

Cantley with Branton Parish Meeting

Chairman's Report 2024/25

Within the Parish Council we have seen a number of changes with some Members leaving due to personal circumstances and new Councillors joining. May 2025 is an election year, however Cantley with Branton Parish Council's election was uncontested so no election took place. There is one vacancy to the Parish Council.

Thank you to every member of the Parish Council who have attended our meetings and external meetings in support and on behalf of the Council over the last year. We have all chosen to offer our time to be a Parish Councillor and we all have the best interests of the parish and residents in any decision we make.

My thanks go out to the Clerk and the Handyman for their excellent work throughout this period in maintaining the high standards set in the previous years.

The Parish Council has continued to maintain to the best of their ability, the high standards expected to keep our parish looking presentable with grass cutting, bin collections, hedge cutting, gardening, general maintenance as well as safety inspections of the parish, Kilham Hall Park and Parish Council property. I have listed below some of the work we have been involved with over the last 12 months.

Manor Farm/Warren Park Estate

Many people do not appreciate the boundary of the parish and the new estate being built at Manor Farm comes within our boundary. The Parish Council held a meeting with a number of residents of Warren Park to engage further and help them direct their current concerns to the correct organisations. Contact has been made with Persimmon to request space to hold drop in sessions for the Clerk/Members to work from once a month and we are currently awaiting a reply. The Parish Council have attended CDC engagement events on the estate and will continue to do so. A location has been sourced to house an electrical column, defibrillator and Christmas tree upon the estate and background work is underway prior to installation.

Kilham Hall

The Parish Council continues to work closely with Kilham Hall Management Committee and wishes to thank them for their hard work to improve the services provided. Appreciation also goes to Councillor Tony Gibbins who has worked tirelessly to resolve issues with the electricity tariff for the Hall reducing bills dramatically.

MUGA

The long awaiting MUGA was built and opened. The final snagging tasks should be completed by the end of May. There is be no need for booking. The area will be set up as follows: The tennis courts will be set up between May and September for use, Basketball nets will be available all year round and Netball will be available to book. A bike rack has been installed next to the MUGA.

CCTV

To help prevent crime and monitor activity, CCTV cameras have been installed at key entry points to Branton - near the Garden Centre and near Whiphill Top Lane. This initiative is part of our ongoing efforts to keep Branton safe and secure for residents.

Defibrillator

The Parish Council secured grant funding and two businesses in Old Cantley very kindly offered to house a defibrillator. The chosen location is more central and all should be able see it as driving by. The defibrillator is registered on the national network, The Circuit and ready for immediate use.

Land at top of Brockholes Lane/Doncaster Road

The Parish Council made plans to take over the maintenance of the piece of land at the top of Brockholes Lane. Currently owned by City of Doncaster Council (CDC), the site has become overgrown and unkempt

in recent years. In response to community concerns, the Parish Council secured a licence from CDC to take responsibility for the upkeep of this area. The Parish Council aims to give the space a much-needed facelift. Plans include the removal of all overgrown foliage to restore the land to a clean and welcoming condition. Additionally, the existing bench will be re-sited towards the back of the land, creating a more peaceful seating area. To further enhance the space, new plants and greenery will be added, transforming it into an attractive spot for residents to enjoy.

Community Orchard

The Parish Council were successful in securing a grant for 10 fruit trees. Children from Branton St Wilfred's Primary School came to Kilham Hall to help our Gardener and Councillor Gibbins to plant the trees.

Community Skips

Community skips were welcomed by residents. Thank you to CDC and the Ward Councillors for providing and manning them.

Donations

Thank you to local residents who continue to support the Parish. We have had donations of a bench for Kilham Hall field, water butts, top soil and slate for use within the parish sites. This all saves the Parish Council money which is greatly appreciated.

Branton Litter Pick Group

This group are still regularly meeting and making a significant contribution to the villages look and cleanliness. The additional storage space for their equipment at Kilham Hall was well received. New dates for this year will be advised in due course. Our thanks are expressed to the volunteers who attend the litter picks on a regular basis.

Road Safety

Despite the community speed watch not taking off last year, the Ward Councillors are trying to set up a Finningley Ward Community speed watch. This involves residents from Finningley, Blaxton, Auckley and Branton taking part.

Police Drop in Sessions

We still hold drop in sessions every 6 weeks, however attendance of these has been very poor despite advertising, if we want to maintain our dialogue with the local police, improved engagement in these sort of events is important.

Air Ambulance Clothing Bank

The Parish Council sited an air ambulance clothing bank at Kilham Hall for residents to use. This has proved to be a popular addition.

Post Box Toppers

Appreciation goes to local resident Louise Taylor who has been busy making and donating the wonderful postbox toppers for the Parish Council to display at different times of the year for residents enjoyment.

Poppy Display

The displays around the village to commemorate Armistice Day were both picturesque and very emotive. Numerous positive comments were received and our thanks go out to all those that contributed to it. In 2024 we purchased another two of the 'Unknown Tommy Soldier Silhouettes' to complement these displays. Residents were busy knitting and crocheting more poppies which enabled us to provide displays on the additional two trees in the Parish, on each notice board, around the railings at Kilham Hall and the bollards around the Rose Garden. Residents are already busy knitting and crocheting more poppies to enable the Parish Council to provide more displays. Appreciation goes out to all the volunteers who donated knitted/crocheted poppies to those who helped form the displays and to the Clerk and Handyman who installed the displays and lamp post poppies in all weather.

Christmas Festivities

All 3 trees around the Parish were illuminated along with the two trees at Old Cantley Roundabout. Residents attended a brief carol service around the Glen Road Christmas tree, accompanied by Armthorpe Elmfield Brass Band to much acclaim. The Parish Council also sponsored Kilham Hall Management's Committee's Christmas Pantomime which saw 2 performances of Hansel and Gretel. The performances were a sell out and adults and children alike enjoyed the shows. As always, the Parish Council made an offer of donation to Thorne Lions towards the Santa Sleigh visit to Branton.

CWBPC – Facebook Page

Just a reminder about our Facebook page which is an excellent communication and informative area for the villages. My thanks go out to the Clerk for keeping this media updated.

King regards

Neville Williams
Chairman
Cantley with Branton Parish Council