

Chairman's Annual Report

Welton-by-Lincoln Parish Council 2016/17

I have only been in the Chair for 4 days and would like to offer my thanks to the outgoing Chairman, Dick Pikett for doing a sterling job during his time in office over the past eight years.

We have held 53 Council and Committee meetings this year and in addition, Councillors have attended training courses, local events and represented the Council on committees of other organisations and groups in the village and beyond.

Julie, our Clerk has attended training courses, the SLCC National and Practitioners' Conferences and other meetings on behalf of the Council.

The **Environment Committee** is responsible for the Christmas tree on the Village Green and the lighting of the tree has become a well attended annual event, Bob Boulton, the recipient of the 2016 Community Award turned on the Christmas tree lights and the star on the Church was switched on at the same time; mulled wine and mince pies were provided by the Parish Council.

The LCC P3 Scheme grant funding has been withdrawn and the Council has decided to continue with the additional three cuts and strimming on the Public Rights of Way footpaths in and around the village.

A Tree Survey Report of all trees on Council owned land was commissioned and as a result work has been prioritised to those trees requiring maintenance to be carried out as soon as possible, with further maintenance to follow over the next couple of years.

The village floral displays again did the Committee proud planted up in a red, white and blue theme to commemorate the 90th birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

A joint venture with the **Publications & Heritage and Highways & Utilities Committees** has seen benches commemorating WW1 and WW2 and a matching litter bin installed on the corner of Hackthorn Road and Ryland Road for which we have received many positive comments from residents.

The **Publications & Heritage Committee** were hoping to add some more pages to and re-print the book "Welton, I remember....", but due to a lack of new material being provided has decided not to proceed with this project for the time being, they are however forging ahead with a Village Information Leaflet. The timbers on the Village Pump are in a poor condition and work will soon commence on replacing them and refurbishing it; quotes are currently being sought for cleaning the War Memorial and this will be carried out during the summer months.

Eric Sharp has long been the person who raised the flags on the flagpole in the churchyard and the Council has now taken over this responsibility, with his guidance for which we are grateful.

The 2016 Community Award recipient was **Bob Boulton** who for many years has been tirelessly raising money for Matt's Fund, a charity that was started following the loss of his son Matthew from skin cancer at the age of 24 in 2008, he was also the Chairman of the Welton Moncé Family Twinning Association and has been a valued contributor to the Neighbourhood Plan.

The **Library Committee** has been running the library successfully for the past year with our group of volunteers, who we must thank for their dedication and giving of their time for the benefit of the community. The lease with the Co-op runs out in October and we have been unable to find a suitable or alternative location to re-house the library and in October it will close. However, the Council has decided to embark on an exciting new project to form a Community Hub based in the Pavilion at Manor Park with the support of a mobile library service, the finer details have yet to be decided and the council has appointed a Working Group to carry out the preliminary work; it is hoped it will include a book, jigsaw puzzle and toy exchange, clubs for dominoes, cribbage and scrabble, craft activities and for the younger members of the community to have story times and play days etc., or just somewhere to meet up with friends. The Committee has now been dissolved and all matters are dealt with at Full Council; we must thank them for their hard work under the leadership of Cllr Kathryn England for its successful operation knowing it would only be for a limited period of time.

The **Playing Fields & Recreation Committee** has been re-named the **Facilities & Recreation Committee** and with grant funding from WLDC and The Big Lottery Awards for All and a contribution from the Welton Sports & Social Club, will be installing a new piece of equipment chosen by the pupils of St Mary's Primary Academy and arranging for repairs to and re-painting of some of the equipment on the Ryland Road play area.

Unfortunately Manor Park is still suffering from acts of Anti Social Behaviour and it is hoped that the installation of a floodlit automatic barrier and Number Plate Recognition CCTV camera will go some way to preventing this and we must thank our PCSO Angie Law and the local policing team for their support and assistance over the past year. Dog fouling and dogs being allowed to roam off their leads remains a continuing problem. The Pavilion is hired out during the day and evening for various classes and is proving very popular as a venue for birthday parties and other family celebrations; the 3G pitch is hired out almost to capacity in the evenings and at weekends.

The Council has agreed to carry out substantial remedial work to the pitches during the summer months which will improve their drainage and playability.

An exciting new project of establishing a Community Hub will fall to this Committee to manage and I am sure they will meet the challenge with enthusiasm and the full support of the Council.

The **Highways & Utilities Committee** oversees the use of the portable speed camera that you see around the village and at times it has produced some alarming statistics on speeding through the village – can you really do 57mph on Ryland Road? The Committee are responsible for grass cutting around the village and last year it was felt that a good job had been carried out for the majority of the time; the weather is always a challenge! LCC has done a bit of a u-turn in withdrawing completely its funding to the costs of cutting the highway verges and will now be making a small contribution.

Two solar powered lights have been installed adjacent to Footpath 169 off Sudbeck Lane/Beckhall.

The Committee continues to lobby LCC Highways regarding potholes on the roads, the condition of footways around the village and preventing vehicles parking on verges and for improvements to the junctions on the A46 and A15.

Now that the **Neighbourhood Plan** is “made” the workload on the now re-named **Planning Committee** has reduced somewhat. A number of planning permissions have been granted for developments in and around the village and we continue to have a dialogue with these developers on how their contributions via 106 agreements can benefit the village.

The Committee continues to make objections to WLDC on applications for infill development, although with not much success, as these also impact on the growing number of properties within the village.

The May Day Event which the Parish Council continues to support with meeting the cost of Public Liability Insurance was again a great success and our thanks go to **Peter Harrold** for organising this event with his group of volunteers.

West Lindsey Benefits and Citizens Advice Bureau Surgeries are held in the Parish Office on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and continue to be well attended.

The Parish Council holds its surgery on the 1st Saturday of each month in the library.

Cllr Dick Pikett laid a wreath on behalf of the village at the annual Remembrance Day service.

To celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the opening of Manor Park and the 30th Anniversary of Welton Football Club events were held jointly with the Family Twinning Association over the August Bank Holiday weekend. The Parish Council hosted a Civic visit from the Chairman and three Councillors from the Council in Moncé en Belin and we thank Cllrs Kathryn England and Mike Powell and the Clerk for looking after them during their visit to Welton.

A **Twinning Committee** has been formed and they will be responsible for overseeing the arrangements for future Civic visits to and receiving guests from our corresponding Council in France.

And finally, I wish to thank the Parish Council staff, all Parish Councillors, our County Councillor, District Councillors and the many organisations and individual parishioners who have supported us throughout the year.

Cllr Alan Greenway
Chairman, Welton-by-Lincoln Parish Council