

**SCOTHERN ANNUAL PARISH MEETING WAS HELD REMOTELY ON
WEDNESDAY 5TH MAY 2019 AT 7:30 PM**

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Mrs Cathryn Nicoll – Meeting Chairman

In attendance: Clerk – Mrs Laura Richardson
County Councillor Sue Rawlins
4 members of the public

1. Chairman's Report – Report Attached
2. To receive Reports from any local organisations present – Report Attached
3. To consider any points which any parishioner may wish to raise – None

Signed (Chairman) 30th June 2021

Chairman's Report
Scothern Parish Council - Annual Parish Meeting
5 May 2021

This has been a strange year to say the least; we have all felt the effects of the Coronavirus lockdowns. Sympathies are extended to anyone who has lost a loved one because of the pandemic and for anyone who has had it, the Parish Council hopes you are recovered or are well on the way to recovery. The area covered by West Lindsey District Council has been a comparatively "safe" area when looking at figures for the rest of the Lincolnshire and Great Britain.

Let's hope that the planned easing of restrictions continues, and we can all get back to normal as soon as possible.

Due to the pandemic Council meetings were suspended following national guidance and any necessary actions that could not be delayed were delegated to the Clerk after consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council, other councillors were consulted as necessary.

Meetings resumed remotely via "Zoom" in July 2020 but virtual meetings must now cease due to government legislation deeming that face-to-face meetings must resume after 7 May 2021. This decision has been challenged in the High Court and a ruling given that upheld the decision. The way forward will be discussed in the Annual Parish Council Meeting which follows this Annual Parish Meeting (APM).

Christmas Tree Event

The annual "switch on" event of the village Christmas tree lights did not happen in 2020 although a tree was again supplied and decorated by the Straw family and we offer our thanks. The tree was located on the grass outside the school, and we thank the school for allowing this and providing the electricity for the lights! A live event covering the "switch on" was streamed with nearly 700 viewings on Scothern Parish Council's Facebook page - thank you Clerk Laura for being the "camera woman".

Highways Matters and Maintenance

Cllr John Fotheringham has continued with the portfolio for highways matters and maintenance around the village. John works hard to encourage Lincolnshire County Council to undertake maintenance around the village however LCC continues to cite shortages in funding restricting the work can be resourced.

The Parish Council is currently waiting information in relation to a proposed scheme to alleviate the flooding/drainage issues on Sudbrooke Road; a plan is currently being devised by civil engineers which has proved to be a more major issue than was first envisaged. It is hoped that a public meeting will be possible to appraise residents in the not-too-distant future; this scheme will hopefully go some way to prevent flooding on the fieldpath that runs between the rear of the houses on Sudbrooke Road and the rear of the houses on The Alders running down to Grange Park. Lincolnshire County Council has advised that outline funding is available for this scheme.

The current campaign led by John is to have some repair and widening work on the cycle path that runs from Scothern to Sudbrooke and for some resurfacing work on the footpath on the western side of the road between the villages.

Litter Pick

John Fotheringham has co-ordinated a "litter pick" in the village using equipment provided by West Lindsey District Council. Thank you to everyone who took part and especially to those residents who have volunteered to continue to litter pick. If you are interested in helping, then please do get in touch with John.

Public Transport

Timetabled public transport was halted due to the Coronavirus although the CallConnect "on demand" service remained in place. The Parish Council will be discussing in the meeting following this APM actions to encourage Lincolnshire County Council and Stagecoach to restore the timetabled bus service through the village as soon as practicable when all restrictions requiring social distancing etc have been lifted. It must be noted however that the transport service will need to be used to maintain its viability and prevent permanent withdrawal.

Grange Park

The Grange Park management group (John Good [chair], Melanie and Steve Tointon and Cathie Nicoll) continue to oversee the park and carry out minor works.

Work in Grange Park generally ceased during the pandemic although the group will be meeting soon to discuss ongoing works and plans.

The three old wooden seats which were becoming a health and safety risk have recently been replaced with the help of some grant aid from the West Lindsey Green Spaces Fund. The new benches are of a reconstituted material and will only need a bucket of hot soapy water to maintain them!

Recreation Centre

Cllr Fotheringham sits as a liaison member on the Scothern Recreation Centre/Spirit of Scothern. Plans are still in place for improving the village hall although again due to the coronavirus pandemic nothing has progressed recently. Some grant aid from external bodies has been awarded to the Village Hall due to the enforced closure of the Hall.

New equipment has been provided to the play area from funds that were made available when the village pre-school closed. The annual safety inspection completed by RoSPA identified several works necessary to the play equipment/area that has been commissioned and will be completed as soon as possible. The play equipment is owned and managed by the Parish Council although it sits on land owned by the Scothern Recreation Centre.

Events in the hall will re-commence when the "roadmap" allows, and I am sure that many residents will be pleased to see the return of Flix in the Stix.

Finance

The Parish Council strives to keep any increases to the Precept to a minimum and seeks to supplement funds by any available grants. The compulsory annual external audit has raised no issues in relation to the management of finance.

The financial year 2020/21 saw the receipt of a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) payment in relation to the housing development on Langworth Road known as Saxon Fields. These funds were earmarked for the provision of digital speed signs to hopefully slow speeding drivers down.

A CIL payment, amount unknown is also expected in relation to the Deers Leap development on Dunholme Road.

The Parish Council will continue to meet the cost of grass cutting at St Germain's Church and the Recreation Centre field and surrounding areas.

Cemetery, Sudbrooke Road

Mark Harris of Mark Harris Commercials continues to maintain the cemetery on Sudbrooke Road resulting in a considerable saving to the parish and creating a respectful and peaceful haven. On behalf of the Parish Council and residents of Scothern I should like to thank Mark for committing to this work.

Social Media

There is a new Parish Council website hosted by the County Council and maintained by the Clerk to the Council; anyone can ask for information about the village to be "showcased" and should contact the Clerk. Events can be published along with village information.

Best Garden Competition

The best garden competition will be running again this year and the first round of judging will be carried out during May. Parish Councillors do not have entry to this competition, but all other gardens will be judged; if there are residents that feel they would like to include rear gardens instead of front gardens please let John Fotheringham know. If you do not wish to be included in the judging, again please let John Fotheringham know.

Awards will be made at the Village Produce Show in September, however if for any reason the show is not held alternative arrangements will be made - donations for prizes would be much appreciated.

Councillors

Sadly, Gerry Wiswould has resigned from Council, but Robert Creaser has been welcomed. This means that there are still two vacancies. If anyone would like to join Council then please do get in touch with the Clerk or Chairman, the only requirements are to have been resident in the village for one year and to have an interest in the village.

Speed Awareness Initiative

The Speed Awareness Group in the village must be thanked (you know who you are!) for the contribution to road safety in the village. Although there have been "stand downs" for periods the group is now working again; numbers of speeding drivers are reported to the Parish Council and full details passed to Lincolnshire Police on a regular basis. Information about habitual offenders is collated by the Police from the whole county and any action determined by the Police.

As reported, there will shortly be a speed indicator device (SID) installed in the village and the Speed Awareness Group has volunteered to manage the siting of this

equipment; again, information from the equipment will be collected and where necessary acted upon by the Police.

Cllr Derek Canton leads this initiative and does a mighty fine job!

Community Volunteer of the Year Award

The award for 2019/20 was made to the Speed Awareness Group.

An award for 2020/21 has not been made due to the lockdown of all village organisations; the award will be made again for 2021/22. Nominations can be made by anyone in the village at any time and the Parish Council will decide the recipient in time for awarding at the APM usually held in April or May each year.

Thanks

In closing this report, I should like to offer my thanks to all Parish Councillors, the Clerk, District Councillor Bob Waller and County Councillor Sue Rawlins for their support throughout the year.

Cathryn J Nicoll (Mrs)

Chair - Scothern Parish Council

5 May 2021

County Councillor Sue Rawlins – Annual Report – May 2021

In the last twelve months we have all seen extraordinary changes to our way of life which we may not have envisaged possible previously. The lockdowns and restrictions of the pandemic have caused much sadness and worry but have meant that families and communities have played an even more important role in our lives. I would like to thank all those individuals and groups who have reached out to offer help to others in our villages.

At the County Council and at our Parish Councils, we have embraced remote working like many other organisations to get the work done. It has been difficult not seeing people face to face but everyone has made valiant efforts.

The County Council has continued to keep Council Tax low, whilst caring for the most vulnerable. The budget this year includes over £500m for day-to-day services residents rely on, including £200m for adult care, £75m for children's social care, £50m for highways and £20m for the fire service and emergency planning. A further £5m for third phase superfast broadband has just been launched aiming to connect the hardest to reach homes and businesses. Having reserves in the bank for a rainy day has meant the Council could balance its budget.

The A46 Dunholme / Welton roundabout project is making impressive progress with the north section being used by vehicles and the focus is now on completing the southern section as well as finishing the construction of the newly-aligned Lincoln Road. The roadworks have caused significant traffic disruption but we look forward to this Spring's completion and the reaping the benefits of the project. The scheme is being part-funded using £2m from the DfT with the remaining funding from third party contributions and the County Council. It is designed to reduce the number of collisions and improve congestion and visibility, whilst accommodating future development in the area. This is an impressive feat of engineering and will bring much needed benefits. I want to thank everyone for their patience whilst these safety improvements are being made.

£2.2m funding has been allocated to resolve priority flooding issues throughout the County, hopefully rectifying some long standing drainage issues.

The footpath / cycleway at Danby Hills is planned for upgrade for a 1km length, the current design is planned for reconstruction with a minimum width of 1.8m. This upgrade is planned for Summer, 2021 and this takes it to Nettleham but not all the way to Welton. To tie in with this improvement the County Council will be looking at the section between Welton and Nettleham, making minor repairs where necessary and undertaking siding to expose the full width of the footway / cycleway for its length. This is a very welcome proposal.

In light of the economic impact of coronavirus, the County Council's budget uses some of its carefully-managed reserves to provide a £12m package of support for the local economy. There are estimated to be between 1,000 and 2,000 county businesses who were unable to claim government support. If there was ever a time small businesses in Lincolnshire needed our help it's now.