

## CHAIRMANS REPORT –MAY 2014.

It's been a year of change within your Parish Council over the past 12 months with retirements of Rosemary, Dreda and Ian who between them had clocked up over 60 years of service to the village. We wish them well in their retirement. Your three new councillors John, Julie and Keith have "bedded " in well and each have brought new thoughts and approaches to the issues your council have to deal with on a month by month basis.

- The greatest challenge your council has had over the past 12 months centres around Housing development proposals within the village. A significant number of objections and resident petitions against the developments have been submitted to Durham County Council, the battle was lost on the proposed site South of The Close, however the war continues against the development of the field behind Marwood Terrace. I would like to thank Ian Moorhouse for representing the Parish Council's objections to the development at The Close at the Durham C C planning meeting.
- The village is still experiencing incidents of vandalism and anti-social behaviour namely damage to a seat down the Hagg , the burning of a scarecrow during the Fun Weekend and trespass issues on allotments behind The Close. Your councillors are working closely with our community Police Officer to identify the culprits and what actions need to be taken.
- The village precept was reviewed at our November meeting and agreed to be held at the 2013 level.
- A very special thanks to Barry, Gerry and David for all their hard work over the past 12 months in the maintenance of the Village Greens and Cemetery, much appreciated by residents and visitors alike.
- The Xmas tree lights again were a credit to the village and again we received a lot of compliments from residents and visiting relations on the wonderful display, thanks to all who were involved in putting up the trees and lights.
- We were able once again to financially support village groups through our Village Grant Fund over the past year, recipients being the Lunch club, the Thursday Club, the over 13's Youth Club, Village Hall for the siting of the defibrillator.

And finally I would like to thank all my fellow Parish Councillors for all their help and support over the past year and a special thanks to Brenda for all the hard work she has put in as our Parish Clerk in what has been a most challenging year.

Thank you

Richard W Hunter  
Chair  
Cotherstone Parish Council.

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