

## **Parish Council Meeting – Chairman’s Statement**

**Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> 2018**

Good evening and welcome everyone to our Parish Council. Thank you all for attending and a special welcome to Linda Saunders, our newest member of the PC. {And a warm welcome to Wendy Brackenbury our representative on Northamptonshire County Council and our local councillor Geoff Shacklock}

I find it incredible that I have just finished my third term as Chairman of LWTA PC and I feel ~~proud~~ *privileged* to have served this small and special area of Northamptonshire. An area of outstanding natural beauty with deep seated history and a hub of activity with people from all walks of life.

However, our parish like all others, needs to meet its obligations and make provisions and meet society’s needs. I would just like to outline our achievements and pay a special word of thanks to a few vital people who are a small but vital cog in the machinery of government.

In fiscal matters, we are financially buoyant which is quite an achievement in today’s unsettling times. Many other bodies and organisations – most of them much larger than us are going through incredibly difficult times with budgets being slashed coupled with an ever increasing demand on their services. Some are now in a situation thought unimaginable years ago and many others are on the brink. However, thanks to our due diligence and careful planning and particularly to Keith Goldsmith and Tim Bird we are able to meet our obligations, sustain grants and provide financial support to facilitate extra amenities and resources for our local community including village signs, benches, phone boxes, litter bins and grit bins.

A special word of thanks to PC Terry Barcham for his commitment to keeping everyone mobile and accessible in the parish. His inspecting and reporting on overgrown vegetation on the roadside and the ever prevalence of potholes and the like seems rather like a thankless task rather akin to painting the Forth Road Bridge. Thank you Terry for your countless phone calls, emails and meetings to the relevant authorities.

Of course, our PC is now made up of four communities – Lilford (served by Linda Saunders and myself, Thorpe Waterville served by Terry Barcham, Tim Bird and Tracy Wright. Unfortunately, we are still seeking representation from Wigsthorpe and Achurch. I like to think that we work together rather well as a team and we all work to the same end in matters of finance, planning, highways (including the A605) and the like. However, there is one person I have yet to mention and there is no way I cannot pay a few words of appreciation to our parish clerk - Nicki Philips. We would not be where we are if it was not for our ultra-efficient, ultra reliable, incredibly knowledgeable and totally committed parish clerk. Although Nicki does not really have to keep us in check, she anticipates problems, provides solutions and goes the extra mile to keep us sound and effective. On behalf of everyone here and not present – thank you so much Nicki.

Keith Goldsmith

Thank you

Shaun