

## Chairman's Report 2021

### **West Deeping Parish Council – Chairman's Annual Report**

A difficult year in so many ways, the continuation of Coronavirus lockdown, Parish Council meetings have had to be in virtual format. Our ongoing sewage problems to mention but a few and culminating in the resignation of both the Chair and Vice Chair positions at the same time. However, as things seem to be getting better Pandemic wise, I think I speak for all of us in saying we hope for a much better and brighter 2021.

Through the winter the ongoing sewage problem seemed at first to be getting worse. Having a good portion of the village overflowing with sewage twice within a period of weeks leading to a new group being formed - The West Deeping Drainage Group. The Parish Council, supported by the West Deeping Drainage Group, had several meetings with Anglian Water in a more constructive way than previous attempts and at a more senior level with Anglian Water. The outcome of the meetings was to devise an action plan with Anglian Water with step-by-step actions and timescale agreed upon, we are halfway through this. The Sewage drain had the level of water reduced enabling Anglian Water to pass a camera through to inspect the problem. Two main problems were found, firstly tree root growth inside the pipe causing major blockages and secondly, several houses in the centre of the village had roof water draining directly into the main drain increasing the amount of water flowing through the drain to exceed the maximum level. The tree root problem has now been resolved. The down pipe drains from the houses are to be uncoupled from the main drain and will run to a soakaway or to water containers, this is due to be completed by November of this year, this work is being monitored by the Parish Council and the West Deeping Drainage Group and hopefully will put an end to our recent sewage problems.

Road Safety has not been as higher priority as it has in previous years in traffic both through the village and along the A1175 due to lockdown conditions the overall traffic in the past year has been reduced. However, as Lockdown eases and things (we hope) get back to normal the situation will be closely monitored and reported back to (LRSP) and local police on an ongoing regular basis.

I would like to express thanks to our ongoing Parish Clerk Mr. Ian Coles whose dedication and hard work keeps the Parish Council going. During the past year payments to the clerk needed to be addressed following advice and consultation from the Lincolnshire Association of Local Councils. In the past our Clerks have always been remunerated on a self-employed basis but from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 this was changed, and our Clerk became an employee of the parish council. Salary payments are based on the minimum level set by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services.

The West Deeping Parish Council Website is now fully operational, and all relevant council business and announcements will be posted on it. We also have our own Facebook page which is in addition to the West Deeping Village Facebook page.

During the year a review of the Amenity Contracts for the village took place, and Gary's Gardens were awarded the new contract. In addition, 3 trees in the Cemetery were topped and made safe and I would like to put on record my appreciation of the effort put in by Councillor Sue Latham on this matter.

Gravel extraction continues to grow at a steady pace, with negotiations for a new gravel quarry further up King Street which will have some effect on the A1175/King St junction within the next 18 months Breedon Aggregates will start excavating a new quarry on the A1175 between the village and Molecey Mill with current discussions ongoing between the council and Breedon's.

With new Councillors, a new Chairman and a new Vice Chairman I am hoping that a new era of involvement and cooperation throughout the village can be achieved with more freedom of expression and information between the village and Parish Council.

**Cllr David Ward**

**May 2021**