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Chairman's Report 17 May 2011

During the past year Higham Parish Council welcomed two new Councillors: John Metcalfe and David Johnston. The beginning of this month saw all eight Parish Councillors re-elected for a new term, along with James Starkie as our Borough Councillor.

Once again we produced four quarterly issues of the village newspaper, the Higham 'Spout'. This publication goes from strength to strength under the editorship of James Starkie and the able compilation of Councillor Christine Lomax and Margaret Ingham.

The village website www.highamparishcouncil.com continued to be well used by people from both within and outside the village. The website contains details of Parish Council members, Council activities including meeting minutes and planning applications, with sections and links concerning other village interests.

The Over 60's Christmas Party continues to be a popular village attraction, and was a great success.

The Annual Village Meeting once again took place. The various organisations, groups and clubs in the village gave presentations and answered questions. The event was well attended by villagers, who enjoyed wine, cheese and pâté after the official proceedings.

We have continued the maintenance of the Recreation Ground, Chapel Graveyard, and the mowing of the bypass verges at both entrances to the village. To add to the general tidiness of the village we recently held another successful Clean-up day.

In the Best Kept Village Competition we were judged as runner up in the Medium Sized Village Section, for this we were presented with the Ainsworth Cup and a certificate. This year we are entered in the Small Village Category. We encourage everybody to help us by making sure their immediate neighbourhood is neat and tidy for the six week period of judging from the beginning of June.

During the year we carried out work, supported by grants from Pendle Borough Council.

We resurfaced the Slack, enabling vehicles to access the car park more easily. Further work is due to be carried out on the car park this summer.

We completed a project involving installing kerbs and refurbishing the grass verges on Kiln Hill adjacent the Village Hall.

The second phase of the Clover Croft Development is well underway. Six houses in the first phase are occupied, the seventh being the show house. We welcome their occupants to the village, and hope they will participate in village affairs.

I'd like to thank all the Parish Councillors and our Parish Clerk for the work they do on behalf of the village, and together with them thank our County Councillor, Borough Councillor for the commitment they show in helping us trying to make this village a better place in which to live, and I commend this report to you.

Bernard Ingham
Chairman
Higham with West Close Booth Parish Council