

UNAPPROVED NOTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF GREETWELL HELD ON MONDAY 11TH APRIL 2016 IN THE SMALL HALL, OLD SCHOOL, NETTLEHAM

PRESENT: Mrs Rosemary Seal (Chair), 6 members of the public,
Mrs Christine Myers (Clerk)

APOLOGIES: County Councillor Mrs Jackie Brockway,
District Councillors Alexander Bridgwood, Chris Darcel, Mrs Anne Welburn

NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13TH APRIL 2015

That the notes were a correct record of the meeting and be approved as minutes proposed by Mrs Sarah Bates, seconded by Tony Melrose.

CHAIRMANS REPORT – Mrs Rosemary Seal

See attached.

CLERK/TREASURERS REPORT

Another busy year for the Parish Council, with the Get Togethers and newsletters proving popular.

This year we have received £545.00 from a grant from our District Councillors Initiative Funds for the payment of office equipment – laptop and printer. This was welcomed by me with Greetwell PC not ever having its own computer.

The District Councillors Initiative Fund also provided the funds for signage at The Chase.

Funds in parish council funds at 31st March totals £4296.48 with £1304.15 to be paid to it on maturity of The Chase Account Bond totalling £5600.63.

The Parish Council was within its budgeted precept.

COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

District Councillor Mrs Anne Welburn

The Council's decisions on Council Tax for 2016/17 is to increase Council Tax by £4.95 (2.59%). Increases detailed below, show the increase in the past 6 years;

WLDC

Council Tax Changes

Year	Charge Band D	Increase £
2010/11	£188.55	0.90
2011/12	£188.55	0
2012/13	£188.55	0
2013/14	£191.34	2.79
2014/15	£191.34	0
2015/16	£191.34	0

The average Council Tax at Band D for 2016/17 will be set as follows: -

	2015/16 £	2016/17 £	Variance £	%
Lincolnshire County Council	1,085.94	1,128.83	42.89	3.95
Police	197.64	201.51	3.87	1.96

West Lindsey District Council	191.34	196.29	4.95	2.59
Direct Parish Precept Charges	54.96	55.75	0.79	1.44

Although the increases in Town/Parish Precepts average 1.44% the impact on the individual Town/Parish Councils will vary according to the amount by which each has increased its precept.

At the end of 2015/16 the Council's grant funding will have reduced by approximately 50% since 2010 (Formula Grant v Settlement Funding) when funding first began to reduce. Central Government commitments to eliminating the budget deficit and to the removal of Revenue Support Grant, whilst implementing 100% retention of Business Rates by 2020/21. The Government has provided indicative funding up to 2020/21 however, it remains unclear as to what the impact the review of Retention of Business rates will have on our funding level, as it is understood that the system of top-ups and tariffs will remain to control funding levels nationally.

Although there remains a great deal of uncertainty overall it is now estimated that the Council will need to close a funding gap of £1.065 m over the five financial years 2016/17 to 2020/21 with a significant element of front loading in the first two years.

The meeting concluded at 7.40pm.

Greetwell Parish Council

Chairs Report April 2016

We have had a productive and interesting year.

Undoubtedly our biggest challenge this year has been the proposed Gypsy and Travellers site on Wragby Road East. But we pulled together and motivated residents who in turn responded magnificently by writing letters of objection, attending meetings and spreading the word and the result of all this effort is that the site has been removed from the local plan and we now just have to wait for the independent inspectors report later this year, which hopefully will indorse the recommendations laid down in the latest plan. Thanks to everyone for your hard work.

The Open garden event last July was again well attended and this year the Parish Council has decided to hold a produce show, planning for this event is underway.

The venue for the get Togethers has had to change and the first event at Reepham/Cherry Willingham village hall is to take place this coming Wednesday. The cost for the hall is considerably cheaper than the fee we were paying at Machs so let's hope it is as well attended and residents are not put off by having to travel a little bit further. We don't want to lose this event, I believe it has become a staple event of the year

The litter picks are continuing to be very productive and help to make our small corner of Lincolnshire look a lot better, the latest litter pick included helpers from the Hawthorne Road area of the parish who are this time litter picking near the play area on Hawthorne Road. A big thanks to Cllr Sarah Bates for organising this event twice a year.

The newsletter is proving popular with residents, we now have more pages of information, but further contributions are always welcome. Thanks to those who spend time delivering them to residents.

Some of our efforts have not been so successful; there was no interest from residents in helping with a Neighbourhood Plan despite our best efforts. There are still complaints from residents about traffic travelling well over the speed limit on Wragby Road East despite all the 40mph signs being placed along the road, thanks to Councillor John Taylor for doing this for us. We seem to have difficulty getting any work or repairs done by Highways Dept. despite frequent reminders by our clerk, money always seems to be the sticking point but I am sure other Parish Councils are experiencing the same problem

The problems of dog fouling doesn't seem to be as prevalent at the moment so maybe the publicity we have given the problem has had an effect, it is only a minority of dog owners who neglect to pick up after their dogs.

We have been very fortunate to have been given contributions from our 3 district councillors towards new IT equipment for our clerk, thank you very much.

Work is finally due to start on the Eastern bypass this summer and Hawthorn Road is to be closed in approximately 12 months' time, there were opposing views on this closure but we will all have to wait and see how it affects Greetwell.

Cllr Sarah Bates and I have been on training courses on Prevent, Emergency Planning and how to communicate effectively with residents, there are always training courses for Parish Councillors, whether for a new councillor or to refresh a seasoned councillor's knowledge, rules and regulations are always being updated and it is essential we are kept up to date with changes.

We have had a change of Parish Councillors in the last 12 months; last year we lost a PC of many years' experience, David Hennell, but are very pleased to welcome Cllr. Mike Taylor to the Parish Council.

I would like to thank all of you for your help and contributions this last year and I would also like to thank our 3 district councillors, Anne Welbourn, Chris Darcel and Alexander Bridgwood and County Councillor Jacky Brockway for all their support, encouragement and financial help over the last 12 months and finally a huge thanks to our Parish Clerk, Chris Myers who keeps all the PC accounts in perfect order along with all the other administrative work she carries out on our behalf, some of it way beyond her job description. We would have a real problem carrying out the work of the PC without her.

Thank you to everyone.

Rosemary Seal

Chair, Greetwell Parish Council