

WESTON COLVILLE PARISH COUNCIL PARISH MEETING CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2019

I would like to start by welcoming you all to the annual parish meeting in. The last year has been a relatively quiet year for the council in which it continued to carry out a range of village maintenance activities which included

Maintenance of Roads and Verges

The Parish Council implemented its usual verge cutting program this year and continues to provide street lighting for the village. Progress was also made with getting pot holes repaired and clearing gullies and drains. However, there is still more work to be done both at Church End drains and on to the 'temporary' plate installed over the collapsed culvert by the Reading Room where a permanent repair is awaited. Despite frequent chasing of the County Council Highways department we are still awaiting clarification on what they plan to do.

Speeding through the village

The Council has continued to use the shared speed indicator devices to monitor the speed of traffic through the village and they seem effective in slowing most motorists down when in use. The current plan is to use the information collected from these devices to support a grant application for traffic calming in the village. The precise nature of what speed reduction measures will be implemented is still to be decided

Rural nature of the village

The Council has continued to carry out its program of grass cutting and hedge trimming around the war memorial, at the Church end playing field and the play area on the Green. On a positive note the cost of this reduced this year following negotiation.

Play areas

The Council has ensured that essential maintenance has been carried out for both play areas to ensure they are safe to use and kept in good order supported by the annual safety inspection of this equipment by an outside expert.

Community Assets

The parish council has continued to make good progress with the transfer of the Reading Room car park from the district Council to the Parish Council and this would have been completed had it not been for yet another change of staff at South Cambridgeshire district council. Hopefully at least all the requirements have been met and this transfer can be completed this year. Once complete I would like to propose we name this the Allen Scott car park who, sadly died recently, in recognition of all his services to the village over many years. This would need to be ratified by the full council so is currently only a proposal.

Community led Parish Plan

The current Parish plan was originally approved in 2015 following an extensive village survey in 2014 and most of its objectives with 2 notable exceptions have been completed as far as reasonably practical. As a result, I intend to propose that we revitalise the plan and will seek councillor support for forming a new steering group to create new 2020 plan for the village. This will be discussed in the meeting immediately following this one but if we decide to go ahead, we will be looking for volunteers from the village to support this and help identify and deliver the needs that a majority of the village see as important. I look forward to all your support in making this a reality

Annual Budget for the parish

I feel it would be remiss of me not to mention our current budget deficit. In 2018/19 we spent £12,644 versus an income £8,850 showing we are currently spending 43% more than we receive. The difference is currently funded by what is termed '106' money which we receive from building developments in the village. Unfortunately, there have been no new housing developments in the last 2 years, and we will exhaust all our 106 money in 2020. The council will need to decide in January this year whether to put through a significant increase to the precept or cut back on its expenditure especially its donations or a compromise of both. I look forward to a healthy debate on this later in the year but think it would be useful if we do a parish plan survey to as what parishioners would prefer.

Finally, I would like to end by thanking all my fellow councillors and our Clerk for their time and effort in supporting the work and objectives of the council.