

Annual Report

Welton-by-Lincoln Parish Council 2018/19

The Council meets on the second Monday of every month except in August and committee meetings are usually held bi-monthly. There are 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 this meeting which is the Annual Parish Meeting for Electors.

This year the Council has held 33 Council and Committee meetings 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 – not just a few hours a month!

There are 7 committees of the Council: Environment, Facilities & Recreation, Highways & Utilities, Management & Audit, Planning (please note the Parish Council are not responsible for the approval or rejection of planning applications, it is merely a consultee), Publications & Heritage and Twinning. There are also additional working groups who report and make recommendations to Full Council for approval.

The Council is served by the Parish Clerk Julie Murray, Deputy Clerk Linda Blankley, Internal Auditor and DPO Sandra Waller and our Facilities Team Rob Lewis, Ken Moate, Sue Denton and Maurice Swinburn.

The Parish Council continues to support the **May Day Fair**, meeting the cost of Public Liability Insurance and again last year it was a great success and our thanks go to **Peter Harrold, Jill Brown** and their 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.

Cllr Mrs Marlene Chapman in her role as Vice-Chairman, represented the Council at the RAF Scampton Annual Reception and Sunset Ceremony in June.

I proudly laid a wreath on behalf of the village at the extended Remembrance Day service in November which commemorated 100 years of the end of the Great War; a number of organisations in the village worked in partnership to make the parade and service a memorable event; the Parish Council installed a third memorial bench on the bank opposite the War Memorial and continues to award an annual grant to ensure flowers are placed on the memorial all year round.

The Council has continued a dialogue with the Living Well Group; who you may remember gave a presentation at last year's meeting and has agreed to defer any further meetings until such time as the 22 acres of land off Prebend Lane has been transferred into the ownership of the Parish Council.

A further public access defibrillator has been purchased under the WLDC Defibrillator Scheme and was installed on the exterior wall of Welton Sports and Social Club. The other two are located at the rear of the pavilion at Manor Park Sports Club and outside the Parish Office. We know for a fact that they have been accessed on a number of occasions and hope they continue to save lives. The old defibrillator which came out of the broken case has been donated to the Village Hall.

A new PA sound system was purchased last year, with the old one being donated to the PDA for use at their many fund raising events.

I will now hand over to the Chairmen/women of our Parish Council Committees to give reports on their activities since our last meeting.

Reports from committee chairmen

Thank you for all your reports and the sterling work carried out by your committees.

Personally, I would like to thank the Parish Council staff, Parish Councillors, our County and District Councillors and the many organisations and individual parishioners who have supported us throughout the year. Thank you for joining us this evening and hope we will see you again next year.

Cllr Alan Greenway
Chairman

Reports from committees

Unfortunately, Cllr Mrs Sue Watson, Chairman of the committee cannot be here this evening; it has fallen on me, Cllr Mike Powell as the village Tree Warden to give the report from the **Environment Committee**. This committee is responsible for looking after the allotments, public rights of way footpaths, trees, litter, dog fouling, the beck, the Conservation area and many other matters concerning the environment including the village Christmas tree. The lighting of the tree has become a well attended annual event; Mike Hubbert, as recipient of the 2018 Community Award for his work with LIVES and the Library & Community Hub switched on the lights and the star on the Church was lit at the same time; mulled wine and mince pies were provided by the Parish Council. The Choir sang advent carols as they processed across from the Church.

The Council continues to pay for strimming the Public Rights of Way footpaths in and around the village; the grant received annually from LCC ceased a number of years ago. A considerable amount of maintenance has been carried out to trees around the village and two new trees have been planted as a result of a kind donation from Hugh Gilfedder.

The village floral displays were planted in a purple, cream and green theme to reflect the colours of the Suffragette movement commemorating the 100th anniversary when some women won the right to vote on 6th February 1918.

Reduction of plastic waste is an issue that the committee is promoting and has been in contact with local businesses and schools for their support together with urging residents to be mindful of their usage.

This year we are entering the East Midlands in Bloom competition for the first time and call upon the keen gardeners among you to put on a colourful display, for the judges to see when they visit the village in July. Let's hope we will have something positive to report next year.

Cllr Mrs Pamela van Gelderen, Chairperson of the **Publications and Heritage Committee**, which deals with matters relating to the Pinfold, the War Memorial, Dr Richard Smith Memorial, the Victorian Lamppost, the Community Award and publications issued by the council.

The Committee has finished working on a village booklet which will be delivered to every household and business in the village and to new properties as they are built and occupied. It provides information about local services, shops and places of interest in the area.

The committee is responsible for deciding who will receive the annual Community Awards following nomination by members of the community. This is not an easy task as there are many deserving volunteers working behind the scenes in all areas of village life and we would really like to give awards to all of them.

The council decided, once again, to take part in the Christmas Tree Festival held in St Mary's Church at the end of November last year, and having produced many other Parish Council displays myself over several years now, I can personally assure everyone, that, as before, it took more than "a few hours" to design and make, by hand, all the decorations for the council's tree.

It was amazing to see how much work, ingenuity and imagination had gone into the production of all the decorated trees produced by so many of the village's groups and organisations, and the church looked wonderful.

We are always pleased to receive any ideas and suggestions for new projects and look forward to hearing from you.

Cllr Al Lowen, Chairman of the **Facilities & Recreation Committee**, is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of Manor Park, the Ryland Road playing field, two play areas, the Skate Park and the Welton Village Library & Community Hub. Manor Park is also the base for our facilities team, who not only look after the building and grounds there, but also the maintenance of benches and the bird, bat & insect boxes, at various locations around the village.

Unfortunately, due to vandalism, accidental damage and mechanical failures, we have recently experienced problems with the automatic barrier at Manor Park, but we are hopeful that in the next few weeks, after essential maintenance has been completed, it will be working again. The Number Plate Recognition CCTV camera has proved instrumental in identifying the culprits of anti-social behaviour and vehicles being used irresponsibly on the park. I would like to 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 both at Manor Park and on Ryland Road playing field.

The Manor Park pavilion is used twice weekly for Pilates classes, a toddler's music programme, by two bridge clubs and the bowls club, together with the football club, who regularly play at weekends. It is a popular venue for birthday parties and family celebrations and the 3G football pitch is hired out almost to capacity in the evenings and at weekends.

The Library and Community Hub is open from Monday to Wednesday during the day and it has been a worthwhile investment in retaining this service for the village. Community Hub events have been developed over the past few months and are proving ever popular with a regular attendance of around 40 people. More events are planned in the coming months. New volunteers are always most welcome and if you are interested in doing so, please contact the Parish Office or call into the library.

The ramps on the Skate Park have recently been refurbished, as it has been operational since 2007, and the surfaces had deteriorated to almost dangerous levels. New Skatelite has replaced the old and a new drainage channel has been installed next to the half pipe, to prevent pooling of water after rainfall. I am sure the users, of which there are many, are most grateful, as it is a great asset to our village.

I would like to thank the members of the Bowls Club who carry out the regular maintenance of the green and always keep it looking pristine, and would also like to thank Terry Peachman (Welton FC), Sue Hilditch (BC), Maureen Spalding (WS&SC) and Mike Hubbert (Library/CH) for giving up their time to attend and contribute to our meetings and our Deputy Clerk, Linda, for keeping us in check.

Cllr Eddie Reall, Chairman of the **Highways & Utilities Committee** which is responsible for dealing with issues relating to the roads, verges, paths, grass cutting, street furniture, the Village Green and anything else traffic or utility related including the monitoring of the speed cameras that are located at strategic points around the village.

We oversee the grass cutting around the village and also cover the cost for mowing the churchyard and last year it considered that a good job had been carried out by the contractor, the weather is always a challenge and last year it was the long, hot, dry spell! LCC has increased its contribution to the council by a small amount of meeting the cost of cutting the highway verges.

The Committee continues to lobby LCC Highways regarding potholes on the roads and the condition of footways around the village. The Committee has welcomed the news that work will commence later this year on the new roundabout at the A46 junction with completion due in early 2020. We will continue to request that improvements are also made to the junction with the A15.

Cllr Mrs Marlene Chapman, Vice-Chair of the Council and Chairman of the **Twinning Committee** who oversee all activities related to Twinning with the Council in Moncé en Belin, a small town similar in size and population to Welton, in the Sarthe department located in the region of Pays-de-la-Loire in north-western France. Welton has been twinned with Moncé since 1997 and the councils meet and celebrate anniversaries every 10 years.

Visits between members of the Family Twinning Association take place each year over the August Bank Holiday weekend and last year it was their turn to visit Welton. The Parish Council does not take part in these exchanges unless invited to do so in a Civic capacity and it has been my pleasure to represent the council, usually in giving the welcome speech on their arrival in Welton.