

## WEST DEEPING PARISH COUNCIL

### CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

As I write, we are experiencing extraordinary times in 'lockdown' fighting this dreadful pandemic. This report, presented at the first ever parish council 'virtual' meeting, will be circulated as widely as possible in our village to ensure that those unable to join the meeting hear about what the council has done as your representatives over the past year and our priorities for the coming year.

Waste water and sewage problems have continued to be a major problem for residents particularly in extreme weather conditions for homes at the north end of the village. We continue to liaise with Anglian Water - most recently at the parish council meeting in February - and resolution of the problem will remain our highest priority.

Road safety in our village continues to be a high priority for councillors. We have a good working relationship with the Lincolnshire County Council Road Safety Partnership (LRSP) and during the year they have advised us on deployment of the Speed Indicating Device on King Street as a means of influencing driver behaviour and thereby reducing the risk of speed-related casualties or loss of life. The data recorded which is sent to Lincolnshire Police to inform speed enforcement, is on our website [Community Speed Watch Page](#). In response to concerns about road safety at the A1175/King Street junction, a representative from LRSP visited the village in October last year and a village meeting was held in March at which our MP, Sir John Hayes, is actively pursuing the concerns raised. The status of these issues is on our website.

The minutes of our meetings published on our website summarise the status of the wide range of business we manage on your behalf. We would welcome ... and depend on ... your continued participation by attending council meetings and raising your concerns.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the dedication and commitment of our councillors. We are indebted to Ian Coles for his outstanding contribution as parish clerk over the past year: we are benefiting from his financial experience and continuity at a time when the role of chair has been in rotation. In particular, I would like to thank Ian for his co-ordination of the overhaul of council procedures which were updated in November: the procedures, on the [West Deeping Parish Council Website](#), have undoubtedly improved how council business is informed in a way more transparent to residents.

I would also like to express our appreciation to Cllr Maggie Ashcroft for her time as chair over the past 12 months. Our local community continues to benefit in so many ways from Maggie's vast experience as a parish councillor. One highlight of her time as Chair was the celebration of the Centenary of the Parish Council in July organised by the Jubilee Committee at which a bench in the Tinsley Field was presented to the village.

Councillors strive to work together to manage the numerous aspects of parish business and raise concerns reflecting your views in our community. For example, I would like to thank Cllr Sue Latham for her management of the open King Street Cemetery; Cllr David Ward for raising visibility of the road safety concerns at the A1175/King Street junction, and Cllr Steve Snell for bringing his experience across a range of issues including health and safety matters throughout the year. I would also like to recognise the support from our local County (Cllr Rosemary Trollope-Bellew) and District Councillors (Cllr Ashley Baxter) who regularly attend our meetings, report on local council matters and take up issues on our behalf.

I am moved by the way so many volunteers in our community have been stepping up to help others during this pandemic. It highlights all that is best about our village. In more normal times throughout the year, significant voluntary activities are going on - including trustees on our 3 Village Charities, community bodies such as the Parochial Church Council, litter collection, flood awareness, conservation, heritage, drama events to name but a few. A big thank you to all who willingly give up time to support our various community obligations and activities.

As councillors we will, over the coming year, continue to act on your behalf to serve your needs. If you are interested in becoming a councillor in the future or contribute in any way or let us know what you think about managing parish business then please contact myself or any fellow councillors. Meanwhile, stay safe and in the words of our Queen 'we will meet again'.

**Colin Blagrove**

**Chair**

**West Deeping Parish Council**

**13<sup>th</sup> May 2020**