Hemingbrough Parish Council Chairman’s Report May 2019

I would like to present to you a report on the work carried out by Hemingbrough Parish Council over the last year.

You will remember that not long into the last council’s election, two Parish Councillors resigned through ill health or work commitments and the council welcomed two new councillors in their place. Unfortunately however as petitions were raised on both occasions, by law elections had to take place at a cost of over £8000, this as you can imagine incurred a serious drain on our resources.

If that wasn’t bad enough an objection was raised regarding the annual accounts to the external auditor for a second time by a local resident.
On each occasion no misdemeanours were discovered, however the council still have to pay the costs of the investigation, the first time it was £1600 and this time £2000. This money is paid out of the precept that residents pay in their rates, the Parish Council have agreed that a letter will be sent to this resident with a request that a significant contribution towards the costs be made.

This month sees the election of a new council, we have lost Glennis Harrison, Richard Drew and John Sedman who all served on the council for many years and decided to step down and not put up for re-election. We have however gained Councillor Jane Freaks and Councillor Stuart Bennett, so we have one vacancy and will need to co-opt another councillor shortly. I therefore on behalf of Hemingbrough councillors thank the outgoing councillors for their commitment and work during their time as councillors and welcome the two new councillors to their places.

The Council embarked on their last year in an effort to tidy up any projects in order that a new council would have a clean slate to work with. The newly formulated Policy Committee have been busy putting most but not all our policies in order and have done a wonderful job, I believe that this work is an education for the committee and the council on how important being a councillor is. The Village Green Working Party again, was formulated in order to tie up loose ends and this they have achieved bar one, the Oldways.

The Village Green Working Party, working with the Land Registry and Elmhirst Parker Solicitors, have succeeded in registering all the green areas in St Marys Avenue.

They have registered the Memorial Garden in the name of Hemingbrough Parish Council as a village asset and have just completed the Registration of Hagg Lane Green and Water Lane Village Pond in the name of Hemingbrough Parish Council as a village asset. They are now in the process of registering the Oldways and I thank them for all the hard work that has been carried out by the working party which at times proved to be frustrating and very time consuming.

Over the last year there has been concern shown by residents regarding several trees in St Marys Avenue. The council sought the advice of several tree surgeons and following their advice took out the three trees causing concern and planted seven Rowan trees as replacements, at the end of this year a final tree will be removed in the same area to complete the project.

Earlier this year the council received notification from Selby District Council that it was entitled to some money from the community interest levy,(CIL).

The money must be spent for the benefit of residents in the village. The council have therefore agreed to complete the Oldways footpath south to join with Landing Lane it is planned that the work will commence in September this year, (If anyone is having tree work carried out your mulch would be gratefully received).

Yellow line parking, still ongoing last date given was by the end of this month May 2019.

Remembrance Day Service at the Memorial Garden last year was attended by over 150 residents and 600 bikers from all over Yorkshire, it was also covered by the BBC news. This year it will be organised by the Parish council in conjunction with the Parish of Hemingbrough Historical/Heritage Society as will the hoisting of the Red Ensign for the Merchant Navy Day on the 3rd September.

Finally on behalf of the council I would like to thank Julie our Clerk for sticking with us all these years, I would also thank Jim Deans who has sadly retired, for his help and advice over the years and wish him well in his retirement.
I would also congratulate Mike Jordan, Karl Arthur and local lad Mark Topping on their election to Selby District Council.