

ANNUAL REPORT 2006/7

During the council year a number of on-going concerns have been discussed by the councillors. Householders close to the bus shelter at the top of the High Street reported nuisance from some users of the bus stop. Local motorists, entering the village High Street from the A15, complained about the Delaine bus stopping close to the Kings Head, causing difficulties. The bus operators explained that vehicles parked in the High Street added to the problem and that most people leaving the bus crossed to the Hanthorpe side of the A15. There were also claims that vehicles parked on the south side of the High Street, close to the crossroads, were causing congestion.

Particularly in the Station Road area dog fouling remained a problem. Although District Council rangers still patrol regularly, and have served on-the-spot fines to errant dog owners, there still appears to be a number of inconsiderate, anti-social individuals causing concern.

The 'safe surfacing' of the play equipment has been repaired during the year. Vandalism affected a number of areas in the village during the year, causing damage both to private and public property. On the playing field a litter bin and a seat were set on fire and the High Street seat was destroyed. These items will need repair or replacement at the expense, through the parish council, of you the council tax payer.

During the summer Margaret Gibson, who had conscientiously looked after the village cemetery for many years with the help of her husband Gerald, decided to retire. A presentation was made to her, by the Chairman, to show the appreciation of the parish.

Just before the local council elections were due in May three long-standing councillors, David Ward, Nancy Needham and Jean Lees, decided to retire, after giving valuable service to the parish over a number of years. The retirements necessitated an election in the parish. Twelve candidates, including eight sitting councillors, stood for the eleven places on the Council. Councillors David Creasey, Brian Hyde, John Richardson, Gordon Lack, Richard Wells, Arthur Bates, Peter Chubbuck and Walter Lawrance were re-elected.

Shaun Reynolds of Millfield Road, Charles Friend and Lucy Taylor, both residing in the High Street, were elected as new councillors.

A few days after the election, at the Annual Council Meeting, Councillors David Creasey and Brian Hyde were again elected as Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively.

As this report was being prepared the well-known Kings Head, a very prominent feature of the village, was virtually destroyed by fire. The Council have asked the owners to keep councillors informed on their future plans for the building.

Terry Barnatt
Clerk & RFO. May 2007