

Annual Parish Council Report

Chairman's Annual Report - LWTA Parish Council

Good evening everyone, and thank you for attending this year's Annual Parish Meeting. It is a pleasure to present the Chairman's Report and to reflect on the work of the Parish Council over the past year.

Council Membership and Governance

The year began with the scheduled meeting on 13th May unfortunately being inquorate, requiring us to reconvene on 22nd May. At that meeting, Councillor S. Moffat was elected Chairman.

Following the May 2025 elections, Councillors J. Clarke, S. Moffat, T. Bird and T. Wright were all re-elected. We were pleased to co-opt G. Hopkinson at the meeting on 22nd May, and later C. Brooks at the meeting held on 11th November.

In July, Councillor Moffat stood down as Chair, and I was elected to take on the role, with Councillor Moffat elected as Vice Chair. I would like to record my thanks to Councillor Moffat for his service and continued support.

Roles and responsibilities were allocated as follows:

- **Police Liaison Representative:** Clerk
 - **Internal Finance Control:** Cllr J. Clarke
 - **Footpaths & Rights of Way:** Cllr T. Wright
 - **Website Checks:** Cllrs G. Hopkinson and T. Bird
 - **Highways:** All Councillors
 - **Planning:** All Councillors
 - **Climate & Nature Champion:** Clerk
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Finance

The Council set the budget for 2026-2027 at **£7,870**, and agreed a precept of **£8,500** to ensure that reserves can be responsibly rebuilt.

During the year, we awarded:

- **£100** to St John's Church to support maintenance of the Nene Way where it passes through the churchyard.

- **£200** to Oundle First Responders as a goodwill contribution for their work in checking and maintaining our four defibrillators.
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Planning Matters

The Council has been active in representing parish interests on several planning issues:

- Submitted a **letter of objection** to the Kettering Energy Park proposal.
 - Registered LWTAPC as a **party of interest** for the Castle Manor Warehouse development hearing.
 - Supported the **removal of large billboards** at Thorpe.
 - Continued **contributions to STAUNCH**.
 - Engaged with the **Lilford Hall Biodiversity Bank** proposals.
 - Sought advice regarding development and the proposed **heli-pad at Achurch**.
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Highways and Rights of Way

Key areas of work this year included:

- Ongoing discussions regarding the **footbridge crossing over the Nene at Achurch**.
 - Installation of **village gates**, with continued work alongside NNC to relocate associated signage.
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Public Assets

We have attempted to work with both the landowner and tenant to progress the **restoration of the Achurch Dew Pond**. Unfortunately, no progress has been made to date, but the Council remains committed to pursuing this.

Parish Council Assets

- Relocation and reconnection of the **Lilford defibrillator**.
 - Repairs carried out to the **Achurch notice board**.
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Other Council Activity

- Commissioned and received a **flood report** to support future resilience planning.
- Purchased and laid a **Poppy wreath** at the Achurch War Memorial.

- Submitted a formal request to NNC for consideration of a **safe pedestrian and cycle route into Oundle**, recognising the importance of sustainable and secure access for residents.
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Closing Remarks

I would like to thank all Councillors, our Clerk, and the wider community for their support and contributions throughout the year. Parish Councils rely on the goodwill, time, and commitment of volunteers, and I am grateful for the dedication shown by everyone involved.

We look forward to continuing our work on behalf of the parish in the year ahead.
