

Sefton Parish Council Chairman's Report 2014/2015

The Mayoral Year commenced with the retirement of Councillor Corbett and Clerk David Smyth. Council was sad to these two retire from public service and we wish them well - particularly Major Corbett who has since retired as Churchwarden of Sefton Parish Church, a stalwart bridge between this Council and the local Anglican community.

In the spirit of public relations it was resolved to ask Ms Melanie Connell the licensee of the Punchbowl if she were amenable to being our Clerk. She accepted but after one meeting was perforce to rescind her post due to ongoing personal commitments. In her place we employed Mr. Johnny Duffy who is known to us as the son of one of councillors. However, Mr. Duffy being a resident of the parish comes armed with local knowledge.

In January, I met with Mr. Duffy to discuss his plans for a complete overhaul of the Minutes and Agenda to bring them in line with the protocols of the Local Government Act 1972. The results of our meeting – as planned – have been implemented gradually over the course of this Mayoral Year.

Lunt Village

The residents of Lunt Village – in particular those fronting Back Lane approached the Council in desperation due to the insidious problem of gross fly tipping – a phrase which does not reflect the catastrophic effect this is having on the environment and the lifestyle of the residents. The MBC have agreed to gate off Longdale and Back Lanes at a date in the future. A meeting was arranged with the Borough Ward Councillor (Park Ward) Tony Robertson at the home of Vice-Chairman Cllr. Mrs. Duffy with her North Ward colleague Councillor Mrs. Williams. Also Mr. Duffy wrote to the C.E.O. of Sefton Mrs Carney in an attempt to expedite matters for the amelioration of the situation.

The process is long and drawn out and will involve representation at South Sefton Magistrates' Court in June or July.

December 3rd 2014 the North Ward representatives – Councillors Mesdames Duffy and Williams met with Colin Goring Highways Horticulture Officer for Sefton MBC following a complaint raised by our Councillor Mrs. Williams that some of the greens and verges in Lunt had not been cut. It transpired that when the Housing Stock in Lunt Village was transferred to One Vision Housing in 2007 so were all the greens and

verges ergo Sefton MBC have been erroneously maintaining Lunt Village. In light of this we have forged a strong link with One Vision Housing – who own but 12 properties in the village – and are looking forward to working with them in our mission for the conservation areas within the parish. It was with delight that we learned that our Councillor Mrs. Duffy had secured for us an award of £300 from One Vision Housing for floral displays throughout our civic parish area.

Sefton Village

Sefton continues to be haunted by the parking of HGVs in Brickwall Lane along the Scheduled National Monument. We continue to push for parking restrictions.

The National Monument is still a source of anxiety as we attempted to have the site cleared of litter.

North Ward representative Councillor Mrs. McKeating worked to have the drains cleared in Sefton Village following sever backing up of the system due to silt from the new road.

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The new Brooms Cross Road has unfortunately cut a swathe of Grade 1 arable land through the heart of our parish. North Ward representatives Councillors Mesdames Duffy and McKeating have liaised continually with the MBC to ensure that they are aware of our presence. The ladies reported that they are delighted with the planting that is to take place and we look forward to a presentation of the same by the MBC.

Community

In January we attended the inaugural Plough Sunday at Sefton Parish Church and also presented Keith Thomas with a copy of the BCP and flowers to Mrs. Thomas upon his conferment of the honour Reader Emeritus on retiring as lay reader at Sefton Church. We wish him all the best.

We also regret the retirement of Major Corbett as churchwarden.

At the end of this Mayoral Year we had general election which saw Mr. Cameron returned for a second term in office and all the councillors of this parish were returned unopposed.

There was also the joyous announcement from Buckingham Palace of the birth of Princess Charlotte

Elizabeth Diana of Cambridge – 4th in line to the
Throne – to THR Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

Chairman Councillor Mr. Barry Draper

Chairman Sefton Parish Council 2014-2015