

## **Anston Annual Parish Meeting 2022**

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

### **Parish Council Report**

Since the last Annual Parish Meeting, held online on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021, Anston Parish Council, and the Recreation Ground Charity of which it is the sole trustee have continued to provide a range of services to residents as we all have emerged from the pandemic.

The Parish Council resumed physical meetings in May 2021 and it, its committees, and the Recreation Ground Charity have met on a regular basis over the year. Elections to the Council were held on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 with 13 members being returned with two vacancies remaining on the Council. Since then we have co-opted three people on to the Council and seen four resignations leaving us currently with 12 members and three vacancies.

Over the year the Parish Hall has re-opened to full use with a pre-school continuing to operate it and the venue hosting meetings of the Parish Council, the Women's Institute, DDHS, IBIS, a Ladies Sewing Class, yoga classes and numerous children's parties.

In August 2021 the Parish Hall Recreation Ground saw the return of a funfair and we hope that this will be an annual event for many years to come. The bowling green has continued to be used by Anston Bowling Club for matches and practice sessions and Anston Cricket Club has used part of the Recreation Ground for junior practice sessions. A new defibrillator has been purchased for the Parish Hall.

A grant application has been submitted to purchase new children's play equipment and adult gym equipment for the Recreation Ground. If the bid is not successful or only partly successful, then the remaining costs will be covered by the Parish Council. The refurbishment or replacement of play equipment at the Whitegates Recreation Ground has taken place and that at the Lockwood Recreation Ground is currently underway. A boys football team has hired the football pitch at the Crowgate Recreation Ground and there is interest in having a second pitch at the site.

After a Covid related gap of two years the Anston Bonfire & Fireworks Display returned on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021 and was well received. On the night £1,272.10 was raised in the collection with the monies being split between Children's Air Ambulance and the Kindness & Company Community Interest Company.

November saw the Annual Remembrance Sunday parade and following the police withdrawing from escorting such events the Parish Council took on the responsibility for arranging the safety of the parade. The Council was represented at the ceremony at the Lychgate and a donation of £100 made to the Royal British Legion. With financial assistance from Rotherham Council a 'Lest We Forget' memorial bench has been purchased and sited on 'The Baulk' in North Anston.

During the year the Council also donated a laptop to each of the primary schools in the parish and made out a number of grants under its grants scheme. Namely the Elder Avenue Defibrillator Group, IBIS, South Anston Neighbourhood Watch, the Krazy Krafters group and the Anston Friendship Club.

Christmas 2021 again saw the Parish Council provide a Christmas tree and lights for both North and South Anston and earlier on the year hanging baskets were again provided in the parish. In addition we have contributed towards the electricity costs of lighting at St James' Church.

The cemetery we operate in South Anston has remained open for both new interments and for relatives to visit and we continue to work towards acquiring additional land to extend the cemetery.

We have maintained the Anston Stones Wood Site of Special Scientific Interest and wider nature reserve and during the year adopted a revised management plan for the site.

In addition we have continued to provide two allotment sites and to maintain Turners Triangle on the A57, the Baulk in North Anston, the village green in North Anston and the community building at Hillcrest. In regard to Hillcrest we have made some progress towards resolving the future ownership and use of the site. During the year we have taken back possession of the Old Library building in North Anston and agreeing its long-term future is a priority for the Council.

We continue to respond to planning applications on behalf of the parish and to liaise with the principal authority, Rotherham Council, on a wide variety of matters. During the year we have started to place articles in YourMag as a way of communicating better and more frequently with residents in addition to our website and facebook page. We want residents to see our website as a community resource and local groups and businesses can have a listing on the site if they wish.

The parish precept for 2022/2023 has been set at £392,800 which is £134.53 per annum for a band D property and a 2% increase on the previous year.

Thank you to all the members of staff, councillors and residents who have contributed towards delivering these activities over the year.

Thank you for listening.

Cllr Diane Graham (Chairman of Anston Parish Council)

24<sup>th</sup> May 2022