

Annual Parish Meeting 22/5/24 – Chairs Report

My wife and I moved to Scothern in April 2021 from Royston in Hertfordshire, bordering Cambridge of where I had much involvement in and around the Cambridge phenomenon of Innovation, Technology and Enterprise

So, I guess, we are relatively new residents to Scothern and Lincolnshire

I was appointed by the Parish Council as Chair on the 8th May. So, again I am relatively new in position.

This followed the resignation of (Cllr Cathie Nichol) who had been chair and acting clerk for several years. Cathie will remain a councillor

The main point of this evening is to listen to you “This is your meeting, Your voice”

But I would like to mention some issues first if I may:

Under the heading of Highways

Of course, particularly this year, the village has suffered through a period of excess flooding.

We know that the responsibility in terms of flooding is with Lincolnshire County Council and not the Environmental Agency.

We also know from Anglian Water that the pumping station on Northing Lane was overwhelmed this year (the Scothern Fen Drain)

In terms of Lincolnshire County Council, the Parish Council has been in constant communication with them, coupled with help from a resident. The County Council is the lead local Flood authority and Section 19 flood investigation was planned to look at Craypool lane and vicinity. The Parish Council is insisting the S19 investigation should cover the entirety of the Village. The Parish Council will be tenacious in following this up.

Update from Anglian Water April 17th: A quotation has been approved to increase the size of the discharge pipework at the water recycling centre which should increase the flow rate from the site when one or both pumps are running, they are just awaiting the work start date. They have applied for funding to fit two new larger pumps at the pumping station.....this has not been approved yet and will be evaluated based on priority. THE COUNCIL WILL REGULARLY CHASE THIS until approval.

The Parish council also purchased and provided sand flood sacks to several households minimising wherever possible the adverse effects of the last two floods (Ref: Cllr Barnaby Patchett)

The Parish Council carries out many functions around the village such as the Grange Park working group, war memorial repositioning, upkeep and maintenance of the play equipment around the Village Hall, grass cutting, notice boards, one of the voices in terms of planning applications, the Neighbourhood plan and so on.

Southern Neighbourhood Development Plan (part of the overall Central Lincolnshire Plan)

Scothern Neighbourhood Plan Review has reached the referendum stage. The examination of the plan review was carried out by an independent examiner in early 2024. Subject to a series of recommended modifications set out in their report the examiner concluded that the examination of Scothern Neighbourhood Plan Review had been successful, and should proceed to referendum

Scothern Parish Council and West Lindsey District Council have agreed that the examiner’s recommended modifications be accepted and included in the Neighbourhood Plan Review for it to proceed to a public referendum. The referendum is to be held in Parish of Scothern on the 20th June 2024. I will attend the counting on the evening representing the Parish Council

Apart from the key drainage and flooding issues that this village infamously incurs, the Parish Council is involved in working with the various authorities to improve road surfaces, footpaths, cycle path to Sudbrooke, hedges and so on throughout its designated area coverage. Our main interface in these matters falling under the responsibility of the Parish Clerk, myself and our County Council and District Council representatives

Other Examples:

Speed watch (Ref Cllr Robert Creaser) Creaser

3 speed cameras Dunholme Road, Sudbrooke Road and Main Street

--97% less than 40 mph, average number of vehicles 1,522 per day on Dunholme Road,

--89% less than 40 mph, average number of vehicles 1082 per day on Sudbrook Road

--99% less than 40mph, average number of vehicles 659 per day on Main Street

When the speed results are downloaded the system commences the report at less than 40mph and then details the speed increments of 10mph. The report therefore uses 40 mph (this to be reviewed).

In saying this vehicle drivers don't know what the camera settings are and see the 30mph sign first and then the camera illumination of their speed. Conclusion is that they are having a positive effect.

Speed data can be viewed monthly on the council website and there is also a link to Lincoln Police Neighbourhood Newsletters

Crime: (ref: Cllr Derek Canton former police detective)

Well, I am pleased to report Scothern is a safe place to live but the Parish Council is not complacent about the results West Lindsey Police Area of Lincolnshire Police

The Nettleham Area (NC 07) covers villages between and surrounding Nettleham

From April 2023 to 31st March 2024 a total of 775 crimes were recorded

In Scothern there were 12 recorded, average one per month

The 12 recordings varied from Thefts, Vehicle crime, public order Violence and drug offences

Village Hall/ Recreation Centre

I am also pleased to see the refurbishment plan for the Village Hall progress which is based on two phases the first phase is more or less complete. I, (Cllr Neville Reyner) sit as liaison member on the Scothern Recreation Centre meetings, which is a charity. Also important is the safety of the play park equipment and its maintenance which the Parish Council is responsible. In fact (Cllr Jackie Atkins) is now officially trained in terms of Play Area Inspections.

From a commercial or fee income point of view the centre continues to do well ex: Fashion Show, Movies etc. It's also interesting that many attendees to these events are from outside the village.

I can't forget to mention the village cricket which offers that very quaint English village setting

Grange Park

Scothern Parish Council Working group

What a tremendous asset to the village this park is. I would like to thank former chair John Good, Melanie and Steve Tointon and Cathie Nicholl who oversee the park on behalf of the Council. I am also impressed with the process of memorial benches. I look forward to joining this Working Group

War Memorial

The Parish Council is responsible for the restoration of the war memorial. Unfortunately, progress has been in my opinion poor and we have established a project plan group with the objective of attaining some major progress this year.

The Parish Council

One important initiative the council introduced in the last year was an HR group under the leadership (ref Cllr Jane Johnson) our Vice Chair who were, for example, responsible for setting the ToR, interviewing and leading to the appointment of our new Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer (RFO), Lisa Brooks-Sleight

Financials (Lisa will speak around this)

I am pleased to report that the End of Year Accounts 31st March 2024 shows a closing balance of some £65,000 which is a sound position to be in.

In saying this as legal issues are becoming more common today and the Council will be introducing a Risk Register to be monitored monthly

Transport

"Incidentally, as a council we have recently delivered the Scothern News to households with a number of questions based around transport and other issues ex: bus services. Transport issues are a major talking point with all sorts of different views. We need to establish what the true demand is and work with bus companies on the routing logistics"

Communications

During the year we adopted the preferred email addresses for Councils more in line with Government examples: Lower case

clerk@scothern-pc.gov.uk and for a councillor using my own name its nevillereyner@scothern-pc.gov.uk

We are now working more electronically (Lisa being the council lead) than ever before but we are also aware that for some residents, things like the website, Face Book etc are not easy. We recognise this and will take care in communications with residents accordingly.

Scothern News

The council is looking at how best to deliver the Scothern News and its source of content and the council is looking towards a hybrid solution of delivery. (Cllr Cathie Nicoll)

I have sensed over the short time I have been a resident and talking with many people, that the various groups in the village all well intended are perhaps not working as well together as they could or should

As chair, with the support of the Council, I would like to create a Vision for Scothern as a whole, bringing parties together in harmony and I am also keen to see more resident involvement.

Regarding the Parish Council, work needs to be done to improve the efficiency and effectiveness within the council's ToR, standing orders and actions

The new Parish Clerk is a great asset to the council and village, she is already working on the issues and challenges in the "process re-engineering" area within the Council and beyond

I am pleased to thank the Parish Councillor's for their commitment and our Parish Clerk Lisa as well as Sue Rawlins and Baptiste Velan, Councillors at the County Council and West Lindsay District Council respectively.

Finally, I shouldn't forget the Councils thanks to former Vice Chair and Councillor John Fotheringham and former Chair Cathie Nicoll for their contributions

After receiving the reports from the County Council, West Lindsay District Council, Grange Park working group and other Village Organisations

We will move to open Forum from residents ie., questions, comments and anything you wish to raise

Thank you.

Neville Reyner

Chair, Scothern Parish Council