

# Claypole Parish Council

## Chairman's Annual Report

The Parish Council meets each month excepting August, normally on the first Monday of each month at the Village Hall. Prior to each meeting there is an opportunity for residents to raise and discuss any issues or concerns.

Parish Councillors are elected or co-opted depending on the situation at the time of any vacancies.

Councillors and Parish Council Meeting Attendances during 2008-9 are Trevor Allen (10); Andy Attewell (5) ; Gillian Bignall (10); Conrad Sharp (6); Jane Taylor (9); Robert Prabucki (10); Dean Reville(8); Bob Oakham(7); Sue Frayne(11)

Thanks to the Village Hall for providing a location for the Parish Council Meetings.

No expenses were provided for Councillors during the period.

Matters dealt with during the year by the Parish Council included

Setting up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme with the help of Sally Picker from Lincolnshire Police. A small number of areas are now in operation and further volunteers are sought to extend the scheme area.

Issues with the Common Land area – perhaps more usually known as the picnic area adjacent to the river bridge – were resolved during the year.

The anti-social behaviour of some young people in the village was a major concern and the Police attended a public meeting with residents to hear about concerns and explain the actions being taken.

The PC was required to undertake an annual risk assessment and review Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. There were some minor amendments made to these documents to reflect latest best practice and advice.

Fernwood Parish Council came into being during this year and representatives of that council attended a meeting of CPC to observe how the meetings were run to help establish their arrangements.

A container was obtained for £1230 to house the equipment at the playing fields. The container needed to be sited in a temporary location as the ground was unfit to take the offloading. The container is now sited in the intended location between the tennis courts and the play area and is proving to be a useful resource for the Cricket Club and Football teams. Thanks to Garry Henderson for painting the container. A new mower and roller were purchased as a result of obtaining a grant for £8795. These will enable the grounds to be maintained to a very high standard.

Rospa Inspection of the play area identified some minor works that were undertaken. A review of requirements for the play area was undertaken and input from interested parties

was very helpful in formulating our proposals. Quotes were obtained from a number of suppliers and currently the PC is planning to commit about £15,000 to match a grant of £15,000 to purchase new equipment. The Parish Council agreed that there should be no charge to either the Football or Cricket clubs for use of the playing field. A hiring agreement is now in place for all other users.

During the year a number of Highways related matters were successfully dealt with. An annual walk through the village with the Regional Highways Engineer responsible for maintenance enabled a plan of actions to be agreed. One example was the repeated appearance of a pothole on the River Bridge. Inspection involved engineers using a rubber dinghy on a very cold day to establish that the structure was still sound. The pothole was successfully repaired. During early 2009 concerns about water running across the road on the bends at Gretton Close becoming a traffic hazard were acted upon by the Highways and necessary work completed.

South Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council introduced a very successful Call Connect bus service which is providing a very useful service for residents. To help with the regular bus services the PC has endeavoured to install a bus shelter. This has been a protracted process due to the planning process and changes to the grant process. The Village Hall have agreed to allow the bus shelter to be placed within their grounds, between the two large mature trees on Main Street and a design is being completed. It is planned that the design will incorporate seating to both sides to benefit both people waiting for the bus service and those wanting to enjoy the Village Hall gardens.

Planning applications are formally considered by the Parish Council and views are forwarded to Planning Officers and the Planning Committee. The PC continues to keep a watching brief on the future development of the village and to ensure that any proposals meet the local development framework requirements.

The PC responded to a request for funding from L.I.V.E.S in the village and donated £550.

The PC website – [www.claypole-pc.gov.uk](http://www.claypole-pc.gov.uk) continues to evolve and hopefully is a useful channel of communication in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The Parish Precept proposed for 2009-10 was kept at the same per household as 2008-9.

A thank you to all Councillors for giving up time to help with the Parish Council activities which are usually more time consuming than the Council Meeting minutes reflect. Cathy Clark, the Parish Clerk, has once again managed PC affairs in a very professional and effective manner.

Robert Prabucki  
Chairman  
Claypole Parish Council  
May 2009