

ANNUAL REPORT FOR PARISH ASSEMBLY 5th MARCH 2024

This year's Report begins with Chairman Mr. Fred Keer continuing his position as Chairman at the request of the Council. At the 2023 AGM all positions remained the same. His term has been a big learning curve for him, and he has taken on the role admirably. He has kept a tight rein on the budget.

Councillor Ms Donna Semmens became Vice- Chairperson. A very enthusiastic member of the Council. Working with the Chairman and supporting the clerk in many aspects

The public are invited to all meeting's and are given a chance to bring any matters of concern to the meeting. The Village Cleaner Mr M D Ellington – keen to keep the village clean and reporting any issues that crop up. He is an asset to the Council and the village. On behalf of the Council, he should be thanked. The Cemetery is maintained by CGM who have after a few teething problems tidied the cemetery and kept it under control- this is funded by the Parish Council. The Council are responsible for maintaining the Infilled Canal that runs between the A1122 and A1101. NCC give a grant of £1,000.00 per annum. The rest is funded by the Parish Council- it costs over £3,000.00 a year to maintain. The Council also pay for the streetlighting and maintenance of the streetlights throughout the village apart from St. Andrews Road and Birdbeck Drive. There are 77 streetlights throughout the village.

Council kept the Precept this year as low as was possible it was raised this year by 10% – this was since in years gone by the Precept has been kept exceptionally low and Council and have not raised previously for the rate of inflation. Finances are kept to a minimal and Council considers that all requirements for the Parish are made at any request.

Parish Council are continually being asked for donations and financial help from many organisations, but Council considers that money should be donated to help local causes, one donation this year being Royal British Legion.

The Council now meets monthly at Upwell Village Hall . We did meet at the Crown Lodge for a few months, but the costs were high.

The Council buy and lay a Wreath at the Remembrance Service in November, there no service afterwards, but there is always a parade from Beaupre School.

A new Web Site Design was produced for the Council by Rob Shaw Designs, it is updated monthly. It is hoped it is more user friendly.

Council is open to having other information on there that is useful to the Parishioners

Traffic and Highway matters are problems that are reported every month and the NCC endeavour to resolve these issues. Parish Council this last year have been concentrating on getting backing and finances to gain Safer Crossings in the village on both the A1101 and A1122. In October 2023 a feasibility study done by NCC Highways funded with help from County Councillor Mr. Chris Dawson and the Parish Partnership, we are still awaiting the results.

Speeding is a major problem throughout the village. There are three major developments proposed in the Village, Parish Council believes that money from these developments should be made available for the Crossings.

The Village Hall continues to be a successful amenity in the Village. The Bookings are frequent and there are now fundraising events occurring- a successful Halloween Fireworks Evening. Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee for running a successful Hall without relying on support from others.

Several enforcement issues continue to make more work for the relevant authorities and Parish Council endeavours to continue to make sure that people are acting in the appropriate manner when planning applications are made.

The Council are in the process of discussing whether to try and find appropriate land and finance to provide burial ground for those that would like to remain in the village. The process is going to take a long time due to bureaucracy. In 2022, the Cemetery dissenters did inform the Council that there is more potential land available in the cemetery grounds for burials. Awaiting more updates.

In December 2023, there were Christmas lights put up in the village centre again. These were bought with donations from local businesses in the Village in 2022. The committee were able to extend the lights to the boat basin with even more donations given. It's a good move when the village comes together to praise and enjoy the hard work the committee puts into these events.

Each meeting representatives from the various village committees report to the Councillors how the local amenities are progressing and Mr Harry Humphrey- Borough Councillor and Mr Chris Crofts Borough Council report each meeting on matters that are of interest to the Council.

County Councillor- Mr Chris Dawson attends when is possible. He does keep the Council informed at all times via Emails if he cannot attend a meeting. He is working hard on supporting the Safer Crossings proposal and all things highways in the village. The railings in Rectory Road are an awful state of repair due to vehicles hitting them and subsidence. No one is responsible for them at this. Parish Council will take on the responsibility of the railings once repaired or replaced. Funding will come from Parish Partnership, CIL and some from other sources- it is a very costly job.

Council considers that any issues raised made by residents can be resolved. They continue to move forward with policies and the changing governing bodies and hopefully as voted by the local people are endeavouring to do what is right for them.

In 2024, the decision was made by Chairman and Clerk to make the meetings sleeker and ensure that important matters are discussed at length, so a change in the agenda has occurred. Also an action log has been put in place- this then keeps a progress each month of where the council is at. Councillor's being more involved with ensuring the actions are completed.

As Clerk I would like to thank all the Councillors for the help and support that is given when requested.