

Chairman's Annual Report

Welton-by-Lincoln Parish Council 2017/18

We have held 39 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, representatives from the Library Volunteers, as recipients of the 2017 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 Choir sang beautifully and this year the Scouts joined in with providing other refreshments and games etc.

The Council has continued with paying for the strimming on the Public Rights of Way footpaths in and around the village.

As a result of the Tree Survey Report carried out a couple of years ago work has now been completed on the trees that were identified as requiring maintenance.

The village floral displays again did the Committee proud planted up in a blue, gold and yellow theme to reflect the Queen's Sapphire Jubilee.

At the request of the family of Geoff and Sheila Croft who lived in and contributed to the community over a number of years; a memorial bench has been located at the end of Sudbeck Lane in their memory, the cost of which was born by their family. This has replaced the Coronation bench which was removed due to it being damaged; it will be renovated and relocated on the Village Green sometime in the future.

The Committee has been working with the Wild Trout Trust on the Lincolnshire Limestone Beck Project; the work on the section of beck running along the Ryland Road playing field has now been completed and it is hoped will encourage trout back into this area.

The **Publications & Heritage Committee** has been working on a Village Information Leaflet which is nearing completion and will be delivered to every household in the village and to new properties as they are built and occupied. The timbers on the Village Pump have been replaced and the War Memorial and Flagpole cleaned.

The 2017 Community Award recipients were the Library Volunteers who have continued to give their valuable time and dedication to assist us in running the library and retaining this valuable asset for the village. Last year at this meeting its future was unknown and we thought that the only way forward was to have a mobile library service, but in the interim period we have been able to build an extension at Manor Park Sports Club to house the library with funding provided by Lincolnshire County Council, West Lindsey District Council

and monies from Parish Council reserves. We are hoping to recruit some new volunteers to set up the Community Hub during the next few months.

The **Facilities & Recreation Committee** with grant funding from West Lindsey District Council, the Big Lottery Awards for All and a contribution from the Welton Sports & Social Club, a new piece of equipment chosen by the pupils of St Mary's Primary Academy has been installed on the Ryland Road play area and I had the pleasure of seeing them use it when it was unveiled by them in the summer.

A floodlit automatic barrier and Number Plate Recognition CCTV camera has now been installed at Manor Park and we must thank our PCSO Angie Law and the local policing team for their continued support and assistance. Dog fouling and dogs being allowed to roam off their leads remains a problem. The Pavilion is now being used from Monday to Wednesday during the day for the library and during the evenings for various classes; it is also proving very popular as a venue for birthday parties and family celebrations; the 3G pitch is hired out almost to capacity in the evenings and at weekends.

The remedial work to the drainage on the grass pitches has proved to be successful in improving their playability.

The **Highways & Utilities Committee** is responsible for the portable speed camera that you see around the village and at times it continues to produce some useful statistics on speeding through the village. The Committee is responsible for grass cutting around the village and last year it considered that a good job had been carried out for the majority of the time; the weather is always a challenge! LCC continues to offer a small contribution to the costs of cutting the highway verges.

The Committee continues to lobby LCC Highways regarding potholes on the roads, the condition of footways around the village. The Committee has welcomed the planning permission granted for a new roundabout and looks forward to it being implemented. It will continue to request for improvements to be made to the junction on the A15.

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** and his group of volunteers for organising this annual event.

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

The Parish Council decided to discontinue its surgeries on the 1st Saturday of each month and now offer appointments with individual Councillors through the Parish Office if residents wish to speak directly to a member.

I laid a wreath on behalf of the village at the annual Remembrance Day service.

The **Twinning Committee** continues to have a dialogue with our corresponding Council in France and this year they will be visiting Welton.

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