

COPMANTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

2007-08

Chairman's Overview

Last May, Parish Council elections were held in Copmanthorpe for the first time in 16 years, following which Councillor Derek Bowen was elected as Chairman for the forthcoming year, succeeding Councillor Mike Irwin who had served in that position for ten years. Councillor Irwin's valuable contribution includes his leadership of a number of campaigns, most recently to save our village post office, a number of initiatives, notably the move to accreditation as a Quality Council, and the production of a leaflet about the work of the Parish Council which helped to ensure that an election was held last year. We were also pleased to welcome newly elected Councillor Brian Bell who serves as Vice-Chairman of the Roads and Footpaths Committee. The roles and responsibilities of other Councillors remain unchanged from last year, and our Clerk, Mrs Diane Greenwell, continues to undertake the day to day running of the Council.

In May last year we also welcomed newly elected City Councillors for the Rural West Ward – Paul Healey, Ian Gillies and Ben Hudson. Councillor Healey has particular responsibility for Copmanthorpe and has been involved in a number of issues affecting our village.

It is pleasing to report that the successful establishment of an Alcohol Exclusion Zone, covering the whole of the village, has resulted in a fall in the incidence of anti-social behaviour, particularly in the Low Green area. Litter continues to be a problem, but we now have the assistance of a street cleaner, Paul Cotton, for two days per week.

We are grateful to all those who run the various clubs, societies and organisations within the village, and are very happy to give whatever support, financial or otherwise, we can to help them in their endeavours. The social welfare of the community is our joint concern, and we all do what we can to keep Copmanthorpe a pleasant and attractive place in which to live and work.

Committee Reports

Planning

A total of 71 planning applications were received this year, a slight decrease on last year. These include 8 for new builds (3 last year), 9 for conservatories (12), 45 for domestic extensions of various kinds, 1 for an extension at the school for use as a library and IT suite, 1 for change of use from retail to mixed use cafe/retail at the newsagents and 1 for external works at the Fox and Hounds.

The City of York Council Planning Department is now turning down more and more applications for properties to be built in back gardens, and appears to be paying more attention to the views of local people. We are however concerned about the number of side extensions being built where the eaves of the extended house jut out over the boundary with the adjacent property, and have written to CYC on this matter.

Roads and Footpaths

Over the past year we have worked to ensure that repairs and maintenance work to our roads, footpaths and street lights are carried out, that graffiti is removed and other results of vandalism are swiftly dealt with. However dog fouling and litter continue to cause problems.

The long awaited improvements to signage at the Colton Lane/Manor Heath /Hallcroft Lane junction have been carried out and a new reinforced grassed area for parking at the burial ground has been created. Fifteen replacement trees have been planted along the new road, as well as further hedging and spring bulbs in that area.

Parish and Ward Councillors have secured £15,000 of funding to provide a new lighting scheme for Main Street and Moor Lane. This is a significant improvement on the original £4,000, which would have provided only four lighting columns on Main Street. We very much look forward to the completion of this scheme next year.

Finance

Since the last report an additional grant of £517 has been paid to St Giles Church for a permanent outside electrical installation for the Christmas Tree and security lighting, and £750 has been given to Panda Playgroup for outside play equipment.

The Precept for £2008-09 has been set at £17,000. This equates to a charge of £10.57 for a Band D property. This includes grants to village organisations amounting to £3,800. Within this amount is £3,000 for the Scout Group towards the replacement of its minibus which has reached the end of its safe and useful life. The total amount required is £15,000. In view of the good work the Scouts do with the younger boys of the village, and their own considerable efforts in fund raising, the Parish Council approved a further grant of £3,000 from our Reserve fund. It is very much hoped that the bus will be available for hire by other groups in the village.

Accounts

The most recent set of audited accounts covers the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008. The Receipts and Payments summary is shown below:

Balance brought forward April 2006	£	33,307.22
Add: Total Receipts		30,743.82

		64,051.14
Less: Total Payments		29,994.17

	£	34,056.97

These cumulative funds are represented by:

Treasurer's Account No. 82159880	£	1,919.94
Less out of date cheque 101200		50.00
Less unpresented cheque 101239		50.00

	£	1,819.94
Business Money Manager Account No. 82159872		32,237.03

£ 34,056.97

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Contact Details

Your Parish Councillors' contact details are as follows:

Councillor Derek Bowen	Chairman	700846
Councillor Brian Bell	Roads and Footpaths	704050
	Vice Chairman	
Councillor Doug Parker	Finance Chairman	707271
Councillor Steve Stericker	Roads and Footpaths	703137
	Chairman	
Councillor Mrs Marjorie Stones	Vice Chairman	778087
Councillor Mrs Megan Taylor	Planning Chairman	707894
Councillor Mrs Caroline Townsend	Public Transport	704100
Councillor Greg Waite	Police Liaison	704752
Councillor Peter Whitfield	Webpage and Parish	709133
	Council News	
Councillor Mrs Ann Winter	Residents Association,	702569
	Recreation Centre,	
	Coronation Cup and	
	Parish Council News	
Mrs Diane Greenwell	Parish Clerk	702844
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