METHERINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT 2013/2014
for
METHERINGHAM, SOTS HOLE & TANVATS

Contents

1.0 CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Introduction
1.1 Financial
1.2 Skate Park
1.3 Swimming Pool
1.4 Recreation Field Developments
1.5 Library Facilities
1.6 Fayre & Feast
1.7 Anti-Social Behaviour

2.0 ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES
2.1 Metheringham Parish Council
2.2 Lincolnshire County Council & North Kesteven District Council

3.0 METHERINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL – WHAT WE DO

4.0 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS & COMMITTEES

4.1 Allotments
4.2 Christmas Celebrations
4.3 Community Emergency and Flood Plan
4.4 Highways, Footpaths and Car Parks
4.5 Metheringham Community Skate Park
4.6 Street Lighting
4.7 War Memorial, Spring and Library Frontage
4.8 Finance Committee
4.9 Planning Committee
4.10 Metheringham Swimming Pool

5.0 FINANCIAL INFORMATION – ABBREVIATED REPORT 2013/2014

5.1 Income and Expenditure
   - Closing 2013/2014 and Projected 2014/2015
5.2 Supporting Statement
Members of Metheringham Parish Council, Community Skate Park Working Group and contractors on the day of the ‘first dig’ of the Metheringham Skate Park

New footpath from Princes Street Car Park to the south end of the recreation field and the new Skate Park
1.0 **CHAIRMANS REPORT**

**Introduction**

Welcome to the Parish Council Annual Report for 2013/2014. We have tried to give you an insight into the many and varied activities undertaken by the Council, long gone are the days when the Council was a cosy little talking shop. Now councillors take part in a wide variety of activities within the Parish in addition to attending numerous meetings and training sessions. My sincere thanks to everyone for the tremendous effort they make on behalf of our community. I would also like to thank the leaders of working groups and committee chairman who carry the extra burden of making things happen in the Village.

The Parish Council work closely with our Principal Authorities through our County Councillor, Mrs Patricia Bradwell and District Councillors, John Money and Rob Kendrick. Our thanks to them for all the effort they make on behalf of the Village.

Reports from our working groups and committees are shown below, but I would like to make a few additional comments relating to some aspects of our work.

1.1 **Financial**

Unfortunately an active Parish Council comes at a price and each year we spend a lot of time with the Finance Committee and the Responsible Financial Officer looking at our costs and working out a budget for the coming year. This year there was a lot of soul-searching before a budget could be agreed and I am sure many of you would have had concerns regarding the not insignificant increase in council tax due to the Parish Council precept this year. This was mainly due to the County Council proposal to close small library facilities such as those in Metheringham. The Parish Council held two public meetings and on both occasions there was an overwhelming desire to retain a library facility in the Village. In order to provide the financial basis for doing this there was no option but to increase the precept by a significant amount. In other areas of Council work saving had been made and without the library issue any increase in the precept would have been in line with inflation.

1.2 **Skate Park**

Any of you going across the playing field will have noticed the considerable construction work taking place. At long last our skate park is taking shape. A detailed report is given below and you will see that the project is mainly financed with an outside grant. However the project has over run with the inevitable increase in cost. This increase will have to be met out of Council funds which in turn will impact on other areas of our work.

1.3 **Swimming Pool**

Although a minority activity the swimming pool provides a vital service to our community and in particular it provides a very cost effective way for our young children to learn to swim. Our thanks to the Committee for the way they have revitalized the pool and made it an asset we can be proud of. In addition to running the pool the Committee do everything possible to bring in funds to support running costs, but with the ever increasing cost of energy it is obvious that the pool will be a drain on Council finances. In our consideration of future developments of recreational facilities we are looking to see if we can minimize the impact of energy increases and other costs.
1.4 Recreation Field Developments

We have been talking for years about the legal aspects of ownership of the playing fields which have stopped our attempts to improve recreation facilities. Unfortunately we are still talking, although we are now down to dotting a few i’s and crossing a few t’s and we await finalization of the legal documents. From all practical aspects this project is complete, if you go up to the School you will now see the children have a secure play area, we have access from the playing field to our pavilion and we are now free to develop the land to meet our needs. Over the last few months we have been talking to a number of architects and are in the very early stages of looking at new changing facilities, a new pavilion and other facilities including developments at the swimming pool which have been long overdue.

1.5 Library Facilities

As mentioned earlier the Parish Council are actively looking at taking over the running of Metheringham Library. We have held public meetings to discuss this issue, have submitted an expression of interest to the County Council and more recently submitted a detailed business plan. A working group has been set up and we are looking for volunteers to help man the library. We currently await comment on our business plan from the County Council.

Our proposal is to incorporate the library into the Village Hall without making a major impact on existing users of the Hall. This will require some structural changes which we hope will be covered by a grant. These changes will increase the flexibility of the hall and we hope increase revenue for the Hall. Some existing library users would obviously like us to run the library in its existing location, but while this was one of our original options careful review of the situation has shown this is not financially viable. The target date for moving the library is the end of 2014.

1.6 Fayre and Feast

Sadly at this moment in time we have been unable to form a working group to run the Fayre and Feast. Numerous calls for help have been made but unless a small group can be formed quickly this year’s Feast will not take place. While I am sure volunteers will come forward to help on the day, we need people to start with the organization now. At this stage this is mainly administrative activities, sending out application forms, advertising the event, booking entertainment etc. With all our other activities unless we can get additional help this event will not take place.

1.7 Anti-social Behaviour

Unfortunately we are seeing a rise in anti-social behaviour in the centre of the Village. This is mainly a small group playing loud music in cars and riding around in cars and on bikes to the annoyance of local residents. This is a police matter and they are dealing with it but if you are aware of any incidents please report this to the police. The more people reporting incidents the more likely the issue will be resolved.

No amount of Council money will resolve this current problem, but previously we did start the Meg Youthy project which was an attempt to reach out to young people in the community. Unfortunately this is now on hold, the young people have moved on to other things and there appears to be no interest in this project from today’s young people. My sincere thanks to everyone involved this was a tremendous effort and a job well done.
2.0 ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

2.1 Metheringham Parish Council

Councillor Dr Michael Allen
Tel: 07802 500262

Councillor Mrs Margaret Kristen
Tel: 07548 066366

Councillor Nicolas Dobbs
Tel: 01526 322950

Councillor Turon Miah
Tel: 07506021230

Councillor Mrs Joanna Finegan
Tel: 01526 320849

Councillor Mrs Shirley Peek
Tel: 01526 322575

Councillor Peter Ford
Tel: 01526 320016

Councillor Peter Riley
Tel: 01526 320712

Councillor Mrs June Gwillym
Tel: 01526 320541

Councillor Simon Stocker
Tel: 01526 320821

Councillor Mathew Haisman
Tel: 07747 624233

Councillor Mrs Sally Wilson
Tel: 01526 321289
2.2 Lincolnshire County Council & North Kesteven District Council

**Lincolnshire County Council**
County Offices, Newland, Lincoln, LN1 1YL
Tel: 01522 552222

**Elected Representative - County Council**

![Councillor Mrs Patricia Bradwell](image1)
Councillor Mrs Patricia Bradwell
Tel: 01526 352842

**North Kesteven District Council**
District Council Offices, Kesteven Street, Sleaford, NG34 7EF
Tel: 01529 414155 or 01522 699699

**Elected Representatives - District Council**

![Councillor Rob Kendrick](image2)
Councillor Rob Kendrick
Tel: 01526 323364

![Councillor John Money](image3)
Councillor John Money
Tel: 01526 320323
3.0 METHERINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL – WHAT WE DO

Metheringham has an electorate of 2844 (Register of Electors, 2013-2014) and population of 3605 (Office for National Statistics, 2011).

Number of Councillors
The council consists of thirteen members and is non-party political. Each member is elected to represent the parish and serves for a four year period. The next Parish Council elections are due to be held in May 2015. The Parish Councillors elected in May 2011 and at subsequent by elections are detailed in item 2.1.

- The current Chairman of the Parish Council is Councillor Dr Michael Allen
- The current Vice Chairman of the Parish Council is Councillor Mrs Joanna Finegan
- The Responsible Financial Officer is Councillor Peter Ford

Parish Council Staff
Mr Paul Chambers – Village Handyman and Pavilion Caretaker
Mrs Anita Ford – Facilities Caretaker
Mrs Yvonne Gash – Play Park Warden
Mr David Honisett – Village Litter Picker
Ms Sharon Wetherall MILCM – Clerk to the Council

In addition the Parish Council have an annual contract with the dog warden which is currently Mr Michael Cummins.

Public Access to Meetings
Members of the public are welcome to attend all parish council and committee meetings. However there are occasions when the council must move into closed session to discuss items of a confidential nature. At all meetings there is a 15 minute public forum prior to the official start of the meeting. Most meetings commence at 7.15pm and are held in the Village Hall. The meeting dates for full council meetings for 2014-2015 are as follows:
Annual Meeting of the Council – 27th May 2014

Principal Councils
Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council are the Principal Authorities, Metheringham Parish Council deal with both of these councils on a regular basis. Lincolnshire County Council delivers services which include, education, social services (adult and children's), public roads, public transport and street lighting. North Kesteven District Council provides, planning and building, waste and recycling collection, council tax collection, leisure facilities and housing.

List of services carried out by Metheringham Parish Council:
- Provision of Play equipment and maintenance of Shiregate and Prince’s Street Play Parks
- Grass cutting of the playing fields and play parks
- Public Toilets – Fen Road
- Provision of dog waste bins – 14 in total
- Provision of litter bins
- Provision of public seats
- Provision of finger post information signs located in the war memorial garden and Prince’s Street car park
- Car Parks - Middle Street and Prince's Street
- Allotments
- Parish Dog Warden
- Village litter picker
- Village handyman
- Public Toilet Caretaker
- Play Park Warden
- 192 Street Lights
- Youth/Meeting Shelters
- Public and Parish Notice boards
- War Memorial
- Bus shelter – High Street
- Quarterly Parish Council report in the MACLA magazine
- Parish Council website
- Monthly surgeries
- Beacon

The Parish Council have agreed to have a facebook account, to improve communication with the public. This is now available at: https://www.facebook.com/MetheringhamParishCouncil/

The Parish Council is responsible for organizing the following events:
- Annual Village Meeting (open to all the electorate, normally held in April)
- Armed Forces Flag Raising Ceremony (June)
- Fayre and Feast Celebrations (October)
- Remembrance Day Service (in conjunction with the local churches - November)
- Christmas Light Switch on, Carol Singing and Mini Christmas Market (December)

Fayre & Feast - Cllr Dr Allen presenting the Winners of the Best Dressed Premises 2013 - Star & Garter Public House
4.0 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS AND COMMITTEES

4.1 Allotments

Unfortunately the Parish Council has not been able to identify any land that is suitable for allotments and we are, as always looking to local land owners with a bit of community spirit to assist. If you believe you may own some suitable land or think you may be able to help please contact us.

Several areas of land have been identified for possible development, through the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Process. The main areas identified are located adjacent to Kings Road/Dunston Road and near to the Moorlands Trading Estate. The Council have requested that some of this land is allocated for allotments for use by the community. If these areas are considered for the building of new properties and in the future this comes to fruition there will be a greater need for recreational land and ultimately allotments.

Councillor Mathew Haisman
Leader – Allotment Working Group

Sites in Metheringham being considered for development through the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan process

4.2 Christmas Celebrations

The weather for the Christmas market was a lot kinder to us than the previous year. Even so, the fire pits were welcome warmth, while mince pies and hot drinks were consumed and mulled wine warmed the insides!

Lots of happy children joined the queue to visit Santa in his grotto. A new addition for 2013, but will be making an appearance again this year. Most took advantage of also having a photograph with him, again something new for us and of course receiving a gift added to their excitement.

We were not without a few equipment failures, which were very disappointing. Thankfully they did not interfere too much with the enjoyment of the evening. We would like to assure you that these have all been rectified for this year’s
celebration; large generators to provide electric to all stalls and stage etc. The snow machine has been hired from a different company as inexperienced people were sent to operate it and could not cope with the problem that temporarily arose.

The local Line Dancing group provided us with a lovely nativity around the tree when it was lit. We had in place a road closure for the lighting which helped to make a safer place for everyone.

A lot of fundraising and hard work by the working group is conducted throughout the year. We will be at the Annual Village Meeting to answer any questions you may have or to accept any ideas you may wish to put forward to the working group. In addition to this we will be enquiring as to whether the village would like to extend the market out onto the street surrounding the war memorial or whether you would like to keep it at its present location.

Please look out for us on the various coffee mornings, table top sales etc, all your support is greatly received and will go towards another festive family evening on 30th November 2014, which is the market date this year along with the switching on of the Christmas Tree lights in the war memorial garden. We, the working group are very much looking forward to seeing you at our fourth village event and helping you enjoy the start to your 'Festive Fun'.

Councillor Margaret Kristen  
Leader - Christmas Celebrations

4.3 Community Emergency & Flood Plan

Should there be a serious accident or weather event in our parish, the statutory emergency services would carry responsibility for dealing with it. However, there may be situations where we as a community can assist, for example, if there was a delay in the arrival of the fire, ambulance or police for some reason. Metheringham, Tanvats and Sots Hole now has an Emergency and Flood Plan that clearly lays out how we can start the process of helping ourselves. We have identified people who will work together in the village, and also buildings and other resources to will help stabilize the situation, minimize risks and get us back onto an even footing. If you would like to see a copy of the Plan please contact the Clerk.

Councillor Joanna Finegan  
Leader – Community Emergency & Flood Plan

4.4 Highways, Footpaths and Car Parks

Potholes, yes we grumble about them and we report them to Lincolnshire County Council (LCC). They are responsible for repairing pot holes in the county, further details can be found at the link below: 
Ongoing parking issues on High Street

Work to repair the footpath to the new cemetery will start in the spring. Driveways have been installed at some properties on Princes Street and Princess Margaret Avenue, this has helped to move cars off the road. However parking in certain parts of the High Street and the bus clearways is still a significant problem. LCC highways are investigating options to alleviate these problems. The village has a number of car parks which must be used. This is a residential/shopping area and drivers should slow down and drive accordingly to the area. Litter in Princes Street car park has been a major problem, the police are aware of this and will be prosecuting anyone found littering. Royal Mail have made a decision to stop postmen and women from using bicycles on their routes, they now use post trolleys so look out for them on the pavements.

Councillor Shirley Peek
Leader - Highways, Footpaths and Car Parks Working Group

4.5 Metheringham Community Skate Park

Having secured a £50,000.00 grant from Waste Recycling Environmental Limited (WREN) a variety of administrative actions were undertaken to access the funds, most notably the creation of a contract of works. Freestyle was our chosen contractor because of their exciting modern design that would suit both novice and experienced skaters. However, the popularity of Freestyle who have built many skate parks across the UK made it harder than anticipated to programme our build into their schedule. In the event, a local company, Hatcher and Sons from Sleaford, has been sub-contracted to conduct the build under the direction of Freestyle experts.

Although originally scheduled for a 4 week construction period to commence at the beginning of September the work was delayed for 2 weeks due to family medical difficulties of the construction crew. Once underway things were progressing quite well until the rains came in October which quickly made site access impossible for the stone carriers and cement mixers. The prolonged wet spell then led into the winter months where the threat of frost became the enemy of concrete laying.

Work recommenced on 17th March 2014 after a temporary track-way was laid and the Skate park is clearly taking shape. Providing there are no serious
weather issues the park should be completed and in use, by the time you read this report.

**Nick Byatt**  
Leader - Metheringham Community Skate Park

Hatcher & Sons constructing the skate park ramps

### 4.6 Street Lighting

Not much has changed regarding street lighting, except for rises in tariffs as is usual. The Parish Council are responsible for the general maintenance, repair and utility costs for 192 street lights in the village. We have had a number of faulty lights/lights out completely over the last year that were reported and very speedily repaired by either E.on or Lincolnshire County Council.

What we would ask residents to be mindful of too and report, are lights that are still burning during the day, these are called ‘Day Burners’. Obviously these use up a lot more electricity as they are burning day and night and so repairs need to be carried out swiftly.

Also, if you notice that a street light in your area has a concrete column, we should be grateful if you would let us know as these do need replacing. We are trying to replace two a year. Your help in reporting any street lighting problems is greatly appreciated, thank you.

We still do not agree with the switching off of any lights during the night due to possible safety issues, and the following extract seems to support this:

From a Neighbourhood Watch Report in 2013 supporting The Suzy Lamplugh Trust, it was found that of 15,786 people, equally divided between male and female, over half of which were in the 51-70 age group, 92.9 per cent of people participating feels very or fairly safe in well lit areas. 22 per cent explicitly said if lighting has been dimmed or switched off, 52.8 per cent of women and 38.8 per cent of men said their local community feels less safe. Concerns also regarding crime and safety issues related to low lighting, such as trip hazards were raised.
SO ........ good reasons to keep to our decision to keep street lighting on all through the night?

Councillor June Gwillym  
Leader – Street Lighting Working Group

4.7 War Memorial, Spring and Library Frontage

Metheringham War Memorial
This year the world remembers the centenary of the outbreak of World War One. Like many other villages such monuments, similar to ours, was erected to remember those who initially fell in this conflict. The site of our War Memorial Garden (in the village centre) was gifted by the then Earl of Londesborough of Blankney Hall in 1919 and a year later on Sunday 12 December 1920 his daughter, the Marchioness of Carisbrooke (Lady Irene Frances Adza Denison) unveiled this unique work of art to an enthusiastic crowd. As has been mentioned on previous occasions this memorial is made from white Italian marble and depicts a soldier of the Lincolnshire Regiment in uniform with his rifle reversed and head bowed. The figure stands on a polished Aberdeen granite pedestal and was built by local village monument mason, Frederick William Baldock, at a cost of £600.00 (near half a million pounds in today’s prices).

For those not familiar with our memorial, 50 names are displayed on the pedestal, 42 from the Great War (1914-1918) and a further 8 in World War Two (1939-1945). Thankfully we have seen no further names added from world conflicts since this time.

Each Remembrance Day the village gathers in these ‘Gardens’ to remember those who lost their lives in these wars and over a number of years’ local military enthusiast Mike Credland (ex-clerk of Metheringham Parish Council) reads out the names of these local men during a short service, following a service at one of the two churches in the village. Mike has, over many years, researched each person named on our Memorial and is presently in the process of producing publications (including photographs of each man) on this and War Memorial of Lincolnshire. Although having some bias he would say Metheringham can be proud of the fact we possibly have one of the finest War Memorials in the county.

In just six years’ time we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of our ‘Memorial’ and hopefully the Parish Council will be in a position to arrange an appropriate remembrance of the occasion. Perhaps our residents could make suggestions to the Parish Council as to how they feel this occasion should be remembered (please contact the Clerk via details in this publication).

The Memorial Garden is lovingly cared for by our Parish Council employee but outside contractors have recently been required to reduce the width and height of the hedge surrounding the site. Unfortunately over time this hedge, in places, has extended in width to over fifteen feet with the inner part ceasing to grow. How this can be resolved is causing some concern and expert advice is being sought.

The Parish Council is more than proud to utilise these ‘gardens’ for the holding of short services for the raising of a flag for the occasion of annual Armed Forces Day (Monday 23rd June 2014) and Remembrance Day Service (Sunday 9th November 2014) and the Switching on of the Christmas Tree.
Lights & Market (Sunday 30th November 2014). The appropriate flags are also raised for annual ‘dates’ including the Queen’s Birthday, St George’s Day (23rd April), and Lincolnshire Day (1st October)

The Spring, Drury Street
The Spring is a little oasis in our village, known to only a few of our local residents. For those not familiar with its location, it is towards the south end of Drury Street between two properties opposite the Community of St Francis. Access is through a metal gate presented to the village by the Metheringham WI (when they took responsibility for its upkeep). This secluded location is open to all, to spend a quiet moment, between dawn and dusk during British Summertime (from 1st April to 25th October). As the word ‘Spring’ suggests the area has an underground spring which it has been suggested, comes all the way from Derbyshire. At the beginning of the 20th century this Spring was one of the only sources of fresh water available for the local residents of this part of the village, servicing both the Manor House and the Vicarage. Today those visiting can see the water bubbling away freely in the clear water.

Parish Council minute books, going back over 100 years, clearly define that this area has been constantly maintained by ourselves, with the assistance, at times, by local organisations such as the Women’s Institute, the Guides and the Scouts.

The Parish Council now tend this area on a regular basis, cutting the grass and hedges and caring for the plants. In the ‘Spring’ there is a small ‘park bench’ where time can be spent and North Kesteven District Council now list the site on the Spires and Steeples Trail. Because of its seclusion, the Parish Council is ever mindful that it can be frequented by undesirables and for this reason it is closed at dusk. Anyone wishing to visit the site when it is locked can do so by contacting the Parish Clerk on the number available in this Annual Report.

Library frontage
For several years now the Parish Council has been responsible for the upkeep of the area to the front of the Library and Doctor’s Surgery on the High Street. This land is the property of Lincolnshire County Council but its upkeep was one of many services no longer provided for. Last year, after some difficulties, approval was given by Planning Officers to erect the Village Beacon in celebration of the Queen’s Jubilee on this site and thanks go to the local Fire Service for their donation and erection of this beacon. Already the beacon has been lit on two occasions (Fayre and Feast and Christmas Celebrations) and a superb sight it was. It was or should we say, is, hoped that a Village Crest will hang from this beacon in due course. Recently a Village Crest competition was held to come up with ideas on what the crest should depict but sadly the entries from local residents was more than disappointing. Hopefully this ‘project’ is not lost and a design will be produced in the not too distant future. Another problem that has now arisen is that village crests’ have to receive legal authorisation and this can be a costly affair, so this too has to be addressed.

As stated, we as a Parish Council maintain this area, but looking to the future one has to have serious concerns as to what will happen should the Library cease to function from its present location. What will/would Lincolnshire County Council propose to do with this FOCAL point of our village, could we be placed in a position where we might even have to relocate our Beacon?
Hopefully this will not happen but in the meantime the Parish Council will continue to maintain the plants in and around the area.

**Councillor Peter Ford**  
**Leader - War Memorial, Spring & Library Frontage Working Group**

![The Beacon which was kindly donated by Metheringham Fire Brigade](image)

4.8 **Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee meet in October of each year to discuss the proposed budget for the following year. In the past two years the Committee have been met with an extremely difficult task; the need to retain the current services to the community at the best possible value; to identify future projects, retain adequate general reserves and earmarked reserves for future major projects. The Finance Committee, must only consist of council members (Local Government Act 1972 s102(3)) as amended by (Local Government and Housing Act 1989 s13(8)). The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) Cllr Ford produces a detailed budget proposal which is scrutinized by the Finance Committee, once agreed by the committee, the budget proposal is then an agenda item at the full council meeting in November for approval by members.

4.9 **Planning Committee**

The Planning Committee meets on the 2\(^{nd}\) Wednesday of each month (except when there are no applications to discuss) in the Village Hall, Middle Street. An Agenda detailing applications to be discussed will be displayed on the Parish Council Notice Board, in the War Memorial garden, prior to the meeting.

A public forum is held if required between 7.15 pm and 7.30 pm, before the official meeting starts, during which members of the public are encouraged to speak if they have anything they wish to discuss with the Committee regarding planning matters.
Over the past year the Committee has mainly considered domestic planning applications relating to such matters as extensions, garages and driveways. The only major application in hand at present is the proposal for a “biomass anaerobic digestion renewable energy facility” on Metheringham Heath, which came before the Committee in April of this year. It is also expected that there will be much further interest in the possible application by Vattenfall for a wind farm on the fens.

Planning applications relevant to Metheringham parish can be viewed either at Info-links on the High Street or at NKDC Council Offices in Sleaford, and members of public are able to make comments or objections direct to NKDC if they so wish.

**Councillor Nick Dobbs**
**Chairman – Planning Committee**

4.10 **Metheringham Swimming Pool**

2013 has been a roller coaster year for the pool. The highs have definitely been an increase in numbers using the pool which was up 1/3 from last year. This is mainly due to our new entrance located off the play park and football pitch which has enabled visitors to the village to see the pool. We also advertised in all the surrounding schools. We have had a slight increase in party hire and our Thursday evening swimming lessons have proven once again to be very successful. We have been in a position to hire the pool out to local organisations, including the school, Scouts, Brownies, Youth Wings, two local nursery groups, Judo club and more and look forward to their continued support in 2014. The lows this year included the break-in we suffered in the summer, costing us almost £1,500.00 in damages. The other downhill is the ever increasing costs of the utility bills. This year the gas, water and electric have cost us a staggering £7,770.56. Although the pool is closed for 8 months of the year we still get charged a whopping £98.00 per month standing charge for the gas supply. This is a high expense we have to raise in the 15 weeks we are open.

On a brighter and more positive note we have been able to improve facilities at the pool which have included a slide, 3 privacy cubicles in both changing rooms, new party shelter, path leading from the new entrance and we have been donated a bench and raised lifeguard chair. We also have a dedicated shop operative and have been able to provide refreshments and facilities to football visitors. We look forward to seeing new visitors to the pool in 2014.

**Kerri Hawbrook**
**Chairman - Metheringham Swimming Pool**
Metheringham Swimming Pool 2014

New meeting shelter at the south end of the recreation field
### 5.0 FINANCIAL INFORMATION – ABBREVIATED REPORT 2013/2014

#### 5.1 Income and Expenditure - Closing 2013/2014 and Projected 2014/2015

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employees salaries etc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.A.Y.E.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contracted employees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council Insurance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Admin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street lighting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>War Memorial / Spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play Parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pavilion-Meeting Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playing field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public toilets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skate Park project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General amenities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car Parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fayre &amp; Feast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public work loan board (PWLB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowls Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Pool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Power of Comp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAT Recoverable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work in Progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>157,416.00</th>
<th>137,275.00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>146,386.00</td>
<td>137,275.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.2 Supporting Statement

**Assets**

The assets owned by the Council as at 31 March 2014 have been valued at £3,710,256.00. The fixed assets amount to £281,000.00 (replacement cost) – Community Assets / replacements for 2013-2014 can be seen below.

Items that have been added to the Community Assets or replaced during this financial year are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asset</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>To Replace</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Dog Bin</td>
<td>Playing Field</td>
<td>200.00</td>
<td>225.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office chairs</td>
<td>Pavilion</td>
<td>176.00</td>
<td>200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security lighting</td>
<td>Pavilion</td>
<td>276.00</td>
<td>300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fridge</td>
<td>Pavilion</td>
<td>104.00</td>
<td>125.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Shelter</td>
<td>Playing field</td>
<td>1500.00</td>
<td>2000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notice boards (3)</td>
<td>Car Park</td>
<td>675.00</td>
<td>700.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New computer</td>
<td>held by clerk</td>
<td>580.00</td>
<td>600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mower</td>
<td>held by handyman</td>
<td>750.00</td>
<td>800.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village Beacon</td>
<td>Village centre</td>
<td>2000.00</td>
<td>2250.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Insurance**

Metheringham Parish Council is insured with Aviva Insurance, the policy is due for renewal on 01/06/2014 for the following eventualities (policy excess £350.00):

- Public liability  £10,000,000
- Employers Liability  £10,000,000

**Borrowings**

As at 31 March 2014 the Council had a PWLB borrowing of £20,000.00 taken out in 2010 with a further 7 years to run – outstanding amount to pay £14426.19

**Leases**

As at 31 March 2014 there are three leases in operation involving the Parish Council:

(i) The Spring, Drury Street, leased indefinitely on yearly basis, from Blankney Estates Ltd on a peppercorn rent.

(ii) 2.5 acres of Sports field leased to LCC on behalf of Metheringham Primary School for a term of 99 years (from 2012).
(iii) Public Toilets, Fen Road, leased from NKDC on peppercorn rent. This is still awaiting completion of legal papers by NKDC for transfer of facilities to the Parish Council.

**Debts Outstanding**

As at 31 March 2014 the Parish Council has one debtor:
(i) VAT recoverable for financial year 2013-2014 - £13,973.00

**Tenancies**

As at 31 March 2014 the Council, as landlord, was engaged in tenancies for four Allotments on Dunston Road - These are rented out on a yearly basis (December to November) at a cost of £20.00 per allotment. Presently these all have tenants. The Parish Council has a waiting list of 20 plus electors wanting an allotment but despite all efforts, additional land has been impossible to secure for our needs.

**General Power of Competence - Localism Act 2011**

Under the provision, a local authority has the power to do anything that individuals generally of full legal capacity may do. As at 31 March 2013 this Council made payments amounting to £2706.00 as follows:
(l) L.I.V.E.S. – ex gratia re delivering Annual Report - £500.00  
(ii) Developing Meg Youthy - £332.00  
(iii) Annual Xmas Tree - £113.00  
(iv) Produce Annual Report/Annual Village Meeting - £870.00  
(v) Issues re new Village Beacon - £50.00  
(vi) Issues re Fayre and Feast - £841.00

**Future Commitments**

The Parish Council made the following commitments for 2014-2015:
(i) A maximum of £20,000.00 to assist with modifications and operation of a Community Hub incorporating the library provision.
(ii) A maximum of £4,000.00 to provide CCTV and floodlights at the new skate park.

**Advertizing**

As at 31 March 2014 the Parish Council had advertizing and publicity costs amounted to £735.00  
(a) publishing and distributing the Annual Report to all households in the Parish – costing £650.00  
(b) maintaining links with local community through website - www.metheringham.org.uk – costing £85.00

**Agency Work**

As at 31 March 2014 the Parish Council had no Agency Work.

**Pensions**

As at 31 March 2014 the Parish Council (as employers) made contributions of 20.3% to the LCC Pension scheme towards the Clerk’s pensionable pay amounting to £4235.00
Management Committees

The Village Hall, Bowls Club and Swimming Pool (all part of the Parish Assets) are run by their own ‘Management Committees’, under the auspices of this Parish Council. The Parish Council does however accept its responsibilities in assisting in the upkeep and insuring of these facilities which places a more than heavy burden on the Council's finances.

Variance

The reasons for the following variances are:

a) Council Insurance – Increase of public liability - increase of £1349
b) Skatepark project – costing over budget - increase of £20,527
c) Swimming Pool – additional running costs - increase of £3932
d) Work in Progress – H & S issues Replace Windows and doors in Pavilion - increase of £2057
e) Project – installing safety footpath to Pavilion - increase of £4683

Councillor Peter Ford
Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)

New windows and doors at the Pavilion, Princes Street
Harvest time 2013 in Metheringham Parish

Fayre & Feast 2013 - Cllr Mrs Finegan presenting Reverend Martin Amery, the certificate for Winners of the Special Award – Methodist Church