

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS AND COMPLETED PROJECTS

Chairman's Summary

This year we begin with an almost full Council and it was completed with the addition of John Munro and Richard Litchfield following the election. As an Election Year it was also time to elect our District Councillors; we are allocated two for each ward at district level. We were lucky to have a choice of seven, two Conservatives, two Labour, two Independent and one UKIP. Our District Councillor Paul Wood was re-elected along with his wife Jane who has been supporting him for many years.

The Council plans to continue to improve the facilities on the playing field and work on the Parish Council's website and introduce social media platforms. Newark Hill will be uppermost on our Agenda to secure a footpath around the double bend. So the roads continue to be the main focus for the Council after the Playing field.

Alexander Maughan our County Councillor has been very supportive during our meetings which he regularly attends throughout the year. He is supporting our quest for a footpath around the double bend which has been an ongoing project since 2007.

Website: The parish website continues to grow and contains a lot of information that we hope will be useful to residents. There are links to Lincolnshire County Council and South Kesteven District Council along with many local services. Information includes all required Parish Council documents as well as details about geology, water quality, flora and fauna, archaeology, plus a brief Parish History and a wealth of useful information.

We also have a business section on the website for Foston based businesses which we would like to expand. We offer free

listing to Foston based businesses with a link to their website.

The Emergency Plan: The Emergency Plan has been completed but has to be updated on a regular basis. We continue to work in conjunction with Steve Harris at Lincolnshire County Council's Emergency Planning & Business Continuity Service.

30 mph Wheelie Bin Stickers: The Parish Council has a new supply of speed limit reminder stickers for wheelie bins.

Finance, Precept and Income: The year's precept was £10544. Grants received included £853 for village cleaning. £4375 went towards investigations regarding a replacement for Gorrie Hall and £600 towards an additional defibrillator for the Village. The Council will now look for further funding to enable the Council to purchase a defibrillator for the Village Hall.

Key Council Expenditure: The Playing Field mowing and maintenance plus ongoing removal of Japanese knotweed are continuing expenses and staff costs were £2797, insurance came to £404.

River Water Quality and Wi-Fi: Again this year we have had the River Witham water analysed for water quality. The Parish Council continues to provide Wi-Fi for the Village Hall for users to access,

Section 137 Grants provided grants totalling £1700 to community organisations to assist with running costs. Section 137 Grants were awarded to the Scouts, Guiding Association, Conservation Group and the Village Hall. We also provide a grant to help with grass cutting in the Churchyard.

Meetings: Foston Parish Council has had six Parish Council Meetings during the financial year, plus one extraordinary meeting to deal Parish Council financial procedure with urgent matters. We held the Annual Parish Meeting in April this year.

Playing Field: The Village Hall Committee did not want to become involved with the proposed community building on the playing field so the Parish Council is now working in

partnership with the 1st Foston Scouts to provide a community building on the playing field. At present we have joint informal meetings with the scouts. It was proposed, and resolved that the Parish Council should apply for funding from Awards for All, and as it was successful we appointed Focus Consultants to provide professional input.

Health: We are looking to purchase another Defibrillator for the village Hall which is an ongoing project.

Emails: The Parish Council continues to collect email addresses so that important information and reminders can be circulated quickly within the village.

Planning: There have been two major building developments this year to demolish the existing building and erection of a coffee shop with a drive-thru and associated car parking, motorcycle parking, cycle parking, landscaping and associated works where the Service Station is in Foston . There have also been applications for new dwellings one on Fallow Lane and two on Chapel Lane. These applications have all been commented on by the Parish Council. There have been eight other applications for property extension and alterations.

Due to the major construction work and heavy lorries Long Street and Newark Hill have suffered significantly. We hope Highways will soon be working on some remedial work to tidy up the area in the not too distance future.

Community Cleaner: The Scouts have continued with their excellent role as community cleaner. They will hopefully continue with this role for another year as funding has been awarded.

LOOKING AHEAD

We are still looking to the Playing Field for the next major project, to replace the changing facilities that were demolished in 2012, and the Scout Hut which is in a very poor state. We are also looking to introduce a Good Neighbours Scheme for the Village with the help of Community Lincs and we continue to look at the closed circuit

television project for Foston. We plan to have further training sessions with the Community First Aid Trainer on how to use a defibrillator in the Village Hall.

CONCLUSION: We have had another good year and the Chairman wishes to thank all the members of the Village who give their time freely for the benefit of the Village. Their hard work is greatly appreciated and the village reaps the benefits. Thanks to all the members of the Parish Council, our Parish Clerk James Stanley and internal Auditor Mr Patrick Traynor for their continued support and help throughout the year.

Cllr. Mrs Christina M Lees,
CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

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