

## Chairman's Report 15 May 2012

The Parish Council maintained its full complement of eight Councillors throughout the year, meeting every month together with Borough Councillor James Starkie and County Councillor Shelagh Derwent. A representative of Lancashire Constabulary has attended most meetings. Occasionally members of the public have attended. I feel it would be helpful to us, if more people came, so that we could gain feedback from our activities.

The 'Spout' has continued as quarterly village newspaper. This contains news and pictures of village activities which have taken place, proposed events and snippets of news regarding Villagers. It continues to be edited by James Starkie, with information collected by Margaret Ingham, Ann Stevenson and Christine Lomax.

The village website is 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.

Over 60 people attended the Senior's Christmas Party. They enjoyed the turkey dinner, and were entertained by Glen South.

The Parish Council have retained the services of last year's Maintenance Contractor for a further two years. This followed much praise concerning the superb job which he had done last year. The maintenance involved areas around the village including the Recreation Ground, Chapel Graveyard, and the mowing of the bypass verges at both entrances to the village.

We have once again entered the Best Kept Village Competition in the Small Village Category. This year Brian Sutcliffe has agreed to help with preparations prior to judging for the six week period from the beginning of June.

During the year we received a grant from Pendle Borough Council for a new bus shelter on the by pass near Fir Trees Lane to match the other two new ones in the village. It has been manufactured and should be fixed shortly. It is also hoped that this summer will see further improvements to the car park on Sabden Road.

The third phase of the Clover Croft Development is well underway. All the houses in the first phase and most in the second phase are now occupied. We welcome their occupants to the village, and hope they will participate in village affairs.

All the money has been received from the Clover Croft Developers for agreeing to the change to the Right of Way which goes to the Development. This money has been invested in short term bonds until it is decided how it will be used to benefit the village. The Developers has also agreed to pay the Parish Council for the continued use of the compound they use.

The horse chestnut tree in the centre of the village, which was planted to commemorate the Queen's Coronation, was removed in March following reports that it was diseased. It is hoped that it will be replaced later this year by a tree of a more suitable species, to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Additional boundary signs were fixed on most of the minor roads entering the Parish and a hardwood bench was manufactured and fixed at the top of the Playing Fields.

It is alleged that the jointly owned SPID is still available for the Parish to use. It last appeared in Higham last July, when it was passed to our adjoining Parish. We are told that it had been broken, but is now repaired. It has been spotted in Roughlee recently. We are hopeful it will return to Higham before its first anniversary.

Like most other Parishes we have our problems. Two of which are the same as most other Parishes - Parking and Dog Fouling.

Parking is a problem, especially through the village on Higham Hall Road from Clover Croft past the School to the by pass. As more residents get more cars, parking will become an increasingly worse problem. Without any land becoming available in the right place, to be used as a car park, there is no solution.

Steps have been taken by the School to improve parking by parents at School starting and finishing times. Time will tell whether there is any improvement.

The item which appears on every agenda and is discussed at every meeting is Dog Fouling. The Parish Council has made sure there are many dog bins around the village. We have also put up signs asking people to pick it up, we have had articles in the 'Spout' regarding the problem. It doesn't seem to be getting any better. There do seem to be more people with dogs around the village, most are responsible, you see them with their bags. Unfortunately some are not. I believe the only way we may improve the situation is to have a successful prosecution and for it to be publicised.

On behalf of the Parish Council, I'd like to thank our County Councillor and 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