

The **Annual Parish Meeting** was held on Thursday 23rd May 2024 in Welton Village Hall

Chairman: Cllr Graham Briggs (Chairman of the Parish Council)
Secretary: Louise Gibbs (Deputy Clerk & RFO to the Parish Council)
 Hazel Bell (Administration Assistant to the Parish Council)
Present: 30 members of the public

165 Minutes

The notes of the Parish Meeting held on 25th May 2023 were approved and signed.
 Proposed: A Greenway Seconded: R Fletcher

166 Chairman's Report

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.

167 Financial Report

The Parish Council raises a Precept, each year to finance the services it provides and improve the facilities it manages. When setting the precept, members are mindful of making increases and implementing cuts where possible; consideration is given to the services the Council has to deliver and they prioritise these very carefully.

The Precept in 2023/24 was £202,150 an increase of 27.13%, with income of £98,598 including grants totalling £18,150; £8,000 was awarded from the West Lindsey Large Retail Area Fund which was spent on a new village map displayed on the Village Green, a bike shelter to encourage residents to cycle into the village centre, new litter bins and the King's Coronation Memorial Bench with total expenditure being £148,158. Monies in the bank and Ear Marked Reserves held at the yearend totalled £191,491. Income is generated from hiring out the facilities at Manor Park, Library services, sale of books, the provision of laminating and photocopying services, allotment rents and bank account interest.

Expenditure for the year ended 31.3.24 included:

- Staff costs were £124,341 – the council employs 9 members of staff with a constantly increasing workload
- Village Maintenance including village improvements, floral displays, footpath strimming and work to trees was £20,125.
- Grass cutting was £6,607 with a contribution of £2,131 received from LCC.
- The King's Coronation, Christmas tree lighting events and the Music & Arts Festival totalled £12,064
- Manor Park staffing and maintenance was £21,853, income of £48,852
- Library operation £5,160 with an annual revenue grant from LCC of £5,167

The precept for 2024/25 is £212,913; an increase of 5.32% on 2023/24 which equates to approximately 35p per month, per household. The Council has been thoughtful in setting the budget. The main reasons for the slight increase this year are inflation increases to products and services provided to the Parish Council, planned events for the community, rises in pension costs and a 9.8% increase in the national living wage.

A Zip Wire and an inclusive double swing have been installed in the play area at Manor Park, again with funding from West Lindsey District Council. We have an exciting year ahead with our first Music & Arts Festival, providing an opportunity for the community to come together.

The Parish Council recognises the requirement to maintain its financial reserves at recommended levels to ensure financial security against unforeseen circumstances.

The work the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer and the team carries out continues to increase and the Parish Council is a very pro-active council; its members are all unpaid volunteers who want to make a difference to where they live.

Thanks go to the Chairman and Councillors for their continued support, in particular Cllr Fletcher who helps look after the finances. All this is not done alone and she would like to take this opportunity of thanking Louise, our Deputy Clerk for all her support with running the office and our Administration Assistant, Hazel. The facilities team have continued their hard work with a forever increasing workload and for that I thank them all.

168 Parishioners' Questions/Comments

Questions with regards to the transfer of the 22 acres from Beale Homes to the Parish Council.

After a discussion the following points were raised:-

- The Parish Council should challenge as to why Beale Homes have extended the number of houses before the land can be transferred to 200.
- Why Health and Safety would prevent Beale Homes from starting to develop the land.
- The Parish Council should be starting to engage with the public for ideas for the use of the land.
- The Parish Council should seek to secure optimum value from the funds allocated to develop the land and explore options for new sources of funding.
- A timetable should be drawn up for when the land is transferred.

The Chairman clarified the position of the Parish Council with regards to the exterior painting of the Black Bull.

The Parish Council has no jurisdiction over planning matters, the Clerk contacted West Lindsey

Planning with regards to the colour decision in a conservation area and received the following reply.

(The external painting of a building in or out of a conservation area does not require planning permission and is allowed by Schedule 2, Class C of the General Permitted Development Order).

169 To consider designating Mill Lane as a Quiet Lane

No further action required.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Following the official segment of the evening presentations were delivered by: Katie Atkin Stakeholder Engagement & Communications, Strategic Pipeline Alliance and Craig Snow, Project Installation and Assembly Manager and Craig Hopkinson Anglian Water. Chris Thomas and Hazel Bell from the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.

And the Presentation of the 2024 Community Awards by the Chairman took place:
The Community Award is presented jointly to Mike Cosford and Avril Goulding

Signed: Date: