



ANNUAL REPORT
2006/2007

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Councillor June Malcolm
Mayor of Pocklington 2006-7



Here the East Riding Town Cryer, Michael Wood is assisting the Chairman of East Riding Cllr Hilary Saynor and the Mayor of Pocklington Cllr June Malcolm to cut the Yorkshire day cake at a ceremony held at Burnby Hall Gardens on 1st August 2006

There were 49 meetings of the council during the year in addition to 2 town meetings.

Mayor's Foreword:

My year as Mayor was interesting, educational and it was an honour to represent Pocklington. I met many of those who represent other towns and villages in our area and it is beneficial to learn how others tackle issues in their communities.

The Town Council meetings which I attended over the 4 years I was a councillor have shown me just how much thought and effort councillors put into working for this community. They are all volunteers, but work hard to listen to the people of the town and every decision is taken in their best interests. You only have to come along to observe a Town Council meeting to see this for yourself!

Projects initiated in my year as Mayor have included the remodelling of West Green, move of the Council to the Old Magistrates' Court and the start-up scheme for Playparks in the town. Many projects are, of course, on-going and I wish the Council well in working to finalise these.

The Arts Centre continues to flourish and is testament to the courage of a past Town Council in setting up what is now a well-regarded venue which attracts commerce to the town and an immense amount of kudos. I look forward to the Arts Centre moving from strength to strength, developing a community-based arts programme which involves local people more and more.

Most of the work of the Town Council falls to our Town Clerk, who deserves our thanks. This year he has had some help from Sue Knill, to whom thanks are also due. Many of the 2006/7 councillors will be retiring from the council after many years of service. Their voluntary representation of the community should not pass without our gratitude: Norma Jennings, John Cox, Kay West, Jo Green and Jim Dempster – thank you all, on behalf of Pocklington.

June E. Malcolm
Mayor of Pocklington 2006/7

The work of the council is divided into committees which each report to the full council meeting held monthly on the second Thursday in the town meeting room at the Old Courthouse in George Street. Members of the public are welcome to attend these meetings and on giving prior written notification can speak for up to 15 minutes before the meeting starts.

Policy & Resources Committee

Remit

The Policy & Resources committee deals with all financial matters of the council including contracts between the council and its tenants; it recommends the annual budget to the full council in consultation with other committees. It organises councillor's and clerk's training and deals with all employment matters relating to council staff using a personnel committee as necessary. It reviews the risk assessments of the council and deals with any other matter not fitting into the remit of the other committees.

This committee maintains the council's rolling 3 year development plan, looks in detail at the council's finances and budgets for the coming year. It scrutinises the financial reports from the Arts Centre and deals with the ever increasing burden of regulations with which the council must comply.

Chairman's report

Progress has been made during the year on the sale of the Cemetery Chapels with plans being drawn up for their conversion into a dwelling. It is expected an application will go before the planning authority early in the next financial year. Whilst a decision has been made to sell Cemetery Lodge no date for this has yet been set. A part-time clerical assistant has been employed to assist with the administration of the council which is already beginning to show benefits. Overall the council kept to its spending plans ending the year with reserves of £79,415 which is in line with the recommendation made by our auditors.

June E Malcolm Mayor of Pocklington 2006/7

Lands and Property Committee

Remit

The Lands and Property Committee is responsible for the repair and maintenance of buildings, land, fixtures and fittings the property of Pocklington Town Council . This includes the Old Court House , Oak House 20 ~ 26 Market Place , Pocklington Cemetery including Cemetery Lodge and the two Chapels; West Green , the Allotments on the Mile and the Croft Children's playpark on Victoria Road . The committee is also responsible for the maintenance of the closed churchyard of All Saints Church .

Chairman's Report

The council has now moved to the Old Court House in George Street , which has been a benefit to all concerned , Town Council , the clerk and to the various organisations who rent the larger room for meetings with its improved facilities .

The Oak House which is the home of the Pocklington Arts Centre and two retail shops is a grade 2 listed building ,the front part of which was built in 1762. The council is considering the best use for the first floor of Oak House which is currently unused.

The Community Service offenders continue to work in the cemetery , carrying out cleaning & maintenance work. The trees on West Green have been trimmed round the bottom of the trunks, the lower branches removed and cleared. It is also hoped that the rough areas under the trees and around the outside of the West Green will in future be cut and kept tidy . The council is still awaiting a decision on an application for financial assistance submitted to the Breathing Spaces fund to enhance the facilities at West Green. The demand for allotments remains strong , so much so the council has at the moment decided to only let vacant plots to residents of Pocklington . The Croft Playpark is to be improved over a period of time , a group of residents of Pocklington including three councillors are working hard to raise funds to help provide better play equipment .

A contractor regularly cuts the grass and maintains the grounds of All Saint's Church on behalf of the church .

Cllr Alex Petrie Chairman of Lands & Property .

Lighting, Transport and Road Safety Committee

Remit

To examine road safety issues in the town and vicinity around Pocklington paying particular attention to disabled access. To liaise with the principal authority to identify areas of potential improvement and to maintain footway lighting.

Chairman's report

The committee met quarterly during the year when they considered local road safety, lighting and transport issues. The main thrust of this year's work has again been in connection with improving the flow of the ever increasing volume of traffic in the town. The committee regularly receives complaints about speeding vehicles entering the town and regularly liaise with both the police and highways officials about possible solutions. A cycle track between the town and the Industrial Estate is badly needed so during the year the council assisted in carrying out a survey of current and potential cycle use. The East Riding of Yorkshire Council continue to provide support for suggestions put forward and in particular implementing long awaited traffic regulation orders to assist with the committees aims. This year the committee has suggested a further two pedestrian crossings for the town and a footpath on the Rugby Club side of Percy Road. The committee is committed to campaigning for good disabled access and it is pleasing to report a number of recommendations have been implemented. We hope the widening of footpaths on routes to schools in the town will lead to more youngsters choosing to walk.

The 'Gadabout' bus now run by a community bus association called 'Beverley Community Lift' provides a local service. One of the long awaited bus

shelters has been put in place on George Street but the one for Barmby Road is still awaited.

James A. R. Dempster Chairman Lighting, Transport & Road Safety Committee

Development, Marketing and Communications Committee

Remit

The Development & Marketing committee promotes, encourages and engages with both residents and the wider community to ensure everyone is fully informed about the work of the council. It supplements the work of other organisations and acts as a conduit between them and the council. The committee is responsible for organisation of band concerts, Christmas Competitions, town promotion, floral displays, provision and maintenance of street furniture and the maintenance of the web-site.

Chairman's report

Website

One of the most pleasing aspects of the Committee's work over the year has been the success of the council's web-site. Under the supervision of web master Richard Borrie, the site is now quite a large one containing many articles and photographs. The directory contains details of 342 local groups, organisations and businesses. The main project for the coming year is to get a format for having on-line questionnaires.

Street furniture

In response from requests by residents of the town, the on-going programme of placing new litter bins has seen new bins this year for Broadmanor (kindly donated by the *LIFESTYLE* team EM=Power) and the Croft Playground. New bins have are also on order for Percy Road & Scaife Garth.

Town guide

The Chamber of Trade published a new *TOWN GUIDE* this year with the Town Council contributing £1, 500 towards this excellent publication.

Christmas Lights

Despite the fact that East Riding of Yorkshire Council no longer erect & dismantle the towns Christmas lights the town saw a good display of festive lights last December.

This was due mainly to the very hard work done on this project by Town Mayor, June Malcolm and the use of local electricians and contractors who used a mixture of the old string coloured bulbs, and the newer LED lights to provide an enhanced display. However conversion of East Riding Council lamp posts will have to take place before any more new lights can be added to the display. It is intended that the old coloured bulbs will be used for as long as possible.

Promotion of the Town

This is the main purpose of the committee, and once again due to the hard work of Town Mayor, June Malcolm, a number of folders are to be produced which are designed to contain leaflets promoting attractions & organisations within the town. It is envisaged these folders will be left in public places (such

as Doctors surgeries, Dentists Public Library & Art Centre). Similar folders will be left at Hotels & Guest houses.

Planning committee

Remit

To consider plans submitted from the district council giving observations including views of local residents and the conservation area advisory panel to assist the planning committee with their decision making. To receive forward plans from both East Riding and Government and give views. To receive notification of planning decisions and appeals submitting evidence to appeals where necessary.

Chairman's report

It has been a busy year as once again, we have considered plans for extensions of all kinds and new builds. At present there are plans outstanding on the old Highways' site in Cemetery Lane for housing, North Wolds Printing site, also in Cemetery lane for sheltered housing and the ex Sundora site in Burnby Lane plans for housing and offices.

We have had the opportunity to put in detailed comments on all of these. The first two have become the most contentious with plans for 3 storey buildings. The Committee take the view that 3 storey is not suitable for this area where all the building are 2 storey and a road which still has a country feel. Sadly some of the government directives which are primarily to deal with lack of housing in cities by re-using brownfield sites have not translated happily to market towns and villages. What is suitable for a city site is not necessarily right for others.

Sadly this year saw the demise of the Conservation Area Advisory Panel. This was a very useful panel to help understanding of the strictures of conservation and Listed Building planning permission. The knowledge learned there flowed down to the Town and Parish Councils with Conservation Areas and helped them make better and educated decisions and observations.

Pocklington Town Council has no powers of decision but can make recommendations and comments which ERYC passes on to the relevant Planning Committee.

Pocklington Arts Centre

Since Pocklington Arts Centre opened over 6 years ago it has proved to be a great success. Tens of thousands have attended films, plays, all sorts of music, talks, art exhibitions, comedy clubs, well known comedians, coffee mornings, charity functions, etc. it has given a base to the University of the Third Age (U3A), been a platform for local artists, community led events, a regular acoustic for local musicians, fund raising events and much more. This summer a series of workshops for youngsters led to an incredible public performance; by obtaining funding, this project was open to all regardless of circumstances. Parents have taken the opportunity of a safe haven for their

children to have some measure of independence by attending the cinema on their own, and older people now feel they can come to the centre of Pocklington in the evening feeling safe and secure.

This success is due to the Manager and staff for considered and imaginative programming, the Management Team who supervise the volunteer staff and take responsibility for the running of the venue and the Friends of Oak House who provide the volunteers and fundraise for essential equipment. We must not forget the many who fundraised before the opening and Pocklington Town Council for having the courage and foresight to purchase the building, thereby preserving one of the few Grade listed buildings we have in Pocklington and enhancing the town centre.

Many hours of hard work go into making this one of the premier Centres in the East Riding.

We have been fortunate to have seen many famous names (and those who were on their way up) in Pocklington:-

Barbara Dickson, Midge Ure, Steve Harley, Clive James, Barry Norman, Curtis Stigers, Ralph McTell, , Kate Rusby, Sandi Thom, Dave Gorman, Clare Teal, George Melly, London Community Gospel Choir, Hull Truck Theatre, Hayseed Dixie, Jenny Éclair, John Hegley, Glenn Tilbrook, Al Stewart, Kathryn Williams, Eric Bibb, Mark Steel, Rich Hall, Maddy Prior, Rodney Bews, The Searchers and many, many more. This year there are full weekends of workshops for Blues and for Folk Music which will be attended by people from all the country.

Thanks must go to the people of Pocklington for supporting the Arts Centre and showing that they think it is such an asset.

Norma Jennings
Chairman.

Representative Reports

Councillors are involved in other groups in the community some of which are listed below:

GOOLE & DISTRICT VICTIM SUPPORT

This organisation is a voluntary body which assists victims of crime in the area. A great deal of work has recently been carried out on initiatives to combat domestic violence. Cllr Wilkinson is a member of this group.

POCKLINGTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The society is based at the council allotments on The Mile. Their sales hut is open to members every Saturday and Sunday mornings for the sale of garden products. The organisation is 'not for profit' so with membership at £1

a year the products sold are one of the best buys around. The committee meet on the first Monday of the month to discuss their organisation. Various visits and guest speakers are organised on a regular basis. Cllr Petrie is the council representative on the society which maintains the strong links which have existed since the society was formed.

ERNLLCA

The East Riding and North Lincolnshire Local Councils Association is the representative body of parish and town councils in this area. It is affiliated to the National Association of Local Councils with headquarters in London. Legal and technical information is available together with an ability to lobby the Government on issues relating to local councils.

Currently Cllr Petrie is the Chairman of the western area committee and an executive member of the management committee. Cllr Wilkinson is also a member of this group.

STEWART TRUST (BURNBY HALL GARDENS)

The Stewart Trust oversees the finances, running and development of the Gardens. The day to day running is undertaken by the head Gardener and his team; the shop is run by a Manager and team of assistants and the café is franchised to a local caterer.

Burnby Hall Gardens is home to the National Collection of hardy Water Lilies and the Gardens are developing and improving all the time. The Victorian Garden has been restored and sculptures designed by pupils of Barmby Moor School and Woldgate College and brought to fruition by local wood sculptor, Malcolm MacLachlan have been installed. The museum will be refurbished thanks to a Heritage Lottery Grant. All through the summer there are brass band concerts, three of which are sponsored by the Town Council, bringing a large number of out of town visitors.

This year the Gardens were home to the Yorkshire Day Celebrations. A donation of a marquee has extended the scope of events and it has been home to the celebration of Phosyn's Queen's Award for Industry, christenings and art exhibitions. The Staff now have a decent staffroom and workshops. These have been home to a series of gardening workshops open to the public. Councillors Norma Jennings & Alex Petrie are members of the trust.

POCKLINGTON AND WOLDS GATEWAY PROJECT

The Gateway Project is a partnership between businesses, community groups, individuals and councillors. It aims to enhance the well being of Pocklington and its hinterland. It has worked with interested parties to develop a Parking Strategy for the town. Ongoing work includes a tourism project with 2 neighbouring market towns.

Cllr June Malcolm and Cllr Jo Green

POCKLINGTON & MARKET WEIGHTON CRIME PREVENTION PANEL

The panel draws its membership from all the communities in the area. It is responsible for the fixed CCTV system in Pocklington and the mobile camera which is used where needed in the area. Funds are raised at an annual concert given by the Humberside Police Band in December. An annual

competition is run for local schools to raise awareness about crime prevention.

Maureen Wilkinson and Jo Green.

POCKLINGTON FRENCH TWINNING

The association is of long standing which has allowed many Pocklington people to become acquainted with the Neuvy le Roi area of France. The area is a collection of small towns just north of Tours in the Loire valley. A group of Mayors' from Neuvy le Roi visited Pocklington last summer and despite no official visit being organised this year members of the dancing group and football teams have made private visits. Cllr's Petrie and West play an active role in the twinning arrangement.

POCKLINGTON GERMAN TWINNING

The Trendelburg twinning committee has been in existence for eight years and is currently chaired by Councillor Cox.

POCKLINGTON SCHOOL

Pocklington School is an independent school which enjoys a good reputation for academic and sporting achievements. Cllr's Jennings and West are on the governing body of the school.

POCKLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Supporting Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 2007

Note 1. Assets.	At 31st March 2007 the Town Council held the following Assets:-	Valuation £
	Oak House, 22-26 Market Place, Pocklington	1,250,000.00
	P.A.C. Fixtures & Fittings	23,000.00
	The Old Courthouse 37 George Street Pocklington	265,000.00
	The Old Courthouse, Fixtures, Fittings & Office Equipt.	2,864.00
	Cemetery Lodge, Pocklington	102,073.00
	Cemetery, Pocklington	50,000.00
	other items	58,738.00
	Total	1,751,675.00

Unless shown otherwise the basis of valuation for these assets is that for Insurance purposes.

Note 2. Investments The Council holds no long term investments.

Note 3. Leases The Council held no lease agreements in the year of account.

Note 4. Borrowings The following loan debt was outstanding at the close of business on 31st March, 2007

Public Works Loan Board	471,782.00
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Note 5. Debtors At the year-end debts of £1258.33 were outstanding and due to the Council. The age of these debts were:-

	Number	Amount
Less than 3 months old	8	1,258.33
between 3 months and 6 months old		
over 12months old *		

* On 20th June 2005 the council were notified that an involuntary arrangement had been entered by the debtor which would give 19pence in the £. In December 2006 £405.70 out of a debt of £2,269.02. It is therefore intended to 'write off' the £1863.32.

Note 6. Reserves The Council's Fund balances at 31st March 2007 totalled £79,415.00

	General Fund	P.A.C. Fund	Total
Bal at 1st April	37,394.00	25,700.00	63,094.00
Surplus/Deficit for year	15,051.00	1,270.00	16,321.00
Bal at 31st March	52,445.00	26,970.00	79,415.00

The Arts Centre fixed assets previously included in the balance sheet are now entered in cell 9 of the council's annual return. The change has been made to meet the requirements of the Accounts & Audit Regulations as interpreted by the council's external auditor.

Note 7. Pocklington Arts Centre	The policy of the council is to operate Pocklington Arts Centre as a separate trading activity with an independent Trading Account and Balance Sheet as detailed at appendix 1 & 2 to these notes. Debt charges and certain administrative expenses are met from General Fund. The P.A.C. accumulated fund is included in the total reserves of the council as shown in note 6 above.		
Note 8. Tenancies	During the year the following tenancies were held:- Council as Landlord.		
	Tenant	Property	Rent p.a.
	Miss A Bruce	Cemetery Lodge Pocklington	4,500.00 non repairing
	Patricia Brant	Popp'ys 20 Market Place	7,000.00
	C Hollingsworth	Mouse House 26 Market Place	6,500.00
Note 9. Section 137	The limit for spending under Section 137 of the Local Govt. Act 1972 for this council in the year of account was £5.44 per elector. Payments made were;		
	Canal Society		100.00
	Funday Monday Playgroup		100.00
	Pocklington Scouts		100.00
	East Yorkshire Dyslexia Ass.		100.00
	Victim Support		100.00
	Citizens Advice Bureau		100.00
	Pocklington Chrysanthemum Society		100.00
	Pocklington Youth Club		100.00
	Burnby Hall Gardens Trust		200.00
			<u>1,000.00</u>
Note 10.	Agency Work	The council undertook no work on an Agency basis.	
Note 11.	Advertising & Publicity	The council published three newsletters which were circulated to outlets in the town at a cost of £284.46.	
Note 12.	Contingent Liabilities	The council has made no provisions under this head during the year of account.	
Note 13.	Pensions	For the year of account the council the council made pension fund contributions totalling £4777.50	
	R Bryon Chairman	R. Wood Responsible Financial Officer	

