

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

APRIL 2021

PROPERTY AND ASSETS COMMITTEE REPORT

Just prior to the pandemic, in February 2020, our Tidy Team relocated their operations to our new purpose-built depot at Skerne Park, since then, the depot has transformed how we work and broadly widened our capabilities, just by giving us a space of sufficient size to carry out operations safely and much more efficiently. We are extremely proud of the Skerne Park Depot and feel that even through lockdown, which has seen some of our normal activities last year curtailed, has proved itself invaluable and will be a fantastic and essential asset to the town in years to come.

The former depot at North End Park is being retained under a long lease by the council with the Environment Agency, we still use the salt store and parts of the building for long term storage, and it is a great asset that we decided we did not wish to relinquish when we relocated. Part of the building is hired to Driffield Men in Sheds and the council have carried out various remedial works to the depot to accommodate them. We are delighted that we have been able to help a fledgling organisation, who we know will become an invaluable asset to the town as we emerge from lockdown.

With the pandemic, of course our community facilities both at Cass Hall and Market Walk were not open and as a result we have taken a hit on revenue from hire fees, however, with all government guidelines in place, we have now welcomed back the Credit Union to Market Walk and bookings are starting to come in again at Cass Hall. Cass Hall is, in our view, a vastly underused resource and we are delighted to be working with the newly formed charity Driffield and Wolds Create Community who have plans to fund a community cinema there in the coming months and the Property and Assets Committee are also keen to see if the venue could be used as a much-needed performance space.

Over the last year we have purchased considerably more equipment both for street cleansing – the street sweeper and wagon but also extended our range of woodworking tools and the Tidy Team can now produce their own wooden planters and benches. The pandemic of course meant that our office staff had to work from home so now the necessary technology to allow our clerk to run things from home as instructed by government guidelines is now in place.

The lands that we own are also continually managed and we have done some work at Fawcett Gardens including the professional removal of a tree that threatened neighbouring properties, and the play area at St Margaret's Close has also been managed closely within the COVID guidelines.

Property and Assets work to ensure the safeguarding of all our buildings, lands and equipment and we are about to embark in partnership with the Environment Committee on how we can lessen our carbon footprint.

Cllr Mark Blakeston

Chairman