

Chairman's Annual Report

Welton-by-Lincoln Parish Council 2024/2025

Well, I made it through my first year and I have been elected to serve a second year! It was a busier year than I had anticipated but with my grateful thanks to all of our Parish Councillors, and the fabulous support I received from the Parish Clerk, Julie Murray, Deputy Clerk, Louise Gibbs and our Administration Assistant, Hazel Bell, I am confident we can continue to progress the multiple initiatives that began to gain traction over the past 12 months.

As I am sure you are aware, the work of the Council is, on the whole, carried out by the Committees. The Council held 32 Council and Committee meetings from May 2024 to April this year. I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for their hard work over the past year and in particular the Committee Chairmen.

It was with a heavy heart that the Council accepted the resignation of Cllr Alan Greenway in December 2024; he had been a councillor since December 2008 and its Chairman from 2017 until last May. We must thank him for his donation of a gavel and block to be used at all council meetings and for purchasing the Lantern of Peace commemorating the 80th Anniversary of VE Day, which has been placed on the War Memorial alongside the flagpole where a commemorative flag is flying.

We must also thank the Welton and Dunholme Methodist Church for the display of poppies around the village for the commemoration. The poppy wreaths have also been left on the War Memorial for a longer period this year especially for the anniversary.

Our floral displays last year had a red, white, and blue theme to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of D-Day.

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

An annual event that brought the community together, was the Christmas tree lighting and market. The weather was kinder to us than the previous year and there were rides, refreshments, and stalls to be enjoyed by all ages. The children from St Mary's Primary School sang Carols and were accompanied by the City of Lincoln Band. Councillors and staff served mulled wine and mince pies, and Santa was in his grotto providing the children the opportunity of giving him their wish lists.

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 speeds of cars as they travel through our village and our thanks go to PC Toyn who joins them when he can; issuing tickets directly to speeders.

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 extremely popular with more children coming each time. Our library is only able to operate with the dedication and time given by

volunteers and we thank them for that. Thanks also goes to Mike Hubbert for his help and coordination of the library volunteers and events.

Our first Music and Arts Festival took place from the 4th – 7th July. I hope that all those who attended enjoyed themselves and will be buying tickets for this year's festival; as it was so successful we decided to do it all again!

I have particularly been involved in the discussions relating to the potential redevelopment of Welton Village Hall and the options for the future of Welton Country Park. I would like to thank the Welton Village Hall Trustees for their openness in exploring how we can best ensure that the Hall remains a viable and sustainable long term community asset.

Although the timetable for the legal transfer of the ownership of the land from Beal Homes to the Council, and which will become Welton Country Park, remains obscure, I am delighted that we have commenced the new consultation on options for the use of that land. Please do take the time after this meeting to share your views with us.

Also, on display after the meeting is the outline New Neighbourhood Plan. Very many thanks are owed to those driving this piece of work, namely Councillors Lobley and Powell, community representatives Graham Nicholls and Chris Thomas, all ably supported by the versatile Hazel Bell.

In closing I would add my thanks to:-

- Our Internal Auditor and Data Protection Officer Sandra Waller,
- our Facilities Team Steve Broughton and Harry Cairns who have all done a wonderful job over the past year.
- our outgoing County Councillor Sue Rawlins,
- our District Councillors Di Rodgers, Sebastian Hauge and Paul Swift,
- And the many organisations and individual parishioners and volunteers who have supported our community throughout the year.

We welcome our new County Councillor Jane Smith and I wish you all well for the year ahead. Thank you.

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