

## Normanby Parish Council Chairman's Speech

As Chair of Normanby-by-Spital Parish Council, I can proudly report the Council has continued to evolve, stabilise and progress in a number of areas to support our village and villagers.

Our committed Councillors have worked hard and we are now an enthusiastic stable group of individuals who have established good working relationships with each other and our clerk Julie Haycraft. In the last twelve months we have said goodbye to Cllr Clinch and would like to thank him for his efforts. In November, we welcomed Cllr Pearson to our team. We would also like to acknowledge Cllr Creek's recent ill health and we will continue to support him in his return to council matters as he is much valued asset to our team. To serve our villagers, in the past year, some of our councillors have received training in various areas and we will continue to encourage this investment in our Council.

With the guidance of our clerk, we have introduced sub committees which delegate statutory functions and we now have a Finance Committee and a Personnel Committee. Both these committees have specific tasks and make recommendations back to our full Council making us more efficient and productive. I am also pleased to report that we have adopted a considerable number of policies which are good practice in our overall governance, thus ensuring we work within current recommended guidelines and legislation.

May I take the opportunity to thank my Councillors for their support, ideas, dedication and input over the last twelve months. Our Council's Clerk, Julie successfully passed her probation last year and has now been our valued employee for over a year. Thank you for your clerical support and dedication which makes our council a robust team.

Normanby Parish Council's major achievements in the last year are:

1)Our improved relationship with Owmbly-by-Spital Parish Council. This has enabled us to work closely with our neighbouring Council on our shared assets the Community Park and Cemetery. Last year, we successfully held a Joint Annual Parish Meeting and separately a Joint Annual Council Meeting. This good relationship with Owmbly enables us to run other projects together like our village litter picks.

2)Guiding and supporting the Community Park Committee (CPC) and being able to adopt a new Terms of Reference allowing us to set a procedure on how Normanby Council, Owmbly Council and the CPC can all work together. Initially, this new procedural concept needed time to be digested and there has been a transitional period of adjustment but we are now all working for the common goal to enhance the park for all our parishioners. There is also an approved business plan and budget. We now have established our 3 priority projects and are making good progress of achieving them. The first project being the arrival of the sets of children's swings. We wish to thank members of the CPC for their support which is a considerable time investment. The CPC includes Normanby and Owmbly Council members and two valued parishioners, Mrs Barbara Moulson and Mrs Isabelle Brooke who must be recognised for their efforts.

3)Thirdly, in May last year Normanby Parish Council was able to obtain a grant to run a Jubilee Celebration. This event was supported by additional funding from some local businesses and allowed the community to come together and commemorate 70 years of our late Queen's reign with a Jubilee Parade, Jamboree and hog roast served in the Park.

A considerable investment was made by a host of volunteers but special thanks go to Cllr Elliot for her contribution.

Further to our Council achievements, we must acknowledge the long service and commitment to our community of District Councillor Jeff Summers whom we understand will retire in May. Thank you to Jeff over the years for striving to encourage a joint Community Park and helping achieve this. He has invested a lot of his time in our villages and we wish him well.

May I now close by saying as chairman of NPC, I now am confident we have a solid foundation on which to build and we will continue to do so in the coming year. I would encourage all villagers to come along to our Council Meetings if you are interested in learning more about your village council.