

Chairman's Annual Report

Welton-by-Lincoln Parish Council 2023/2024

Firstly I would like to introduce myself as the newly elected Chairman of the Parish Council, just 10 days in office so far and all is going well, hopefully I can beat Liz Truss' record!

The council would like to thank the outgoing Chairman, Cllr Alan Greenway for all he has done carrying out this role for the past 7 years, I have a big act to follow.

Now down to business, the Council held 29 Council and Committee meetings from May 2023 to April this year.

Our floral displays last year had a red, white, and blue theme to commemorate the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. To celebrate this National Event, the Council invited residents of the village to an Afternoon Tea on the village green. Music was provided by the City of Lincoln Band, dancing from Poacher Morris, craft and food stalls, and a fly past by a Spitfire from the Battle of Britain Flight.

Cllr Greenway had the honour of laying a wreath at the War Memorial on behalf of the village on Remembrance Day in November.

Another event that brought the community together, was the annual Christmas tree lighting and market. Unfortunately, on the morning we woke up to heavy snow and I would like to thank the staff, councillors and volunteers that rallied round to help clear the snow so that the event could take place. The children from St Mary's Primary School enjoyed singing Carols led by Paul Maple and were accompanied by the City of Lincoln Band. Mulled wine and mince pies were served by Councillors and staff. A fairground ride, balloon twisting, and Santa's grotto were also provided for the children.

The Farmer's Market on the 2nd Thursday of every month has gone from strength to strength with many crafters on the waiting list.

The Community Speed Watch volunteers have continued to record some alarming speeds as cars travel through our village. Three new volunteers have joined the team, but we still need more members, 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 and Hub Events being well attended to hear talks on subjects by experts and enthusiastic members of various organisations. The Children's Craft events are also proving very popular with more children coming each time. 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 Greenwich Leisure Ltd who carry this out on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council. Thank you to Mike Hubbert for his help and coordination of the library volunteers and events.

Additional Sites of Interest information boards are being prepared and will be installed around the village using QR codes and a leaflet of the sites is available at the Parish Office.

A new dual swing unit with cradle seat and a cableway has been installed at the Manor Park play area and a new bike shelter, map board and lectern and Memorial Seat on the village green have all been installed with grants from West Lindsey District Council.

We are very excited for the upcoming Music and Arts Festival taking place from the 4th – 7th July. I hope that you all have your tickets booked as there is a variety of events taking place which should appeal to all.

The work of the council on the whole is carried out by the Committees and I would like to thank them for their hard work over the year and in particular their Chairmen.

The Council is served by the Parish Clerk, Julie Murray, Deputy Clerk, Louise Gibbs and our Administration Assistant, Hazel Bell. Our Internal Auditor and Data Protection Officer Sandra Waller, and our Facilities Team Rob Lewis, Sue Denton, Steve Broughton, Harry Cairns and Maurice Swinburn have all done a wonderful job over the past year.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all of our Parish Councillors, our County Councillor Sue Rawlins, District Councillors Di Rodgers, Sebastian Hauge and Paul Swift, the many organisations and individual parishioners and volunteers who have supported our community throughout the year.

I wish you all well for the year ahead.

Cllr Graham Briggs
Chairman, Welton-by-Lincoln Parish Council