

## **ANNUAL MEETING 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019**

### **REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE Parish Council**

#### **Councillor Alison Clark**

I am now in my 18<sup>th</sup> year as a Councillor and I have been very proud to again serve as Chairman for the past 12 months. Apart from the obvious Parish Council meetings and the extra Working Group meetings, during the year I have also attended the Village show in September, the Library celebrations in October and proudly laid the wreaths at the Remembrance services in both Narborough and Littlethorpe in November.

I think it is fair to say it has been a challenging time on all fronts. The delays to the new Parish Centre building, which unfortunately were due to circumstances beyond our control, have been a major concern to us all. However, it is now taking shape rapidly and the majority of residents are responding positively and looking forward to using it.

The Cemetery has proved a challenging area to deal with. Unfortunately, due to the historic problem of not ensuring plots were adhering to the existing rules we gave ourselves a mountain to climb with issues arising from maintenance and health & safety. We are aware that some plot holders are unhappy with parts of the updated rules; however there has also been a positive response from many plots holders who have embraced what we are trying to achieve. Council will be reviewing its cemetery rules and will consider carefully all input received. We will be carrying out a consultation which will provide Councillors and Officers with an opportunity to explain the thinking behind the revised rules and to answer any questions.

This year has, of course, been election year and it was with disappointment that we lost 3 Councillors, Eileen Hersey, Pauline Thomas & Patrick Gallacher who decided not to stand for re-election. We will, however, be welcoming a new Councillor in Andy Allbut-King at our May meeting. I would like to take this opportunity to say a big Thank You to all our Councillors, both past and present who have worked hard over the last 12 months giving up their time and in many cases putting in considerable effort to ensure we move forward as a Council. I would not normally single out individuals but this year I feel I must: Although he has now emigrated to New Zealand, Alan West served us well on Planning and did a lot of work to ensure we claimed all the grants we could under Section 106. Richard Chapman has continued this good work and has produced some excellent responses to planning applications on behalf of the Council. In the early days of the new Parish Centre build, I was chairing this Working Group, but due to illness had to step down. Derek Ross took over the Lead Member role and has worked extremely hard on this challenging project.

As a Parish Council we could not run efficiently without the support of our staff. Our grounds staff and litter pickers have worked hard to make our open spaces pleasant areas to be in and proudly wear the NPC uniform, making it much easier for members of the public to identify them.

Our Office staff: Julie our Clerk and Julia our Deputy Clerk have both only been in their respective roles for a year but have worked very hard on our behalf updating systems and procedures and doing preparatory work for the move to the new Parish Centre.

Finally, I would like to thank our parishioners for their continued support and the welcomed input they give to assist us in making Narborough and Littlethorpe villages pleasant places to live.

Cllr Alison Clark  
15<sup>th</sup> May 2019