

Chairman's Annual Report 2020/21

I am pleased this year to be able to table this Parish Council's Chairmans report as last year, due to the pandemic, the Annual Parish meeting did not take place.

Little did we know in March 2020 of the magnitude of challenges to come, immense and unprecedented for most of us. The COVID virus has changed all of our lives and yet the communities within our parish have shown strength, great spirit and resolve, pulling together to overcome all difficulties we have faced. My thanks go to all the groups and volunteers who have kept the community well informed and rallied in support of the vulnerable and those who needed to isolate.

Special thanks to.....

In a year of nearly drowning in hand sanitizer, hearing words we have never heard before such as 'furlough' and 'social distancing', and most of us thought Zoom was just a song by Fat Larry's band but in fact it has ensured that parish council meetings have been able to continue to allow essential parish council business to be carried out, infact all meetings for this year have been held virtually. It is interesting how quickly we have adapted to this way of communication and successfully managed to not go viral like a certain parish council who shall remain nameless!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parish councillor past and present this year who give their time to the community. All your hardwork and dedication was/is truly appreciated.

Special thanks also to our District Councillors Jane King, Simon Walsh and Henry Bingham – we are a very fortunate to have such a strong team of approachable and dedicated councillors who share the same ideology of working for our community.

Cllr Rodney Grocock's commitment to attend the Gosberton Parish Council meetings is hugely appreciated by all of us and his response rate is second to none and his support is invaluable – thank you Rodney from all of us.

Thanks go to our contract cemetery keeper, Simon Kitchen, who maintains our cemetery to a very high standard. His contract was renewed in Sept 2020 for 18 months.

Finance

It was resolved to reduce the precept for the year 2021/21 by £1,115 to £31,000. Viv Gensiorskyj remains in post as the internal auditor.

Donations

Donations of £50 have been made to the RAF Benevolent Fund and Guide Dogs for the Blind on behalf of Pete Langford who assisted the clerk with the set up of the new LCC parish website. £300 was made to the Gosberton Foodbank which helped local families during the early stages of the pandemic.

Commented [GP1]: Any one in particular you would like to thank?

Allotments

Discussions are currently taking place to try and provide gardening allotments at Windmill Lane and this has been met with enthusiasm by local residents.

Playing fields

Grass cutting of Gosberton Risegate field is now being carried out by Malc Firth at the expense of Lincolnshire Swifts junior football team as they continue to use the field for training and matches.

Gosberton Playing Field will be discussed when face to face meetings can resume and a Working Party will be set up to move the regeneration of the play equipment on.

Parish rep on other charities and committees

Robert Marjorum Trust – Cllrs Clark, Cllr Thorley and Cllr Bennett.

Public Hall – Cllr Smith and ?

Relief in Need – Cllr Clark & Thorley

G.C.A.T. – Cllr Smith and ?

Unknown Donors – Cllr Oakman & Cllr Walters (now resigned). Estate Trustee – Cllr Thorley.

Village inspection

The inspection was not carried out this year due to COVID.

War memorials – thanks to Emma Walters for devising the flower rota which has meant fresh flowers are now regularly placed at the memorial and old flowers removed.

Speeding

Speeding remains an issue within the parish and thanks to Cllrs Grocock and Bingham for taking this matter to county council with a request for a uniformed speed limit on the A152 from the junction with the B1397, through Gosberton, through Quadring to the junction with Church End Drove.