

WELTON PARISH COUNCIL
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2015

There have been 12 full Parish Council meetings since the 2014 Annual General Meeting on 20 May. In addition there have been regular meetings of the Planning Committee and the Finance and Policy Working Party. There have also been small working parties to consider specific items such as potential work on the Mill Dam and the Community Led Plan. Councillors have represented the Parish on a number of bodies such as the Memorial Hall Trustees and the Haltemprice and Hunsley Community Partnership. The Council is a member of the East Riding and North Lincolnshire Local Councils Association.

The Budget continues to be healthy and the precept will remain at the same level. There has been further investment in grit bins, litter bins, replacement street lighting and in training for councillors and the Parish Clerk. There has been regular maintenance of the Mill Dam, the Beck was cleared and the replacement of the chain fencing at the Top Green in Welton has been funded. The Parish Council funded as a gift the purchase of new chairs for the hall. Repairs to the church clock and lighting were also funded and a contribution made to the maintenance of the cemetery.

As well as the normal day to day business, the following have been important matters dealt with by the Parish Council:

Melton Fields Planning Application Appeal. After representations from residents the Council had objected to this application which was refused by the East Riding Council and following an appeal by the developer, St Modwen, was the subject of a public enquiry which lasted from November 2013 until August 2014. The Parish Council gave evidence of its objections. The outcome of the appeal is likely to be announced in June.

Melton Quarry Planning Application. An application to build a mixed use development had been made and was refused by the East Riding of Yorkshire Council in 2014. The Parish Council had heard representations from residents and had recommended refusal. No appeal was lodged by the applicant, Melton Grange, but a further application has been lodged, following clearance of the site. An extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 26 February was attended by a number of residents and by a representative of the developer. Councillors heard the views of those attending. As there were no significant changes from the original application, the Council agreed unanimously to object most strongly to the proposal and to recommend refusal to the East Riding Council.

Wind Turbine Applications. An application for a further three wind turbines, in addition to those already approved for a site on the industrial estate was discussed in a full Council meeting. A recommendation to the East Riding Council to refuse the application was agreed.

Mill Dam and Welton Pond. Following another year of difficulties with weed and algae growth which seriously affected the appearance of the centre of Welton the Parish Council agreed to explore the undertaking of major works to alleviate the severity of this problem in the future. As an area requiring specialist expertise at all stages this is potentially a major item of expenditure.

Grants Scheme. The Parish Council has implemented a scheme to award grants of up to £750 to support not-for-profit groups which benefit the local community. The first grant of £500 was made to Brough Voluntary Action, a group which organises transport in the area for hospital appointments etc. It is hoped that many more local organisations will make applications and that this method of application for funding will provide the council with more information when making decisions on spending.

Strategic and Action Plans. The parish council undertook training and spent a considerable period of time discussing how to improve its financial planning and effectiveness and the result is the agreement of Strategic and Action Plans. These will help the Council to agree its priorities, both longer and shorter term, taking into account the initial results of the consultation on the Community Led Plan.

Policies have also been agreed and adopted on a Complaints Procedure, on the publication of information under the Freedom of Information Act and on the Recording of Meetings.

Community Led Plan. This is an ongoing project. After analysis of the results of the questionnaire which went out to all residents, and to which there was a very positive response, outcomes have been used to inform the Strategic and Action plans. The Parish Council is now looking to engage a consultant who can help us move the plan forward. We hope this will lead to the involvement of more residents and community groups who can pursue a variety of activities and interest groups in the parish.

Finally, sincere thanks to Helena Crutchley, our Parish Clerk who has worked extremely hard and provides consistently efficient and patient support.

Alison Peck