

LEADENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Meeting Chairman's Annual Report

Welcome to you all for attending this evening.

The issue highest on all our agendas for this year has to be **Street Lights and Potholes**. Reporting these faults now has to be done on line via LCC website and as far as pot holes are concerned with an accompanying photo – for each pot hole. I'm sure County Councillor Mrs Overton's Annual Report will have much more to add regarding the state of our roads and the County Councils' attempts at repair.

Speed Restriction Signs

There was some delay in getting the 30 & 40 mph speed restriction signs in place throughout the village. Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership lost the original cheque we forwarded in payment for the signs plus the survey required regarding placement of the signs. They did finally arrive and Councillors Mr McLusky and Mr Locking have been in charge of attaching them at various sites. We have since purchased a further 4 signs which, now the weather is improving, will be placed too.

Fountain refurbishment

Councillor Mrs Stokes successfully applied for grant support from the Lottery Heritage Fund which was sufficient to cover the cost of all the refurbishment work on the Fountain. The overgrowing trees, bushes and vegetation at the rear of the site were removed and the roof of the Fountain was then completely replaced and finally the rear retaining wall was refurbished.

The garden area surrounding the Fountain will be maintained under s137 grant to the amount of £100 per annum.

New Councillor

Following the resignation of Councillor Mr N O'Brien from the Council, Mr T Sisson applied to fill the vacancy and became a Councillor in September 2017.

Housing development and changes at Troops Garage and Spray Shop

Mr R Troop requested to attend a Council meeting during the year to report to the Council changes he and his family were planning regarding the Garage/Shop and Spray Shop both situated in the village. The Garage/Shop premises were to be leased to a Company already running many such premises in the East Midlands. The Spray Shop premises were to be put forward for Planning Permission for four dwellings.

Permission for the housing development has since been granted. The Garage/Shop is now under new management while Troops Car Sales, Repair Shop and Spray Shop have all moved to the old Station Yard site previously known as Houshams Sprayer Services.

Village Hall support

Councillor Mrs C Stokes, as the Parish Council representative on the Village Hall Committee, reported that the Committee had recently spent a significant amount of money on maintenance works at the Village Hall (it being 20 years old and thus in need). The situation had arisen where a new oil tank was required urgently (the present one had split and now leaking).

Councillors were agreed that financial support could be given as it was the main community facility in the village. The Council purchased the new oil tank while the Village Hall Committee funded the connection fees.

Following this a full review was carried out in conjunction with the Village Hall Committee of the need to update the Hall and surrounding facilities. The following areas were identified:

- a) LED lighting throughout the Hall (main hall already fitted) and the floodlights on the All Weather Courts
- b) Children's Play Area

- c) New kitchen
- d) Tarmac, border and white line the Car Park

In addition:

- e) Solar panels on the roof
- f) Rain water harvesting
- g) Air Source Heat Pumps

Subsequently, a Lottery Application has been undertaken by Mrs Stokes and the Clerk. It is hoped to submit this by the end of May 2018.

Cliff Cluster meeting revival

County Councillor Mrs Overton has revived the Cliff Cluster meetings, involving parishes from Bracebridge Heath through to Leadenham who will send representatives to quarterly meetings which will be held at The Venue at Navenby. Here, issues can be discussed and supported where there are mutual benefits for all parishes.

Elm Tree down

Sadly we lost the mature Elm tree sited on the south west corner of the Bowling Green this year. It lapsed into a sad and sorry state and our Tree Surgeon attended to report that it appeared to have been poisoned. The Tree Officer at NKDC wholeheartedly agreed. Sadly it had to be removed.

Councillors are looking at replacements.

The Leadenham Litter Picking Group

Volunteers came forward to litter pick on a regular basis throughout the village and immediate surrounding area. The Council agreed to support them and supplies equipment for picking and for safety. (High Vis jackets, hoops, picking sticks and black bags)

We have 12 regular volunteers who litter pick per month, in their allocated area. A record of bags collected monthly is being kept.

The Group are currently in discussion with Leadenham Primary School seeking their support, by asking pupils to make posters which we can place around the village.

Data Protection Regulations

New Regulations come into law at the end of May 2018 which indicate that parish councils will have to appoint a Data Protection Officer (who will have to be paid) to check that a PC is meeting with the Regs in their daily practice of dealing with sensitive personal data. We hear a few days ago that an amendment is going through parliament currently which will possibly take small parish councils out of the equation. We wait for the result on that.

We have however completed an Audit to identify where and how we hold Data and other areas we might be vulnerable and some actions are going to be taken to ensure we are working safely.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Council recently had a presentation on the initiation and producing of a Neighbourhood Plan – a how to guide.

Discussion followed and Councillors were in favour of researching further on this. Currently ongoing.

Leadenham Parish Website

Councillor Mr McLusky is supporting the PC website and there are plans to expand this, particularly to include Village Hall activities and booking the Hall on line.

Any questions or comments please?