

Higham with West Close Booth Parish Council

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Chairman's Report May 2008

I would say the past year, has been a year of losses and gains.

During this period, the Parish Council lost Gerry Thornhill, Valerie Skinner and John Jackson, but gained Richard Gadd, David Ellis and Michael Tetley. We also gained the Mayor of Pendle, disguised as our County Councillor, congratulations to Shelagh. Other gains were a particularly efficient Clerk in Penny McBurney and PCSO Matthew Hartup.

We also gained a SPID, a Parish Plan, and a Higham Website, but perhaps these were outweighed by the loss of Higham Post Office and Shop.

We gained grants which enabled us to refurbish the spout and to purchase IT equipment. Earlier this month we were awarded a grant to replace the bus shelter in the centre of the village with one of a more fitting design. We were also successful in being refunded a large sum of VAT which had not been reclaimed in previous years.

The general maintenance of the Recreation Ground and the Chapel Graveyard was continued, additional work was carried out in the Graveyard, including removing self-seeded saplings and general tidying up.

It was decided to issue a contract to mow the verges of the by-pass at both ends of the village, in order to enhance the entrance to the village, this was carried out throughout the summer.

The Parish Council had a Parish Spring-clean day, we financially supported the Village Hall and the Village Bonfire, which was a huge success. We propose to add our support to a Village Fete, which it is hoped to be held this summer.

The over 60's Christmas Party was again a great success thanks to the organisational skills of Councillor Watson and Mrs Earle, and other voluntary helpers.

The Clover Croft development was started during the year, but unfortunately work was suspended at Christmas due to Developer financial problems. We look forward to the work being restarted shortly, the houses being built and occupied, and this scar being removed from our village.

The Parish Council recently conducted a tour of the village, listing items that need renewing, renovating, or simply doing. The items on this list will be undertaken over the following months and years, as money and time allows.

I hope that we, as relatively new Councillors, a new Parish Clerk, and an energetic Borough Councillor and County Councillor will endeavour to serve Higham to the best of our ability over the coming year.

Bernard Ingham
Chairman
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