

Foston Parish Council

ANNUAL REPORT 2021 - 2022

www.fostonpc-lincs.uk

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS AND COMPLETED PROJECTS

Chairman's Summary

Every year is a busy year for the Parish Council (PC) and James Stanley our Parish Clerk has continued to keep us up-to-date during these difficult times. Our April and May Parish Council meetings were the last of the online meetings and in June we were back to in person meetings with masks of course.

New Group – Foston Neighbours

Foston Neighbours has been set up by the Parish Council and is ready and able to help anybody in need of a helping hand. They have taken over from Foston's Community Aid Network that was set up to help out during the early days of the pandemic.

Foston Neighbours first Breakfast Club took place at the Village Hall on 25 September 2021. The Breakfast Club is open to all Foston residents and acts as a monthly community hub. An example of the breakfast menu below which also caters for vegetarians and vegans.

Sample breakfast menu

- 2 slices of bacon in a bread roll.
- 1 sausage in a bread roll
- 1 vegetarian sausage in a bread roll
- Fresh fruit
- Croissant
- Cereal.

South Kesteven District Council (SKDC) has an online fundraising resource 'LotterySK' for local good causes that can be found here: [LotterySKhttps://www.lotterysk.co.uk](https://www.lotterysk.co.uk) LotterySK has a weekly draw so participants have a chance of winning along with supporting very good causes including our Foston Neighbours.

Local Elections

On the 6th May 2021 the elections were

held for Lincolnshire County Councillors and the Police and Crime Commissioner. Our County Councillor Alexander Maughan was re-elected for a further 4 years. Our Police Commissioner Marc Jones remains in post.

Foston's Website

We also have a business section on the website for Foston based businesses which we would like to expand. We offer all Foston based businesses free listing. See **here** <http://www.fostonpc-lincs.uk>

The Emergency Plan

Foston's Emergency Plan is to be updated and we are working in conjunction with Lincolnshire County Council's Emergency Planning & Business Continuity Service. The format of the plan is continually being improved, so it keeps us on our toes.

Meetings

Foston Parish Council has had six Parish Council Meetings during the financial year, plus three extraordinary meetings to deal with urgent matters. We have had a joint informal meeting with the Scouting Groups.

30 mph Wheelie Bin Stickers

The Parish Council's safety initiative has secured more speed limit reminder stickers for the resident's wheelie bins.

Speed Monitoring Device

Five locations have been approved for deployment of the device these locations are on Main Street, Newark Hill, Chapel Lane and 2 sites on Long Street. The device will be rotated through these locations over the coming weeks and months. The device captures both the volume and speed of traffic both approaching and moving away from the sign, and we will use and share this data with residents, partners, and other agencies as we strive to improve the safety of the roads in the village.

Community Cleaner

The Scouts have not been as active with their excellent role as community cleaners due to the pandemic. Once it is safe they will be back in action.

Finance - main expenditure

The precept this year's was £11,000. Other

grants received included £926.64 for village cleaning. The staff costs were £2344.74, the insurance came to £410.80. The playing field maintenance came to £2412.90p that included, the mowing and hedging. Maintenance and staff costs are our main overheads.

The Parish Council provides wi-fi for the Village Hall for users to access, and we provide grants totalling £1050.00 to community organisations to assist with their running costs.

The Grants and Section 137 Grants

Grants were awarded to the Scouts, Guiding Association, Conservation Group and the Village Hall. St Peter's Church receives a grant to help with grass cutting costs to keep the Churchyard looking tidy for the village.

Complaints

The Parish Council receives regular complaints about the state of the property known as Y-Not on Main Street. This property has been left empty and in a neglected state for many years. In 2015 permission was granted for a single storey extension plus a double garage. The single storey extension was started but has since been left to become overgrown. We have contacted South Kesteven District Council about this issue many times but they are reluctant to do anything to improve the situation on this site for us.

Playing Field

The Parish Council continues to invest in the Playing Field and the Parish Council is focused on providing improved facilities. This is in conjunction with the Scout and Long Bennington Football club. We now have the plans for the building in progress.

The Parish Council is still looking to plant another tree, but not necessarily in the same area. We are also looking to fence off the playing field to prevent joy riders trespassing on to our site. We have instructed Morbey Fencing to install gates and fencing.

LOOKING AHEAD

HRH Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee

The Parish Council is planning a street party

to celebrate the historic occasion off the HRH Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee. An application has been made to close off part of Long Street on June 5th 2022 between 09:00 and 15:00.

The Parish Council plans to supply, commemorative Jubilee Medals for the children, decorations, and refreshments to include Pimms and soft drinks for the attendees. Residents will be invited to come along and bring their own picnic food. The WI has offered to make cakes for everybody and they will also provide the tea and coffee.

Roads and Footpaths

After campaigning for nearly 15 years, we are pleased to report that construction of the new footpath on Newark Hill will soon commence and join up with Marshall Way around the double bend.

Playing Field

Foston Parish Council is still looking to the Playing Field for the next major project. That is to replace the demolished changing facilities footballers Hut and the Scout Hut. This is a long term project with a goal for completion to be around 5 years if the Scout Hut will hang on that long.

A verbal report on a meeting with 1st Foston Scout Group regarding Gorrie Hall – A verbal report was given updating Councillors on the recent meeting with the Scout Group. It was Resolved: that the Parish Council's position is that the lead entity for funding applications and operation would be the PC.

We are also looking to protect the Playing Field by way of a Deed of Dedication supported by Fields in Trust.

CONCLUSION: The Chairman wishes to thank all volunteers for their hard work and commitment to the village. Thanks to all the members of the Parish Council and especially to our parish clerk James Stanley and internal Auditor Mr Patrick Traynor for their continued support and help throughout the year.

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