Chairman’s Report – 21st April 2022

I commence my annual report by thanking those attending this Annual Parish Meeting.

During this past year we all began to emerge from the various lockdowns caused by the pandemic. As a public body with a parish hall to oversee, many restrictions and regulations had to be adhered to for quite some time. In August the hall was partially reopened with some of the weekly activities restarting but with certain regulations still in place, by September all regular users had recommenced and bookings for functions were again being taken but Covid worries for many enquiries were a concern.

Despite being closed for over a quarter of the past year your council has been very busy and to this end I would like to thank all the councillors for their deliberations, discussions and decisions made in the past year.

At this point I would like to thank, on behalf of the Parish Council, all our employees for their hard work and endeavours through these troubled times and, in particular, the clerk for keeping up to date with the ever changing Government regulations on Covid.

In January there was an addition to our weekly community activities as a new crafts group started. Keeping up with new procedures and regulations is always a task and in this fire training has been undertaken by staff, councillor sand regular hall users and, in addition, staff has also attended a course on first aid safety training.

I am pleased to announce and welcome two new councillors in Janet Chambers and Sharon Mclean who have both been co-opted onto the Parish Council.

There was in November a return to the full Remembrance service which was led by Revd. Julie Bacon and was held both inside the hall and outside at the Cenotaph. The service was extremely well attended. Unfortunately, as in previous years, the Bill Winder Cup football tournament had to be cancelled due to Covid regulations.

Work to maintain the upkeep of your Parish Hall has been ongoing through the lockdowns. The men’s and disabled toilets have been fully renovated and remedial work to the hot water supply to the ladies toilets carried out. A new Public Address system has been installed and a new microwave for the kitchen was purchased. Repairs have been carried out to the guttering and water runoff system. New outdoor lights have been installed which the staff and our regular hall users have been very grateful for. The Council, under Government rules are now flying the Union Jack flag permanently and the flag of St George will be flown on St. George’s Day.

This past Christmas/New Year saw a landmark for the community when your Parish Council sponsored a professional pantomime, this was Dick Wittington and was staged in your own Parish Hall. After wonderful reviews and thanks had been received I can convey that your Council have given approval for a similar venture this Christmas and plans are already underway.

On other matters a new grit bin has been purchased for Whinney Hill but as yet it has not yet been placed due to the construction work.

A New bench has been sponsored and specially designed for Hope Field at the Country Park. A new bench has also been installed at Fullerton Field and yet another one on Hollings Lane playing field. The two benches outside St Leonard’s Church have been painted.

In conjunction with Dalton and Ravenfield Parish Councils, renovation of the Colliery Wheel has taken place. Safety work had to be done at Round Wood with the capping of old drainage chambers. A new section of security fencing was put up on Fullerton Field and trees obstructing signage on Hollings Lane were cut back.

Hanging baskets were again a delight in the summer months and a flower planter has been added on Doncaster Road outside the Church and this is for both summer and winter flowers.

Your Parish Council tries where it can to help local organisations and community groups in the form of small grants. These, this year, have been awarded to the Federation Bingo, St. Leonard’s Play Group, to the upkeep of St. Leonard’s and St Gerard’s cemeteries and to the Christmas ceremony at the Silverwood Colliery Wheel.

The Council continues to work closely with the Borough ward councillors and I thank them for their help and advice. Also, your Parish Council maintains contact with SYP and RMBC departments and other organisations like RotherFed.

So we look forward to a busy year for your Council and even more to a greater use of the hall for activities and functions.

With this I conclude my report and thank you for listening.

Glen L. Trickett

Chair of Thrybergh Parish Council