

Chairman's Annual Report

Welton-by-Lincoln Parish Council 2021/22

The Council was only able to meet again in the normal way from 7th May last year, so this is our first face to face Annual Parish Meeting since the 23rd September 2019.

We usually meet on the second Monday of each month, except in August and most committees meet bi-monthly. We have 13 Councillor seats and in May of each year, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman are elected at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council which differs to the Annual Parish Meeting which is for the Electors of the Parish. The Council held 37 Council and Committee meetings from May 2021 to April this year.

The Council decided not to enter the East Midlands in Bloom competition last year and is taking part this year with a volunteer group having been formed with a number of ideas in place. Our floral displays last year had a red, white, and blue theme intended to commemorate the 100th Birthday of His late Royal Highness Prince Philip, sadly he passed away a couple of months short of the celebration; this year the colour theme is again the same, to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen.

I had the honour of laying a wreath at the War Memorial on behalf of the village on Remembrance Day in November; it was lovely to be able to have a gathering and the usual ceremony. You may have noticed the two "Unknown Tommy" figures at the entrances to the village on Cliff Road and Lincoln Road, in remembrance of those who gave their lives in war and conflict.

Another event that was again able to be celebrated, was the annual Christmas tree lighting with the children from St Mary's Primary School processing and singing Carols led by our vicar, the Rev'd Adam Watson who also led the Caroloke afterwards. Mulled wine and mince pies were served by Councillors and staff. Margaret Blaydes who was the recipient of the 2020 Community Award had the honour of switching on the lights.

Again, this year the May Day Fair took place and by all accounts it was a very successful and well attended event; the PC supported it in paying for the Public Liability Insurance and arranging the road closure.

At last we are able to bestow the honorary titles awarded to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the formation of the Parish Council in 1895 on Marlene Chapman and the late Malcolm Parish for their work in the community.

The Community Speed Watch volunteers have now been operational for nearly a year; they have recorded some alarming speeds as cars travel through our village. We still need more members to join our team, training is provided by the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership; so if you can spare an hour or two a month, please get in touch with the Clerk.

The Library & Community Hub goes from strength to strength with visitor numbers increasing since the lockdowns and Hub Events well attended to hear talks on subjects by experts and enthusiastic members of various organisations. Our library is only able to operate with the dedication and time given by volunteers and again, if you can spare an hour or two a week, fortnightly or monthly or to

arrange a taster session please get in touch with the Clerk or speak to one of the volunteers at the library. Training is provided by GLL.

In February and April we dedicated two memorial benches to Malcolm Parish, a past member and Chairman of the Council and Cllr Eddie Reall, who was a serving member and Chairman of the former Highways & Utilities Committee for many years who both passed away in February 2020.

Moving forward the Council has a number of projects it is currently undertaking including:

- We are working with the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust and hoping for the involvement of Bishop Burton College on enhancing the Lagoon area off Beckhall, encouraging more wildlife into the area by improving habitats and planting native species wildflowers and plants
- Installing Sites of Interest information boards around the village using QR codes
- Re-vitalising the old Bowls Green with a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) and outdoor gym equipment – we are awaiting the results of grant funding applications to enable us to proceed with this project
- Replacing some items of play equipment

The Council is served by the Parish Clerk Julie Murray, Deputy Clerk Louise Gibbs, Internal Auditor and Data Protection Officer Sandra Waller, and our Facilities Team Rob Lewis, Ken Moate, Sue Denton, Russ Howe, and Maurice Swinburn.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Parish Council staff, Parish Councillors, our County and District Councillors and the many organisations and individual parishioners and volunteers who have supported our community throughout these recent challenging years.

I wish you all well for the year ahead.

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