Chairman’s Report

I commence my annual report by thanking those attending this meeting both on-line and in person, for showing their interest in the workings of the Parish Council, especially in these very difficult circumstances.

I have opted to make one report covering the two years of 2019/2020 and 2020/2021. Due to the first lockdown last year, the annual Parish Meeting was unable to take place as, like so many others, Zoom on-line meetings had not been set up.

Firstly, may I thank the councillors for their support and advice through these troubled times. Membership of the council has changed significantly over the past two years. Councillors Marlow, Docherty and Tennant all resigned and councillor Wellings lost his place through the 6 months rule. But we welcome Councillor Endicott and, more recently, councillor Thomas who have been co-opted onto the council. Sadly, it is my duty to inform you that in early 2020 we lost a former long standing councillor in Eric Helliwell and then in October 2020 former councillor Stuart Tennant passed away due to the Covid virus.

On behalf of the council, I now take this opportunity to thank all of our employees for their service to the community in these difficult times. I apologise to residents if the streets of Thrybergh have not always been cleaned up to the expected standards but one of our street cleaners has been shielding for most of the past year and in the 1st lockdown they were not permitted to work anyway.

The council, with me, like to give tremendous thanks to our clerk and Financial Officer, Mr Terry Craven, for his effort and endeavour throughout the past two years, particularly in this pandemic year.

Back in 2019, your council took the decision to start, in stages, updating and renovating the parish hall. Firstly, the bar and lounge area was fully refurbished, with new tables, chairs, carpet, window blinds, bottle cooler unit and coffee maker, the bar was also updated. During lockdown the opportunity was taken to have the hall floor renovated, the whole of the parish hall was redecorated and refurbishment of the men’s toilet has been completed. Further work on the ladies and disabled toilets will take place when funds allow. So it is that, when Govt. Regulations allow, the hall can be reopened and the council will welcome back the regular users and once again accept bookings for functions and events. Ever mindful of the organisations hiring the hall, a baby change unit was fitted in the disabled toilet, new and better LED lighting installed in the hall and, for purposes of security, extra cameras added to the CCTV system. The hall furniture was fully cleaned, repairs undertaken to the windows due to damage and vandalism, shelves were added in the Mother and Toddler room, various leaks seen to and a new hot water boiler installed in the kitchen and much electrical work done for the 5 year test including the Cenotaph light put in working order again. A new fire assessment and remedial work has been undertaken so that the building meets all new regulations. On re-opening, fire training will be given to staff, councillors and regular hirers of the hall. During this past year emergency repairs had to be undertaken on the flat roof extension.

In 2019 a very successful and well attended Remembrance Service was led by Rev John Hibbard. This past year, due to Covid rules, a much shorter service was held outside led by Rev John Barrett, under the regulations the hall remained closed.

The Bill Winder Cup Football Tournament, sponsored by the Parish Council, unfortunately has not been held for the past two years. Firstly, due to bad weather and the fact that only three of the Primary school teams were going to participate and last year due to Covid.

Residents, when rules allow, will be able to rest near the Cenotaph as a new bench has been installed, thanks to CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) money. With fantastic resolve renovation work on the WWI memorial plaque in the hall was, at last, achieved.

Hanging baskets were again displayed in2019 and, after checking regulations and much consultation, they were out Gin in 2020 with the addition of two baskets on the main road outside St Leonard’s Church. The two benches on the road were painted, courtesy of your Parish Council, and the undergrowth was cut back (thanks go to RMBC for this task being done). A large planter is to be placed there as well in the coming summer.

Trees have been cut back on Fullerton Field and Hollings Lane Recreation Ground. The council wishes to thank our residents for bringing the matter of a drink/drug den amongst the trees and hedges to the attention of the clerk.

Your council is always willing to support groups and organisations and during the past two years grants of varying amounts have been awarded to Attitude Dance Studio, Boxercise (a new group committed to the youngsters in the parish), Thrybergh Bowling Club, St Leonard’s Church, St Gerard’s Church, Trustees of Hollings Lane Recreational Ground, Rotherham Holiday Aid, Mayor’s Easter Charity, Rotherham Rescue Rangers and Little Lions Mother and Toddler group.

The council strive to make Thrybergh a more pleasant place for our residents but this is very difficult when there is so much fly tipping (which is of course a national problem). Another major concern are the off-road motorbikes and quad bikes, particularly on Hollings Lane ground, and this has caused immense damage to the gate on numerous occasions leading for it to be repaired many times, causing cost to the council through reckless behaviour of a few. The five parish council salt/grit bins have proven to be very useful this past winter.

Speed restrictions are now in place on Doncaster Road thanks largely due to a successful petition and campaign led by resident Mr Chris Taylor with much support from the Parish Council in conjunction with RMBC. Thanks also go to the Borough Councillors of Silverwood Ward for having a speed device installed on Vale Road; your own council has approved one for Hollings Lane.

Your council continues to work closely with Ward Councillors, officials of RMBC and SYP. The clerk has attended numerous on-line meetings with various depts. of RMBC and reports from councillor Shaw in his role as an executive member of the Yorkshire Local Councils Association are always welcome.

Due to the hall now being closed for a year the Parish Council, like all other institutions, has taken a financial hit. Functions were booked throughout 2020 and all had to be cancelled and refunded. We now look and aim to the future, hopeful of shortly to be able to reopen, and galvanise the community into its own hall for events and weekly activities once again.

Thank you for listening to this report.

Glen L Trickett

Chair, Thrybergh Parish Council