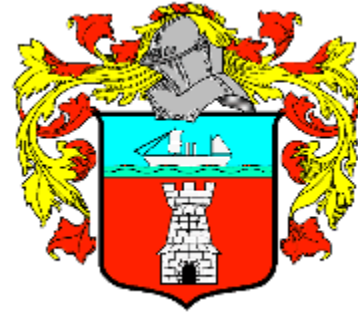


# Paull Parish Council



## Chairman's report 2011

As in previous years I would like to commence this annual report by recording my thanks to all the councillors who have freely given their time and energy to improving standards of village life and amenity. I would like to recognise the hard work undertaken by our Ward Councillors, Ann Suggitt, Carole Lynn and Stephen Sloan. They attend almost all our council meetings and provide invaluable advice and work extremely hard on our behalf - articulating and pursuing (indeed actively fighting) our cases with the relevant council departments. Without their help and support much of our work would be much more difficult - if not impossible. Councillor Lynn has decided not to stand for re-election this year and her contribution to our meetings will be sorely missed – we record our sincere thanks for all the support she has given to the council and the community over many years.

On behalf of the whole council, our special thanks go to Dianne Davies, our clerk to the council, for providing an excellent service and primary point of contact. I would also like to personally thank Cllr. Steve Hulme for his support as Vice Chair.

As a matter of public record, all members of the Parish Council have signed the register of interests and agreed to accept the local government code of conduct. No parish councillors have claimed any personal expenses incurred during the year as a consequence of their duties. There has been no requirement for an election of councillors this year with nomination and co-option being unchallenged.

To review then some of the key areas of council activity during the last year:

- ✦ The Parish Council have supported the New Village Hall project with £2500 being sourced from the National Grid (compensation for land lost due to the gas station extension works) to procure land adjacent to the Village Hall for a possible Annex. In addition, the Paull Village Enhancement fund has made a substantial donation (£30,000) towards the construction costs significantly increasing the viability of the project.
- ✦ There have been no further negotiations with Hull City Council, to transfer the ownership of the sports field but the Parish Council would still like to secure ownership transfer if this is financially viable and a realistic price can be agreed. An agreement has been struck for free use of the facility for Paull community fund-raising events and an agreed cost structure for non-charitable and non-Paull user activities.
- ✦ The Parish Council has continued to support the sports field and the churchyard by helping to maintain them as attractive areas and to ensure adequate access for all users.
- ✦ The new burial ground is essentially ready for use. Planning approval has been granted for change of use (subject to commissioning of an archaeological survey). Funds are being set aside for provision of paths etc. which will be added once the aforementioned survey is complete. Listed building consent has also been granted to create an opening in the church-yard wall - if this is required – and this is of course subject to agreement by the Parochial Church Council and the diocese. The land has yet to be consecrated for burial – in the short-term this will be managed via consecration of each burial plot until the consecration of the majority of the grounds can be arranged.
- ✦ The Parish Council have been consulted regarding a new project on the South bank of the Humber, being proposed by Able UK, which has the potential for significant impact at Cherry Cobb Sands/Stony Creek, as land is flooded as part of the 'compensatory habitat' process. The lack of detailed information on the North bank element of the project and clarity about the potential construction phase nuisances has prompted the need for further meetings/discussions.
- ✦ Paull Parish Council continues to be supportive of the village school and its students. Mr Paul Rowe has taken up the appointment of head and has settled in quickly and is enjoying the role very much. Miss Samantha England has been recruited on a fixed term contract as a newly qualified teacher to replace Mrs Gardner who retired last year.

- ✦ We continue to work closely with our industrial neighbours: BP Chemicals, Saltend Co-generation and Nippon Gohsei, in their on-going operations/development programmes, and have welcomed their open and honest consultations – both directly and via the community forums. The Vivergo Fuels bio-ethanol plant (a BP joint venture with Associated British Foods and Du Pont), is progressing well into its construction phase. Unfortunately protests made by one of the site contractors has resulted in traffic problems on a number of occasions – but this appears now to be well policed and under control. Several community engagement meetings have been held with the promise of a constructive and long-term relationship going forward.
- ✦ The forum established with the Yorkshire Water Waste Water treatment facility on Hedon Road continues to meet regularly with a representative from Paull PC. Odour emissions which had become less frequent with a commitment to upgrade the odour abatement at the facility. Greater pressure has been exerted by ERoYC and villagers who experience a problem, regardless of whether this is at home or whilst travelling past the facility, are strongly urged to report the problem immediately on Tel No. 08451 242424 (YW often don't know they have a problem unless told so).
- ✦ The Parish Council were delighted that the opposition made by HOTI (Hull and Holderness Opposing the Incinerator) which challenged the construction of over-sized waste incineration facilities at Saltend was successful and WRG are withdrawing from the waste management contract with Hull City Council and East Riding Council, and dropping plans to build the controversial incinerator. Cllr Peter Turner and Mr. Malcolm Lynn deserve particular praise for their unstinting efforts in opposition of the Incinerator project. HOTI will continue to monitor the situation as a planning approval still exists for the construction of an incinerator to ensure that future council partners are unable to pursue this option. PPC were represented on the HOTI Committee/steering group/
- ✦ We have maintained two-way consultation with the police and neighbourhood watch group regarding crime prevention and reporting. Thankfully Paull suffers very low levels of disorder and crime – particularly when compared to some other local areas, but vehicle nuisance remains an area of concern and is closely monitored and routinely reported. The council is represented on the Police Liaison committee.
- ✦ The council has continued to support parishioner complaints/concerns and have provided on-going representation on such matters as Development, Conservation, Public Transport, Road Safety and various NHS services - bringing all such matters to the attention of the appropriate agency for urgent action. The council ensures, on behalf of all villagers, that poppy wreaths are laid in remembrance of those lost in wartime. On-going negotiation with EYMS has ensured that bus services to the village have been retained – and we urge residents to support the bus services in order that they can be maintained. We would remind residents that there are some allotments available to let (a healthy activity and source of fresh produce) – anyone interested should contact a member of the allotments committee.
- ✦ The Parish Council website continues to be updated and attract interest. A wealth of village, school and other local information is available at: <http://www.paull-eastyorkshire.org.uk> , <http://www.paull-enhancement.org.uk> and <http://www.standrew-paull.org.uk> . Thank you to Dianne Davies, the Webmaster for all her continued support of these valuable information sources.

Finally, each year I remind readers of this report that the principal duty of the parish council and the purpose of our regular meetings is to ensure that the people of our village are individually and collectively represented. We act as the essential interface with regulators and service providers; proactively monitoring, defending and attempting to improve the delivery of agreed standards - be it the adequacy of street lighting, the control of development, determination of rights-of-way or supply of other essential services. We support local good causes, recognise and reward individual contributions to community life, and, albeit in a modest way, improve the infrastructure of our village. Our voluntary work is undertaken with low profile - by people working behind the scenes - who deserve, but rarely seek recognition for their important, yet tangibly unrewarding, efforts. The council as a 'body' has very limited powers - it relies rather on persuasion and the valued input of our county councillors who are always willing to embrace and pursue our causes. We resort to the use of public enforcement agencies only as a last resort and when other approaches fail to resolve a problem.

**Graham Shaw** - Chairman, Paull Parish Council, 1998-2011

Following issue of this report – if there are any questions, or comments, please submit them directly to the chairman, Parish Clerk, or any member of the Parish Council for discussion and resolution at future meetings