifying neighbouring properties individually about

planning applications which could affect them. The had also expressed concern that this decision had been made and promulgated in advance of the close of consultation on the Statement of Community Involvement and did not feature in that document. Further reservations were expressed about the fitness for purpose of the proposed move to 'notify' residents by relying on notices attached to lamp posts, gate posts and boundary hedges/fences in the vicinity of the proposed development. Notwithstanding the comments above, the Parish Council had continued to enjoy a very constructive and positive relationship with Planning Officers, who had demonstrably taken account of the views of the Parish Council put forward on individual applications over the last year.

The Parish Council had continued to represent local residents on the Anaerobic Digester Liaison Group, comprising representatives from the Planning Department, the Developer (Burton Agnes Renewables) and the Regulators for the building and commissioning of the Anaerobic Digester on Burton Agnes Estate property. Burton Agnes Renewables organised a visit to the facility for residents. Those who attended found it interesting and useful and it is hoped that more will take up the invitation to a visit to take place later in the year.

In concert with Burton Agnes School, the Parish Council had been successful in securing from ERYC agreement to install school warning signs on the A614 in an attempt to deter motorists from exceeding the 30mph speed limit through the village. This has been an ongoing problem for a number of years and there have been some 'near misses'. The Parish Council is considering the possibility of commissioning vehicle activated speed warnings to be installed on the approach to the Rudston Road by the village pond. This would have to be paid for by the Parish Council and, at some £4.5K is well beyond its means. Sources of finance for the project are being considered.

The Parish Council had a number of incidences of inconsiderate parking on pavements in the village. The issue was taken up with the Police who, despite initially informing us that it did not fall within their remit, agreed to follow up on the reports. The Chair noted that this remained an intermittent ongoing issue and would ask residents, please, to refrain from blocking footpaths with cars.

Following a donation from the North Wolds Lions Club, the Parish Council had installed litter bins at the bus stop in Burton Agnes and the lay-by on the A614 just outside Thornholme. The cost was covered from the donation topped up with funds from the Lissett Wind Farm Fund. The bins are regularly emptied by ERYC. In the case of the Thornholme bin, there had been a noticeable reduction in the amount of litter left in the lay-by, although it appeared there were still some for whom a short walk to the bin was too much trouble. The residents of Gransmoor elected to use their portion of the Lions Club grant to plant a commemorative tree in the village.

The Parish Council had, in addition to the planning consultation referred to above, responded to consultations on the Mineral Plan, the review of Landscape Characteristic classification (this has a potential strong impact on the sort of development which could be approved in our neighbourhoods and on the Wolds more generally) and the NHS proposals on emergency care facilities. In the latter the Parish Council, as did ERYC, raised concerns about the proposals to concentrate emergency care in fewer locations and the speed with which the change was planned. We expressed our view that none of the options being consulted appeared to provide a satisfactory service to residents. The concerns raised by ERYC and ourselves, among others appeared to have been disregarded and the consultation resulted in the NHS preferred option being adopted. ERYC has requested the referral of the outcome of the consultation to the Secretary of State on the grounds that the consultation was flawed and that the resulting proposals do not meet the interests of the residents in the East Riding.

The Chair reported that the Parish Council had re-instated the programme of inspections for the Burton Agnes Play Park which had lapsed. Thanks were due to the Treasurer who picked up, on a trawl through previous years' accounts, that the Parish Council were no longer being billed for these by ERYC. The fact that ERYC were no longer carrying these inspections out did not appear to have been relayed to the Parish Council at the time, despite ERYC having circulated affected Clerks. A new annual programme has now been agreed. The first of these inspections had been undertaken and action was being taken with respect to the observations made in the report. The Chair observed that the Play Park consumes far and away the lion's share of the Parish Precept. The costs of renting the field from ERYC and keeping it cut during the summer months, plus the costs of

inspections amount to well over £800, more than double the amount spent by the Parish Council on any other single recurring item. To this needs to be added the costs of any maintenance identified by the inspections. Whilst supporting the principle of encouraging physical activity and providing a focal point for parents and their children, the level of use of the facility does need to justify the cost and the Chair stated that this should be kept under review.

The Chair was delighted to report that a long held wish by the Parish Council to introduce some facilities for the younger residents came to fruition this year with the establishment of a Youth Club at the Sports Club. The Club meets on a Friday evening. It had started slowly, but it is hoped that more youngsters will come along to join their friends. Thanks were due to Clive Neale and Jean Boynton for getting this off the ground.

The Parish Council had continued to support the Driffield School Twilight Bus service which was well used by local students and enables them to attend after school activities and be sure of being able to get home afterwards.

The Parish Council had also continued to make a small donation towards the upkeep of the War Memorial in Burton Agnes.

The Chair reported that there had now been an ongoing (2 years+) correspondence with the representative of the Treasurer of the Church Committee in order to elicit information relating to the demand received for a very large sum in terms of the Parish budget (and more than double the highest paid by other Parish Councils) for maintenance of the churchyard and cemetery. This was not a statutory duty of the Parish Council and before agreeing to spend residents' money on this it was considered that the Parish Council needed to understand the basis on which they were being invoiced and what the money covered. At a very helpful meeting with Rev Anderson and members of the Church Committee it emerged that when the contribution was first requested some years back, it had been requested as a donation and for a much lower sum. It appeared to have morphed into an invoiced demand (and more than doubled in size) in the interim. It was agreed that it was not appropriate to issue invoices. The Church Committee would investigate what had gone wrong and would approach the Parish Council with a more

appropriate request for support more in line with the level of support given by other Parishes for this activity.

Once again the Chair was glad to report that the Parish Council, alone among the constituent elements of the Council Tax raised from residents, has not raised its Precept for 2017/18. This has now remained at a constant level for over 4 years. The Parish finances remain stable and viable for which we thank the vigilance of the Treasurer. As mentioned above, the agreement with Rudston Parish Council to share a Clerk has resulted in a saving to the Parish as clearly a lot of the work required by both Parish Councils overlaps. Once audited, the Parish accounts will be posted on the Parish website.

The Chair concluded her report by expressing her thanks to all the officers at ERYC and the Ward Councillors, particularly Councillor Evison who had gone well beyond the call of duty when giving advice and assistance throughout the year.

6. Election of Chair and Treasurer

Mr Neale proposed that Mrs Burt remain as Chair and that Mr Burt remain as Treasurer. This was seconded by Mrs Boynton.

Mrs Burt only agreed to continue in the role of Chair because of the very high quality of support she was receiving from the new Clerk which had made a huge difference to the role. Mrs Burt did express her wish that some of the other members take on more of an active role as councillors.

Mr Burt agreed that he would continue the role of Treasurer until the next elections.

The meeting finished at 19.25.