

## **Lilford-cum-Wigsthorpe Thorpe Achurch**

**Annual Parish Meeting – Tuesday 12 May 2024**

### **CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT**

Good evening and welcome everyone to the Lilford-cum-Wigsthorpe Thorpe Achurch Annual Parish Meeting.

I would like to start this evening by thanking our Parish Councillors for their commitment and continued contribution to the activities of the Parish Council. We continue to have representation for all four villages on the Council. I would also like to thank our District Councillors for their support and guidance during the year which has continued to be invaluable for matters concerning our Parish.

Through the year the Council has remained active in many areas with a continued focus to support and improve our community and protect our beautiful villages.

I would like to list a number of key achievements and events during the year these include:

- 1. Reviving the telephone boxes at Wigsthorpe and Achurch**
- 2. Installing the new traffic calming gates in Thorpe and planning installation for Achurch**
- 3. 2 x new benches in Achurch provided via Parish funding and a kind donation.**
- 4. Remembrance Day organising and laying a Poppy Wreath at the War Memorial in Achurch.**
- 5. The Wellhead work in Achurch is now complete and has significantly improved the environment.**
- 6. Defibrillator installation in Wigsthorpe and Achurch by securing funding and a Parish council contribution.**
- 7. Maintaining parish assets on an ongoing programme to assess and maintain the community assets.**
- 8. Active participation in the groups linked with the Police on crime in the area.**

On this last point I would like to formally record our thanks to Kevin Simons who is a super active and supportive with these groups.

The Council has also continued to consider multiple planning applications during the year and as usual some have been more contentious than others.

As the work on Lilford Hall progresses we also took the time to hear from the owner on the status and plans for the coming years. This is an important area for the parish to lean into to ensure the hall and its grounds are revived and areas that can be enjoyed by all in the local community whilst balancing the concerns these changes may bring.

One area of concern for our parish councillors and local community is the future of the Fox public house in Thorpe as this is now closed and up for sale after several attempts to keep it open as a public house and this will require further discussion.

As in previous years, we continue to have a limited level of public participation in Parish Council meetings with many residents preferring to pick matters up directly with the Councillors or by e-mail to our Clerk. I would encourage all local residents to have a voice. The Parish Council is here to serve the community.

Financially the Parish Council has a healthy reserve and the Council continues to manage its finances diligently with particular support from our PC Clerk Nicki Philips.

I would like to finish the meeting with a very special thank you to Nicki Philips the Clerk of the Parish Council. Nicki really is the backbone of our Parish Council. She has a wealth of experience and knowledge and uses this with good humour to ensure that we continuously look for ways to improve what we are doing for the local communities. So thank you Nicki. We really do appreciate you and everything you do for us.

Thank you again for attending the Annual Parish Meeting. I will now open the meeting up for any questions or comments. After we have concluded the Annual Parish Meeting, we will start the normal Parish Council Meeting and you are welcome to stay for this.

Gareth