

Chairman's Report at the Annual Parish Meeting, 18 May 2022

I am Helen Edwards, and I am Chair of the Parish Council. It is hard to believe that I have been Chair of the Parish Council for a year but I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all the Councillors for their help and support throughout the year.

Thank you for coming here tonight and I hope you ask questions on any matter that we dealt with over the last year, The Government changed the law during the pandemic to allow us to meet remotely but this came to an end as it was a temporary measure. We have been able to meet in person throughout this year and have managed to remain safe and well.

We held 10 ordinary meetings during the year and 1 extra-ordinary meeting to deal with a planning issue as well as making final arrangements to employ a litter picker.

Thankfully no one resigned during the year so we have not had to co-opt to fill the ranks.

Our council meetings are generally held on the first Wednesday of the month with the exception of January and August when we take a break unless a special meeting is called for urgent matters that call for our immediate consideration, such as planning permissions. Any member of the public can attend our meetings and there is an open forum of fifteen minutes duration prior to the council session. Last year we had people taking an active part in voicing their concerns about items ranging from sewerage, flooding, the crossing at Thurlby crossroads through to planning permissions.

Our County Councillor Robert Reid has again been very proactive on our behalf and is talking with the Highways Manager to try and speed matters along but sadly it all takes time. In addition, our District Councillor Barry Dobson has also been very proactive with his support on many matters we have to deal with through South Kesteven District Council

As a parish council, we have limited powers, but we are able to help and through official letters that our clerk sends to the appropriate body, this regularly results in a positive outcome. On planning matters, we have a voice, but this is an opinion agreed on by the members present at that meeting. We encourage parishioners to attend planning meetings where they will be given an opportunity to be heard.

We are still concerned about the speed of vehicles both cars and lorries passing through the village. Every month Cllr Richard Bill collects data from the reactive sign which he places around the village at different locations throughout the year. The data is reported to the Council and details are placed on our website.

On a lighter note, we can be proud that we came second in the 'Best Kept Village' competition an improvement from 3rd the previous year. . A certificate is on display; and one year, we may even win it. Thanks to our team of volunteers, we keep the flower tubs, verges and the cemetery clean and tidy

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but we still rely on everyone in the Parish to help us by doing their bit. It is such a shame to see discarded waste littering the verges, roads and leisure areas. We now employ another litter picker who walks around the village to collect waste once a week and a good job she is doing.

The Christmas tree was up and shining if not brightly enough for some. We hope it gives everyone a welcome as they approach the heart of the village during December.

I would like to record my thanks to all my fellow Councillors for giving up their time and attending the meetings during the year.. I would also like to thank our Clerk for his help and support.

Helen Edwards