

The **Annual Parish Meeting** was held on Thursday 7th May 2026 in Welton Village Hall

**Chairman:** Cllr Mrs Marlene Chapman (Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council)

**Secretary:** Julie Murray (Clerk & RFO to the Parish Council)  
Louise Gibbs (Deputy Clerk & RFO to the Parish Council)  
Hazel Bell (Assistant Clerk to the Parish Council)

**Present:** 45 members of the public

### 173 Minutes

The notes of the Parish Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2025 were approved and signed.

Proposed: Mike Powell                      Seconded: Terry Jois

### 174 Chairman's Report

**Prepared by Cllr Graham Briggs, Chairman**

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.

## 175 **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 2025/26 was £222,190 an increase of 4.31%, with income of £72,096 and total expenditure being £116,189. Monies in the bank and Ear Marked Reserves held at the yearend totalled £293,769. 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 31.3.26 included:

- Staff costs were £145,803 – the council employs 7 members of staff with a constantly increasing workload
- Village Maintenance including village improvements, floral displays, footpath strimming and work to trees was £11,472.
- Grass cutting was £7,391 with a contribution of £4,639 received from LCC.
- The Farmers' Markets, Christmas tree lighting event and the Music & Arts Festival totalled £15,389; and generated income of £8,209.
- Manor Park staffing and maintenance was £68,588, with an income of £41,960.
- Library operation £2,803 with an annual revenue grant from LCC of £5,167

The precept for 2026/27 is £272,250; an increase of 16.27% on 2025/26 which equates to approximately £1.00 per month, per household.

We have an exciting year ahead the Music & Arts Festival being in its third year, providing an opportunity for the community to come together. New projects coming up are the transfer of the Village Hall to the custodianship of the PC, the ongoing progression of Welton Country Park and the refurbishment of the Skate Park..

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 I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Louise, our Deputy Clerk for all her support with running the office and our Assistant Clerk, Hazel. The facilities team have continued their hard work with a forever increasing workload and for that I thank them all.

## 176 **Parishioners' Questions/Comments**

Questions with regards to attracting a supermarket chain to open a branch in the village, points raised:

Could attract additional traffic and footfall.

Enlarge the Co-op, although there are insufficient parking spaces in the village centre and the car park is limited.

Could we ask the Co-op to consider expanding.  
Approach Sainsbury's.  
Continue to pursue all avenues.  
Contact the supermarkets to ask them to reinstate the bus service from the village to them.  
Ask developers to build a small store on new developments.

It was queried if any comments could be made regarding the proposed 109 dwellings to be built off Eastfield Lane. Planning Permission has been granted and therefore no further comments can be made.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm

*Following the official segment of the evening updates were provided on the upcoming transfer of the Village Hall Trust to the Parish Council and Welton Country Park*

Signed: ..... Date: .....

