

Annual Parish Meeting 2025/26 - Chair's Report

Good evening welcome to the Scothern Annual Parish meeting for the year 2025/26, where the main purpose of the meeting is to hear from residents on what is important to you.

Firstly a brief summary of the past year:

This last year has been far more stable than the previous year for the Council and a period where we could review and develop. We started the year with a vacancy due to the resignation of Councillor Cathryn Nicholl, a long-time member and previous Chair of the Council, our thanks go to Cathie for all she did for Scothern. We quickly advertised the vacancy and were delighted to co-opt Sian Watt Jones on the Council she provides us with a younger adult perspective and has been very proactive with our communication strategy. Whilst she isn't able to attend every meeting due to University commitments, she does still take an active role from afar and also inputs into Scothern News.

I'm very grateful to our other Councillors Barnaby, Derek, Jackie, Robert and Mark who continue to provide support and give up their time for the benefit of the village. However, we could not operate effectively as a Council if it wasn't for Lisa, our Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer who has proved her dedication to the village.

So on to the areas we continue to tackle throughout the year:

- This year the Council produced a Communication Strategy and action plan with the aim to communicate better with residents of Scothern of all ages. We launched it with a new logo, designed by Sian, using images created by pupils of Ellison Boulters Primary School. We also produced information about what the Parish Council does, and we have a programme of events to engage more with residents throughout the year.
- Last year the Parish Council took over the production and distribution of Scothern News, we took the decision to provide a printed copy to every household in Scothern free of charge in order to improve communication and ensure that residents were aware of all Scothern has to offer. We hope everyone is enjoying the magazine and thanks to all those who contribute. We continue to seek others to join the editorial team!
- Flooding in the village continues to be a concern for both the Council and residents, the adverse weather conditions have not helped but we need to be able to have the right infrastructure in place to manage it. We are in constant communication with those with the responsibility for managing the drainage, sewage and water flows across the village and we discuss this at every meeting. We are also in close communication with Lindum Homes to determine the impact of the new housing development West Thorne grange.
- The three speed cameras positioned around the village are helping to tackle speeding, however, residents regularly request for more to be done. We cannot do this without volunteers to support the speed watch initiative run by Robert and Derek. If you are concerned about speeding please give us your support.
- Thanks also to the Grange Park working group Melanie and Steve Tointon, Rosie Thompson, Councillor Mark Unwin and other village volunteers, for continuing to maintain and improve the Park for the benefit of the village.
- On Saturday 14 March we finally opened the new equipment at the play park. The equipment was chosen from feedback given by residents on what they would like to see in a play park. The feedback received from young people was that it was very good and they liked the swings, slide and roundabout. The Parish Council were very lucky to be awarded a grant towards the cost of the equipment from West Lindsey District Council. We hope to further improve the area in the future.

Moving on to the future, I have mentioned the Council linking with Lindum Homes for the new development off Nettleham Road but we are also awaiting the outcome of planning applications for a further development off St. Germain's Way and for a proposed Solar Farm off Dunholme Road. We will be monitoring these closely for the impact on Scothern and its facilities and services.

Finally, I would like to give my thanks to Lincolnshire County Councillor Jane Smith for attending our meetings and being proactive with issues that are raised by the Council and residents, Jane is a welcome addition to the Council. Thanks also to West Lindsey District Councillor Baptiste Velan and for his work with the Council, we will hear from them both later.

I will now hand over to Lisa for a finance report before we hear from our residents.