

## **Chairman's Annual Report**

### **Welton-by-Lincoln Parish Council 2025/2026**

I have made it through my second year and my thanks go to all of our Parish Councillors, and the support I have received from the Parish Clerk, Julie Murray, Deputy Clerk, Louise Gibbs and Assistant Clerk, Hazel Bell.

As I am sure you are aware, the work of the Council is, on the whole, carried out by the Committees. The Council held 30 Council and Committee meetings from May 2025 to April this year. I would like to record my sincerest appreciation for the hard work my fellow Councillors over the past year, and in particular the Committee Chairmen.

I am confident we can continue to progress the new era of the Parish Council in planning to take on the responsibility for the operation and potential redevelopment of the Village Hall, similarly for the future development of Welton Country Park and looking forward to the total refurbishment of the Skate Park.

I would like to thank the Welton Village Hall Trustees and particularly Graham Nicholls (who has now moved out of the village) and Terry Peachman for their helpfulness and collaboration in making the transfer process, although frustrating at times dealing with Solicitors, a smooth process.

Although the date for the legal transfer of the land from Beal Homes to the Council, which will become Welton Country Park, remains unknown; the consultation on options for the use of the land was very beneficial with the top two requests being a dog walking area and fitness trail; all suggestions will be taken into consideration when formulating the final plan which will also include a number of allotments. A new Development Interest Group has been formed and recently held their inaugural meeting, with further meetings taking place throughout the year.

Finally on our planned redevelopments, a special thanks to Cllr Al Lowen, Chairman of the Facilities & Recreation Committee and Louise, our Deputy Clerk who have been meeting with potential contractors and working closely with users of the Skate Park to develop and design a new layout for the refurbishment. Like all our development plans their fruition is dependent on sourcing grant funding to top up the monies put aside by the council.

I would also like to say thank you to our facilities team, Richard Bullivant, Cerys Edwards and Sue Grace.

This newly formed team have brought an energy and enthusiasm to maintaining and improving the village amenities. For example, our floral displays this year will be mixed colours and have been designed by our Facilities Assistant, Cerys Edwards and we thank her for taking on this project.

The annual event that brings the community together, is the Christmas market and tree lighting. The lights were switched on by our Community Award recipients Hayley Grundy and John Mulhall; there was a teacup ride, balloon twisting, refreshments, and many craft stalls that were enjoyed by all those attending. 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 ably assisted by his Elf, providing the children the opportunity of giving him their wish lists.

The Farmer's Market on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month still continues to attract local traders and is well attended.

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 continues to be well attended with visitor numbers increasing and Hub Events attracting larger audiences to hear talks on subjects by experts and enthusiastic members of various organisations, the most popular one in recent times was a talk by Tony Taupin, brother of Bernie who is best known for his collaboration with Sir Elton John. The Children's Storytime, Craft and Games events are proving to be very popular with more children attending every time. The first Welton WordFest was held in June and will take place again this year. 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 Music and Arts Festival is now in its third year and takes place in early July at various venues around the village. I hope you enjoyed the variety of events and that all those who attended last year enjoyed themselves and will be buying tickets for this year's festival.

The Neighbourhood Plan is still in progress and hopefully reaching the Referendum stage later this year. Thank you to Cllr Roy Lobley and our Assistant Clerk, Hazel for their collaboration on this project.

In closing I would add my thanks to:-

- Our Internal Auditor and Data Protection Officer Sandra Waller,
- our County Councillor Jane Smith,
- our 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
- and to Cllr Mike Powell who kindly volunteered to lay the wreath on behalf of the Council and its community on November's Remembrance day.

Thank you. I wish you all well for the year ahead.

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