

Welton Parish Council

Annual Village meeting held on 28 June 2023

Present: Cllrs Thane (in the Chair), Hutchinson, Mills, Paterson, Pengelly and Taylor
Also in attendance was the Clerk

Fourteen members of the public and Reverend Cannon Elaine Beilby were in attendance

2570 Apologies – Cllrs Peck and Skinn

2571 Opening address by Cllr Mike Thane (Chairman)

Local council elections had taken place in May and the Chairman opened his comments by paying tribute to the four very long-standing members who had decided not to stand for re-election. Gwynneth Banks, Iain Boyle, Jill Gill and Prue Rockett had worked hard in their respective roles over many years and the Parish Council would miss the knowledge and enthusiasm that they had brought to Parish Council meetings.

During the Pandemic, the Parish Council had difficulty in progressing any of the major projects that it had decided to initiate or support pre-pandemic. However, during 2022/23 the Parish Council had been able to support the volunteers undertaking the Melton Pond Restoration Project and allocate additional resources for 2023/24 so that further progress could be made. The work so far involved improving the area around the pond through the removal of a large amount of unwanted vegetation, litter picking, pruning, re staining benches and the planting of bulbs.

In addition, the Parish Council had provided further financial support to Welton Memorial Hall to enable them to construct an outside store to hold tables and chairs and other equipment creating better and safer access to this equipment.

The Parish Council continued with its normal service delivery including the ongoing maintenance of the water course and the provision of street lighting and winter salt bins through service level agreements with East Riding of Yorkshire Council.

As a result of the Parish Council not being able to fund some intended projects during the Pandemic a substantial bank balance had built up; the Parish Council had therefore been able to reduce the Council tax precept for 2022/23 and maintain this reduced precept for 2023/24.

The Parish Council continued to work in close liaison with partner agencies including the County Council, National Highways, Police, Humberside Fire and Rescue, the Ambulance Service, Welton Memorial Hall Trustees, St. Helen's Church, local businesses and neighbouring Town and Parish Councils to address a range of local issues.

Additionally, members' had been assigned more specific roles and continued to attend external meetings with the Brough South and Transwaste Liaison groups to ensure that the views of residents and the Parish Council were effectively communicated.

The Parish Council had been pleased to be represented on the organising committees for the Queen's Jubilee in 2023 and more recently the King's Coronation and had also provided financial support when requested.

The Clerk and members of the Council continued to receive a broad range of enquiries and complaints from residents. If these fell within the legal remit of the Parish Council members would debate the matter and try to develop a response. The Parish Council would continue to work with ERC and ER ward members to resolve any matters outside of the Parish Council's jurisdiction.

Parking around South Hunsley Academy continued to be an issue and after concerns were communicated to ERC, road markings had recently been refreshed to ensure that restricted areas were clearly identifiable.

The Parish Council had supported a bid by ward Cllrs, resulting in the installation of CCTV by ERC at Melton underpass to improve safety for users of the route, particularly school children, who were otherwise crossing a busy road network linking the A63 to Melton Business Park.

During 2021, a schedule of works to improve the street scene had been drawn up in partnership with ERC to include cleaning of street signage, the renovation of street furniture (benches and bins) and works to improve the grassed area of the large green. It was noted that to date some actions remained outstanding and would be re raised during the forthcoming village taskforce meeting with ERC.

In relation to planning applications, the Parish Council was a statutory consultee only and had no powers to determine planning applications, decisions being taken by ERC as the Planning Authority. Applications were discussed by members during the monthly full Council meeting and comments submitted by the Clerk on behalf of the Parish Council. It had been disappointing during the past year that the Parish Council had seen an increasing number of applications requesting retrospective planning permission, some of which ERC had turned down.

At the end of 2021, the village magazine had been left without an editor. After many requests from residents that the magazine be continued, this matter was considered by the Parish Council resulting in Cllr Thane taking on the editorial role. The Parish Council had also allocated a budget to cover approximately half of the costs of producing the magazine after printing costs increased significantly in 2022, the remaining funds being raised through advertising. All residential properties in Welton, Melton and Wauldby received a copy of the bi-monthly publication delivered to their door.

During the preceding twelve months the Parish Council had been pleased to co-opt three new younger people as Parish Councillors. Six members had stood for re-election in 2023 in an uncontested election. Since the election, two more members had been co-opted, leaving the Parish Council with a further four vacancies to fill. Queries regarding joining the Parish Council should be directed to the Chairman or Clerk.

2572 Public Forum

Residents had held a pre-meeting and appointed a spokesperson to speak on their behalf.

Issues raised by residents

How can residents help to make the village a more desirable place to live?

The green and some of the grassed areas around the village could be better maintained and improved.

In other East Riding villages volunteers are involved in planting flowers, residents' would like to be involved and form a group.

Coming into the village from the A63 junction residents would like to see an improved landscape, meadow flowers or decorative grass.

Following completion of the new roundabout at the Brough junction, can rhododendrons / shrubs be planted on the Welton side?

Residents would welcome a project to make the entry to the village more attractive.

Looking down Becksid from the A63, the area is very untidy.

The pond in Welton is not in a good condition, mud and other debris is being washed down Kidd Lane and into the pond.

Can the top end of the beck adjacent to St. Helen's Church, be considered for the location of a Coronation bench?

For riders coming into the village there is nowhere to hitch a horse, given Dick Turpin's historical connection to Welton, can provision be made?

Can bike stands be installed for use by cyclists visiting the village?

Stonepit Lane is unpassable at times, walking conditions being excessively boggy. Trees planted by the quarry have caused shade, resulting in the ground not drying out. Vehicles are frequently observed speeding, creating a danger for other users of this route. Can improvements be made?

General repairs to footpaths are required and the Wolds Way requires better maintenance (*noted to be a County Council responsibility*).

Signage could be better and more in keeping with an old village.

Residents' questioned whether Welton has a Community Police Officer?

Residents' would like to see a Christmas tree on the Green.

The Parish Council's budget position was questioned. (*The Chairman advised that the Public Rights Notice and Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the financial year ending 31 March 2023 had been published on the Parish Council's website and local notice boards*).

The Chairman thanked residents for their comments.

2573 Questions raised by residents

Can speed ramps be installed at the junction of Chaple Hill and Dale Walk to safeguard walkers and horse riders? (*Chairman's response – issue previously discussed with ERC, can be raised again*).

Can bins for dog walkers also be considered for Dale Walk?

How can a volunteer group be formed? (*Chairman's response - going forward, the Parish Council is open to working with volunteers. Volunteers would firstly need to formulate a plan to be presented to the Parish Council for consideration / approval*).

How can an individual join the Parish Council? *(Chairman's response – for further information speak to the Chair or Clerk for details on becoming a Parish Councillor / initially come to a meeting to observe).*

What's happening at the former St. Anne's School site? *(Chairman's response – following the departure of St. Anne's school to a new site at Hessle, ERC has funded a unit for pupils with challenging behaviour. All education related matters are dealt with by the County and not the Parish Council).*

What are the Parish Council doing about security, residents are worried about the impact of pupils' behaviour? *(Chairman's response – this matter is outside of the Parish Council's remit, if applicable, such matters would be dealt with by ERC who presently manage the site or the Police in terms of the wider area).*

Regarding the ongoing closure of the A63 overnight, is there an alternative route for HGVs? Heavy traffic is still rumbling through the village in the early hours, to the detriment of residents. *(Chairman's response – representations have been made by the Parish Council. All decisions relating to diversions are the responsibility of National Highways and the Police. The Parish Council is aware of the impact and can re raise residents' concerns).*

Why is one lane of the A63 not left open, there should be strong resistance to traffic being diverted through Welton? *(Chairman's response – this is a Highways and not a Parish Council decision).*

Why is the grass in the Church yard cut infrequently? *(Rev. Cannon Beilby responded (Church yard not the responsibility of the Parish Council) – ERC manage the maintenance of the Church yard at St. Helen's, the delivery of works was noted at times to be linked to staffing levels).*

Who is responsible for the watercourse? *(Chairman's response – the Parish Council. The Parish Council have engaged a contractor to carry out bi-monthly maintenance visits to the silt trap. During 22/23 the Parish Council commissioned works to clean the drain adjacent to the A63 to reduce flood risk).*

Who is responsible for maintenance of the Green? *(Chairman's response – the land is maintained by ERC, clarification is being sought by the Clerk as to land ownership).*

Can the Parish Council purchase a grass cutter for use by volunteers to carry out additional maintenance of the green and Church yard / can the Parish Council employ a gardener?

(Chairman's response – the Parish Council cannot carry out ad hoc works, additional maintenance requirements would need to be discussed with ERC. It was noted that the Parish Council is aware of holes that have formed on the green, adjacent to the pond, an assessment is in progress).

How can residents contact the Parish Council? *(Chairman's response – contact details are on the Parish Council's website).*

The side of the road in Kidd Lane is broken / eroded. *(Chairman's response – the road surface was inspected pre-pandemic and remedial works identified by ERC. To date repairs had yet to be scheduled, the matter will be raised again with ERC at the bi-annual village taskforce meeting).*

The smell from drains is affecting local properties and a main drain on the corner of Ladywell Gate is blocked, what was the Parish Council doing about this?

(Chairman's response – the Parish Council would continue to chase up major works to the wider drainage system).

Is a copy of the schedule of outstanding works by ERC available on the Parish Council website? *(Chairman's response – the Parish Council holds a record of issues previously raised with ERC. It was noted that copies of agenda and minutes are available to view on the Parish Council's website providing details of issues discussed and decisions made by the Parish Council).*

Is it possible to plant more trees? *(Chairman's response – the Parish Council had planted a tree to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee in 2023. It was noted that ERC had also recently planted two new trees, one at the entry to the village and one on the Green).*

Can residents meet with representatives from the Parish and County Councils to discuss issues raised during the meeting? *(Chairman's response – the Chairman indicated that he would be happy to meet with residents).*

Are Parish Council meetings open to the public? *(Chairman's response – Parish Council meetings are open to members of the public).*

2574 Closing address by Cllr Thane

The Chairman thanked residents for attending the meeting and drew attention to the following points:

The Parish Council holds a meeting on the third Tuesday of each month, other than members' recess in August, at St. Helen's Church, Welton.

Meeting agendas are published on the Parish Council's website and notice boards three clear working days before meetings take place, detailing the business to be considered.

A public forum is held at the beginning of each Parish Council meeting to provide residents with an opportunity to raise parish related issues direct with Council members. If residents do not wish to attend a public forum in person, they may contact any member of the Parish Council, the Parish Clerk or Ward Cllr on any matter in the Parish.

Parish Council meetings are attended by ER ward Cllrs who report on wider ward related matters.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.10pm.