

## **Annual Meeting of the Parish 4<sup>th</sup> April 2024 – Reports**

### **Chair's Report 2024**

The year 2023 – 2024 started with an election for Parish councilors, of which only one new councilor put themselves forward. Councilors Eric Ellis and Robert Barr, with over 90 years served in the Parish council between them, made the decision not to stand and the remaining councilors remained unopposed.

We gave a warm welcome to new additions to the parish council in Sarah Shaw, Steven Rusby and Robin Herbert whom have proven themselves to be an asset to both the council and the village.

Parking and speeding within the village remain an ongoing issue, despite the current measures taken. However, we continue to pursue other avenues of resolve. The problems experienced with pot holes around the village and surrounding areas are now being addressed by Barnsley Council whom have begun work on some of the worst of the offending crevices.

A section of land adjacent to Dark Lane has been offered to the council for use of the village and the Parish have greatly accepted this offer.

Many grants have been gifted to an array of village organisations over the last 12 months and we hope to continue to award limited grants where possible as the year progresses.

The Council also had the pleasure of awarding each child at Cawthorne School a souvenir to mark the late Queen Elizabeth's platinum jubilee and to mark the coronation of King Charles III.

Councilor Robert Barr was awarded the 'Freedom Of The Village' for his long service as a councilor, the Lord Lieutenant of South Yorkshire presented Robert with his scroll.

I would like to thank my fellow councilors and Ken Arundel (Internal Auditor) for their unwavering assistance and hard work over the past year as this has been greatly appreciated by both myself and village residents and beyond.

Last but not least, we are losing our very efficient clerk, Mrs Maxine Bashforth who has decided to take up retirement. I and many others, have had the pleasure of working alongside Maxine for many years and she has always shown excellence in every way. On behalf of myself and all councilors, I would like to thank Maxine for her dedication to the Parish over the years and wish you all the best for your future.

I would like to finish with a promise that Cawthorne Parish Council will continue to serve the Parish to the best of its ability and we welcome any/all input from fellow parishioners.

Councilor Margaret Broadhead

Chairwoman.

## **Planning Committee report 2024**

For the planning committee year ending April 2024

Total number of applications 21 with 7 considered at full council and the remaining 14 by the planning committee

Of these the majority were extensions

There has been and will continue a trend towards buying the 60's/ 70's type bungalows with the intension of demolish and rebuild

As this has happened over a long period a precedent has been set ,with the only option, the Parish Council can suggest, is to pay attention to the design and materials used in these instances., along with probable traffic disruption

Cllr David Barron

## **Report from Cawthorne Parish Council Budget and Finance Committee**

The committee met on 13 December 2023. The contractors for grass cutting, hedge cutting in the cemetery, tree work, gardening and care of cremation plots were discussed and confirmed. A sum of £4000 was agreed for grant aid including recurring grants of £50 to the Royal British Legion for the poppy wreath and £1000 to the Village Hall, leaving a balance of £2950 for applications in the 2024/25 financial year. An amended budget for 2024/25 was discussed and agreed and a revised precept of £26,000 was set. The Clerk announced at this meeting that she would be retiring at the end of May so future remuneration for the post of clerk was discussed. The date of the next meeting of the Budget and Finance Committee was set for 11 December 2024.

Cllr J Wilson

## **Report from Cawthorne Parish Council Staffing Committee**

A new Staffing Committee was established in 2024 comprising 5 Parish Councillors. The terms of reference for the committee were produced and agreed by the full Parish Council. The committee has worked very hard in the first few months of 2024 producing a Recruitment and Selection policy and all the associated documents to enable a new Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to be recruited. The recruitment process has been completed on schedule. Four applications were received and three applicants invited for interview. One candidate withdrew leaving two candidates to be interviewed. Following the interviews a recommendation has been made to the full Parish Council for approval to appoint one of the candidates. The new Clerk will commence employment on 1 June 2024, but will meet with

Maxine prior to this to effect a handover including attending the May Parish Council Meeting.

Cllr J Wilson

### **Cemetery Committee Report**

The Cemetery Committee has met twice this council year, in October 2023 and March 2024, the February meeting postponed to March due to snow.

As neither meeting had all members present, a chairman had not been appointed for the year, but one was appointed for each meeting.

The cemetery regulations were reviewed and amended to include no glass containers (on safety grounds). The fees were reviewed and an increase of 10% was recommended to full council which was approved. Work in the cemetery and the churchyard was discussed and another cemetery/churchyard tidy-up is scheduled for later this month. Previous tidy-ups have been well attended.

Maxine Bashforth On behalf of the committee

### **Financial report as at 31.3.2024**

The Parish Council continues to be on a sound financial footing.

The accounts for the year ending 31st March 2023 were audited by both the internal and external auditors last summer and were found to be in good order. In accordance with legislation, the audit report was displayed on the Parish Council Notice Board for 14 days after receipt of it and are now displayed on the parish council website.

Bank balance as at 31st March 2024 was in the region of £51,190. Of this, £5,000 is earmarked for expenditure on the Traffic Regulation Order (installation of road markings including double yellow lines), £8,000 towards expenditure if the parish council decide to take over an area of woodland. It also includes the sponsorship money for the hanging baskets for summer 2024 which will be paid out in the next financial year.

Total receipts for 2023/4 were in the region of £31,773 which includes £1,865 VAT reclaimed from the previous financial year, and £1,564 hanging basket sponsorship.

Total payments for 2023/24 were in the region of £28,464. This is £6,417 less than anticipated. It was expected that the £5,000 for the TRO would be spent this financial year but the project is still not been concluded,

A total of £3,820 out of the budgeted £4,000 was given out as grant aid in the financial year 2023/24. Grants given to Cawthorne Rainbows and Brownies for Easter activities, Summer Fete group, Over 60's for audio equipment, Cawthorne Primary school towards a defibrillator box and also a commemorative tree, Cawthorne Village Hall, Cawthorne Cricket Club towards repairs to the shower room

floor, Cawthorne All Saints Church towards the roof repairs and to Cawthorne Toddler Group for a new advertisement banner and new toys.

The precept for 2023/24 was increase to £25,600, with any shortfall coming from reserves. BMBC passed on the Council Tax Support Grant which meant that Cawthorne Parish Council received the full precept figure asked for.

Reserves are adequate for any unforeseen events.

Budgeted running costs for the next financial year 2024/25 are in the region of £45,331 including grant aid, £3,000 for possible TRO for Darton Road, , £8,500 for the woodland and £1,000 towards future headstone safety inspection. The precept demand has been increased to £26,000.

The accounts for the year 2023/24 will be audited this summer. The notice of Public Rights and publication of unaudited accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 will be made available by 1<sup>st</sup> July. The audited accounts will be displayed on the parish council website by 1<sup>st</sup> September.

Also on the website there is a list of councillor responsibilities, details of land held by the Parish Council and minutes and agendas for all council meetings.

S. Maxine Bashforth, Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer.

31st March 2024