

WELTON PARISH COUNCIL
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2017

This has been an extremely busy year with 11 full Parish Council meetings since the 2016 Annual General Meeting on 17 May. In addition there have been regular meetings of the Finance and Policy Working Party and five meetings of the Planning Committee, as for over a year now much of the work of the Planning Committee has been assimilated into the full Council meetings. There have also been working parties to continue the progression of projects on the Mill Dam and the Community Led Plan. Councillors have represented the Parish on the Memorial Hall Trustees and the Council is a member of the East Riding and North Lincolnshire Local Councils Association.

Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations have been reviewed and updated during the course of the past year.

We welcomed one new Councillor during the year, David Pierce, who unfortunately then had to resign due to changing work commitments. Also Cllr Terry Hughes resigned due to ill health and we thanked him for his contribution. This means that we are still working with 3 Councillor vacancies. We are convinced that there are residents within the Parish who could fill those vacancies admirably. New blood is vital to ensure that the Parish Council is a properly representative and responsive body.

The Budget has been healthy and the precept will remain at the same level as last year at £33000. Reserves will decrease significantly as the extensive work on the Mill Dam has been paid for. We had also investigated provision of a Trod footpath to link Melton Bottom to the Wolds Way. We await costings from East Riding Council but if this is viable it is likely also to be funded from reserves.

There has been further investment in grit bins and a new litter bin at the top of Dale Road, which will hopefully encourage dog walkers to pick up after their dogs and to dispose of litter bags more thoughtfully. Training for councillors and the Parish Clerk has been funded. There has been ongoing maintenance of the posts and chain fencing at the Top Green in Welton. Maintenance of the church clock and lighting was also funded.

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

Mill Dam. This has been the major scheme initiated by the Parish Council during my time as a councillor. The start of the work was later than had been hoped as the contractor who had won the tender dropped out but even though the project was done in the winter, the weather was reasonably clement and the work was not too delayed.

The whole pond was emptied and the stream temporarily diverted. Repairs to walls were undertaken, a silt trap was installed, along with an aeration system to try to deal on a long term basis with the problems of silt and algae. The gratings at the various outlets were replaced and ramps installed to try to prevent loss of the duckling population through the sluice grating.

The surrounding area was reurfed and gravelled as appropriate. There is an intention to return the fish and to undertake a planting programme as part of ongoing maintenance.

Council hopes that the disruption to the community was minimal and that residents will appreciate a great improvement to the much loved centre of Welton. Because the work was happening over the Christmas period, the usual Christmas lights could not be put up, but it is hoped that they will be there for Christmas 2017.

Grants Scheme. The Parish Council has a scheme to award grants of up to £750 to support not-for-profit groups which benefit the local community. Grants were made during the year to support maintenance of the cemetery, to the continuing work of the Brough Voluntary Action organisation and to support the continuing publication of the Villages magazine, which is delivered to every house in the parish..

The Council would be delighted if more local organisations would make applications as this scheme directly supports valuable work in our community of which we may not always be aware.

Community Led Plan. The Council continued to work with a consultant to help us move the plan forward and this led to the final consultative event in July which was an attempt to start projects in areas identified by residents. We are very aware that this is a process which has taken some years, but we are now at the stage of producing a plan and continuing projects which we hope will stand the test of time.

St Modwen planning application – Melton Fields. This application was refused by the East Riding Council but the developer lodged an appeal which was heard over a lengthy period during 2015/16. The appeal was refused by the Secretary of State on the recommendation of the Planning Inspector but the developer took the case to the High Court and a further appeal was to be heard in June.

Brough South development. The construction of the new railway bridge has begun, which will be followed by the first stage of the housing, a large proportion of which will be in Welton Parish, and the new Hunsley Primary School. A liaison group has been established to deal with any problems on which the Parish Council is represented. Meetings are held in public.

Traffic problems. Concerns continue to be expressed by residents regarding the traffic levels in the villages and the use of roads by HGVs which should only be within the restricted zone of Melton and Welton for deliveries. There are also ongoing problems with parking connected with both South Hunsley school and Welton Primary. Concerns have been passed on to both the police and East Riding Council.

Melton Pond. Unfortunately terrapins were released into Melton Pond at some point last year. As these are non-native and extremely destructive to wildlife council took

advice and installed a trap but unfortunately none were caught. It is hoped that they will not have survived the winter but if they are spotted again the efforts to trap and remove them will continue.

Wind turbines. Two turbines are now operational with permission for a further 3. There will be a financial contribution for community use by the operators. This will be distributed via the Rural Policy and Partnership Team of East Riding Council. The Parish Council will be represented in negotiations.

Emergency Plan. This has recently been revised and updated.

I am grateful to all councillors for their thoughtful contributions and for the time they give so generously.

On behalf of Councillors and residents I would like to express our thanks to Helena Crutchley, our Parish Clerk who works extremely hard and provides consistently efficient and patient support to all of us. She has guided us through a very busy year and I personally have very much enjoyed working with her.

Alison Peck