

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS AND COMPLETED PROJECTS

What a year, the Queens Platinum Jubilee, the Queens death and the Coronation of the King all within one financial year. Well almost. We were not expecting so much excitement in such a short space of time and we certainly did not budget for so many events.

The Jubilee marked the 70th anniversary of the accession of Queen Elizabeth II on 6 February 1952. In her 2022 Accession Day message, the Queen said that she hoped the platinum jubilee would bring together families and friends, neighbours, and communities. It certainly did in Foston although we had hoped to have a Street Party the weather put a stop to all of that, so we had to relocate to the Village Hall. But despite the weather we all had a great celebration in the Village Hall with a huge turnout of Foston residents.

So we put together a big party with all of Foston's Groups taking part in organising the event. The party started at lunch time and went on way into the evening. During the day we all brought our picnic lunch to the Village Hall and the WI provided a cakes and the Parish Council provided the Pimms and Commemoration Medals for all the Children in attendance.

Following the excitement of the Queens Jubilee the Queen sadly died during her Platinum Jubilee year, on 8 September, at the age of 96. The Royal family and the Government announced a period of national mourning, with the funeral taking place on Monday, 19 September 2022, which was made a national bank holiday.

Queen Elizabeth II state funeral took place on the morning of Monday, 19 September 2022 and she was buried at the King George VI Memorial Chapel later that day.

The Kings Coronation, although not entirely within this year's Parish Council financial year it could not be missed along with all the

other recent Royal family events. So on the 6th May 2023 at Westminster Abbey King Charles was crowned. The Coronation was a solemn religious service, as well as an occasion for celebration and pageantry. So we have a very eventful year.

Back to Parish Council business, we have achieved quite a lot although Some initiatives take many years for example the footpath around the double bend. We have been campaigning for that for years. In the end we had to offer to pay a proportion of the cost to secure the project completed this year.

Neighbourhood Watch has changed over the years and it is now managed by the Parish Council. All notifications are sent out by email.

The 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 Scouts and Long Bennington Football club. Here we have an on gong project.

30 mph Wheelie Bin Stickers, the Parish Council's safety initiative continues to secure more 30 mph speed limit reminder stickers for resident's wheelie bins

Foston Parish Council Website, the Parish Council website contains a lot of information that we hope will be useful to residents. All community groups can be represented on the website. We also have a business section on the website for Foston based businesses which we would like to expand. We therefore offer free listing to Foston based businesses.

Planning, we had 14 planning applications to look at from minor alterations to replacement dwellings plus one major application planning application. These can be all viewed on South Kesteven District Council's website. The Major planning application on Newark Hill is for a Travellers site SKDC's Reference S22/1022 and the applicant Mr Ishmael Steele. The proposal is for Change of use from agricultural land to use as a residential caravan site for 1 gypsy /traveller family group on seven pitches, comprising of 12 touring caravans and 11

static caravans, erection of 10 utility buildings and 7 stable blocks with ancillary paddock land; formation of new access, hardstanding for parking and the installation of a package sewage treatment plant. This application is ongoing and was originally refused in November 2022.

The Emergency Plan, for the Parish is completed and we have a fully stocked emergency box stored in the Village Hall. We are always on the case as everything constantly needs up-dating. Foston Neighbours are also actively involved as they are keenly offering practical help to the community.

Finance Precept and Income, this year's precept was £11,500.00 and grants received added up to £926.64.

Key Council Expenditure, the Playing Field mowing, hedging and maintenance plus ongoing removal of Japanese knotweed are the continuing expenses. The staff costs were £2875.18, village maintenance £1432, fencing on the playing field £2934.14 and insurance came to £445.49.

This year the Parish Council continue to provide wi-fi at the Village Hall for users to access. We provided grants totalling £2050 to community groups. This is more than usual because due to the pandemic the Village Hall required and extra £1000 grant. The grants are to assist the various community organisations with running costs as Section 137 Grants:

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 neat and tidy.

Meetings: Foston Parish Council has had six Parish Council Meetings during the financial year, plus two extraordinary meetings to deal with the major planning application and finance. We continue to have a joint informal meeting with the Scouting Groups and the Village Hall Committee.

Defibrillator: we have two defibrillators and NEWARK COMMUNITY FIRST AID, are a charity who to give us hands on experience on basic first aid and how to use a defibrillator. This skill is vital for all residents of Foston. We had our 4th free course in January and plan for another one soon.

Roads and Footpaths: Unfortunately campaigning for anything takes years rather than months. So to secure the footpath between Marshall Way and the bottom of Newark Hill, Foston Parish Council had to contribute to the cost. And now we have the long awaited footpath.

Foston Parish Council also campaigned for 15 years to get the junction between Foston and Long Bennington up-graded. It is the junction just before the Long Bennington, roundabout as you come off the north bound carriageway off the A1. We have been helped and supported by our County and district Councillors and it has actually now been completed.

Potholes, continue to be a problem particularly on Long Street caused by the heavy lorries and tractors going up and down the road. These can be easily reported on-line at Fix My Street [here](#).

Dog fouling, continues to be a problem in some places for example the Viking Way.

Emails, the Parish Council continues to collect e mail addresses so that Newsletters and important information along with reminders can be circulated quickly.

LOOKING AHEAD, Foston Parish Council is still looking to the Playing Field for the next major project.

CONCLUSION, I wish to thank all residents who give their time freely for the benefit of the Village. Their hard work and commitment is greatly appreciated. and the village reaps the benefits. 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.

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