

Parish Council Meeting – Chairman’s Statement

Tuesday, May 14 2019

Good evening and welcome everyone to our Parish Council AGM. Thank you all for attending and a special welcome to Justin Clarke, our newest member of the PC. (Also, a warm welcome to Wendy Brackenbury our representative on Northamptonshire County Council and our local councillor Geoff Shacklock)

After finishing my 4th term as Chairman of LWTA PC, I look back and reflect upon another year of this small and special area of Northamptonshire. An area of special beauty with special history and very special people.

However, our parish like all others has to meet its obligations, make provisions, meet society’s needs in an era of growing accountability. Our achievements although appearing small in the big scheme of things are worthy of special note and a few vital people deserve a special word who play a small but vital cog in the machinery of government whether it is commenting on planning applications, responding to consultation documents in relation to local government, lobbying for speed reductions on our village roads or improving our local amenities whether they are signs, benches, litter bins or redundant telephone kiosk brought back to life .

In fiscal matters, we are still financially buoyant – how many other organisations can state that? Many other bodies and organisations – most of them much larger than us are going through trying times with budgets being cut with the ever increasing demand on their services. 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.

A special word of thanks to PC Terry Barcham for continuing his struggle for the correct location of litter bins, correct placement of paths and rights of way and keeping everyone mobile on the parish roads and paths. His inspection and reporting skills particularly after recent utility works do not go unnoticed. Thank you Terry for your patience and countless phone calls, emails and meetings to the relevant authorities.

Of course, our PC is made up of four communities – Lilford (served by Linda Saunders and myself, Thorpe Waterville served by Terry Barcham, Tim Bird and Tracy Wright. Regretably, Keith Goldsmith stepped down last month but in his place we welcome Justin Clarke as a representative of Achurch. Unfortunately, we are still seeking representation from Wigsthorpe.

I think that we all work together rather well and make a formidable team in matters of finance, planning, highways and the like. Finally, I would like to say a few words of appreciation to our parish clerk - Nicki Philips. We have come to rely upon Nicki for her incredible knowledge in all matters of local government and her ultra-efficiency and patience in sorting through the 100s of emails she receives. A task I am sure no one relishes but Nicki does it professionally and efficiently and without any fuss or complaint. On behalf of everyone in our PC – thank you so much Nicki.

Once again, thank you to you all

Shaun