

## **Chairman's Annual Report**

### **Welton-by-Lincoln Parish Council 2019/20 & 2020/21**

This is how I had planned on starting my report last year "I would normally be giving this report at the Annual Parish Meeting, usually held in May, but as large gatherings are currently not allowed, we most likely will have to wait until 2021 for the next one"; well what a year it has been and one that none of us would have expected, however, we are coming through it and hopefully there is now light at the end of the tunnel!

The Council has obviously not been able to meet in the normal way and did not meet from March until June last year. It usually meets 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. Again, we have not been able to hold this meeting either and legislation was passed to enable the Chairman to continue until this year.

In 2020 we said a very sad goodbye to Cllr Eddie Reall, a serving member of the Council and Chairman of the former Highways & Utilities Committee for many years and to Malcolm Parish, a past member and Chairman who both passed away in February.

In 2019/20, up until the first lockdown, the Council had held 34 Council and Committee meetings. A restructuring of the committees took effect from the 1st April 2020; the Publications & Heritage and Twinning Committees became the Heritage & Events Committee. The Environment and Highways & Utilities Committees were incorporated in the newly created Amenities & Services Committee. The Planning Committee was re-named the Planning & Development Committee and the Management & Audit Committee is now the Governance & Finance Committee.

The Council entered the East Midlands in Bloom competition for the first time in 2019 and received a Silver Award, a real achievement. The competition was cancelled in 2020 and the Council has also decided not to enter this year, holding back until next year, when it is hoped a Community Group can be formed to take it forward. Our floral displays last year had a red, white, and blue theme to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day and will again have the same colour scheme this year which was intended to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday of His late Royal Highness Prince Philip.

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic the May Day Fair in 2020 and this year were cancelled. It is such a shame as we were co-ordinating events with the VE Day celebrations last year and had planned a Tea Dance with 40's themed entertainment and an afternoon tea in the Village Hall. Village Christmas events were also unable to take place.

To commemorate the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of the Parish Council in 1895, honorary titles were bestowed on Marlene Chapman and Malcolm Parish (prior to his passing) for their work in the community and it is hoped a celebration can be held later this year.

A wreath was laid at the War Memorial on behalf of the village on Remembrance Day in November; a strange affair, with no crowd or ceremony.

In December 2019, the lighting of the Christmas tree took place with Revd Carol Jones, the recipient of the 2019 Community Award, turning the lights on. Councillors assisted in serving mulled wine and mince pies to residents.

The Council is served by the Parish Clerk Julie Murray, two Administration Assistants Leticia Copper and Alison Hemsley, Internal Auditor and Data Protection Officer Sandra Waller, and our Facilities Team Rob Lewis, Ken Moate, Sue Denton, Russ Howe, and Maurice Swinburn. Linda Blankley, our former Deputy Clerk, retired at the end of June 2020 and we would like to thank her in retrospect for the commitment she gave to the Council and Welton during the 2½ years she was with us and wish her well for the future.

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 this last challenging year.

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

- The enhancement of the Lagoon Area off Beckhall, planning to encourage wildlife into the area by improving habitats and planting native species wildflowers and plants
- Forming a Heritage Trail around the village using QR codes
- Cleaning the Dr Richard Smith and War Memorials
- Installing 10 new dog and litter bins around the village
- Providing more benches including two commemorating Cllr Eddie Real and Malcolm Parish
- Improvement of the footpath from Eagle Drive to Manor Park
- Re-vitalising the old Bowls Green with a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) and outdoor gym equipment
- Replacing some items of play equipment
- Installing two “Tommy” figures at the entrances to the village on Cliff Road and Lincoln Road

I wish you all well for the coming year.

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