

WELTON PARISH COUNCIL
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2016

There have been 12 full Parish Council meetings since the 2015 Annual General Meeting on 19 May. In addition there have been regular meetings of the Finance and Policy Working Party but to ensure best use of the Clerk's and Councillors' time 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, Wayne Wilde, who has been a valuable contributor, but we are still working with 2 Councillor vacancies. We are sure that there are residents within the Parish who could fill those vacancies admirably.

The Budget has been healthy and although reserves may seem large the precept will remain at the same level as last year at £33000 as we have planned significant work on the Mill Dam. We have also investigated provision of a Trod footpath to link Melton Bottom to the Wolds Way and if this is viable it will be funded from reserves. The reserves are likely therefore to reduce considerably during the course of the 2016/17 year.

There has been further investment in grit bins and new notice boards, especially south of the A63, though efforts to find a suitable location on the estate south of the A63 have not yet been successful. Training for councillors and the Parish Clerk has been funded. There has been regular ongoing maintenance of the Mill Dam, and the posts and chain fencing and kerbing at the Top Green in Welton have been repaired but disappointingly were damaged again recently. 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:

Melton Quarry Planning Application. The second application to build a mixed use development on this site was refused by the East Riding of Yorkshire Council in 2015. No appeal has been lodged.

Mill Dam. As referred to earlier, a major scheme to try to deal on a long term basis with the problems of silt and algae has been agreed and will go out to tender shortly.

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. A grant of £500 was

made to the Red Cross Fire and Emergency Support Service, a group which organises support locally following house fires, floods etc.

A grant of £630 was made to support maintenance of the cemetery.

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 are not always aware.

Community Led Plan. The Council engaged a consultant to help us move the plan forward and this led to the very successful event in January which explored areas identified by residents. We were extremely pleased by the number of residents who registered their interest in further involvement and work continues to develop this. We are aware that this is a long process but we are anxious to get it right and to produce a plan and projects which will stand the test of time.

St Anne's School land. Discussions have begun on developing some of the unused land on the school site for community use and it is hoped that this may provide more allotments for residents' use. Obviously there are various legalities and technicalities and costs to be sorted, but the outlook is optimistic.

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 in Leeds in January this year. To date no decision has been released.

Brough South development. A delay in building the new railway bridge has led to a subsequent delay in starting the housing, a large proportion of which will be in Welton Parish, and a delay in building the new Hunsley Primary School.

South Hunsley Swimming Pool. The Council was very disappointed by the lack of engagement and communication with the Parish Council. The school board's decision was that the pool would close in summer 2016. Our views have been expressed to the school most strongly.

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.

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.

Alison Peck