



Metherringham, Sots Hole & Tanvats Parish Council

Annual Report 2015-2016



The council has had an extremely busy and productive year. Councillors and staff have worked hard to continuously improve the quality of life for people living in the parish. The following, are some of the projects we've been working on this year – in no particular order.

Parish Office / Local Access Point:

The Parish Office has opened in the High Street. The parish clerk and her assistant are based here, this focal point for all parish council work. They also provide an information service for North Kesteven District Council, host a Citizen's Advice Service (CAB) service, a Welfare Advice surgery, and a Police Surgery. Various council related meetings are also held here. To contact the office Tel: 08006343307 or e-mail Metherringham_LAP1@n-kesteven.gov.uk



Community Library: Metherringham's Community Library is up and running. It is coordinated and staffed by dedicated volunteers. Volunteer and user numbers are both increasing and it's going from strength to strength.



Community Swimming Pool: This much valued community resource starts its new season at the start of July. The pool is run by a committee of hard-working volunteers in partnership with the council.

Recreation Field development: We're in the early stages of planning a fit-for-purpose twenty-first century building that incorporates sports and social activities, parish and library functions.

Neighbourhood Plan: Along with most other communities we're starting to develop a Neighbourhood Plan. This will ensure the village grows in ways which enhance our community.

Princes Street Play Park: Consultation is underway to consider what sorts of equipment should replace the old, rather dog-eared play items currently in this play park.

Public toilets: We're responsible for maintaining the toilets in Fen Road.

Street lights: The council own, monitor and maintain 200 street lights in the village. This is proving to be a costly exercise!

Play-parks and equipment inspection:

A number of Councillors and council staff are qualified to undertake weekly safety checks on

all our outdoor play areas; in addition there are expert checks four times a year.

Events: The council has an Events

Committee to plan and ensure its events run smoothly and safely.

Events are risk-assessed, adhere to our public liability insurance; lessons are learned and applied to future planning. This year's events include:

Village Litter Pick (Clean for the Queen), Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations, Annual Village Meeting,

Armed Forces Flag

Raising, Fayre and Feast, Remembrance Day,

and Christmas Celebrations - this is expertly run by Maggie Kristen and her team.



Staffing Committee: This will ensure that as employers, the council meets its duties in adhering to employment law, health and safety at work, recruitment, training, and other terms and conditions.

Emergency and Flood Plan: We've devised a plan which would come into operation should an untoward serious emergency (like a flood or an air crash for example) arise in the parish.

Village Hall: The Village Hall is an independent charity which plays an important role in our community. The parish council acts as its custodian trustee and also sits on its

management committee. The council contributes financially to the hall by paying its insurance and its Public Works loan. Recently the council purchased its new boilers.

War Memorial / Spring Garden (Drury

Street): The council is responsible for their maintenance and upkeep.

Lincolnshire Local Plan / Boundary

Commission Changes: The council actively contributes to planning the future shape of our county through these and other consultations.

Local Planning: Our Planning Committee meets monthly to consider local planning applications. As consultees, our recommendations are fed into North Kesteven's planning process.

Community Police Panel: The council is represented on the local Community Police Panel and one of our Councillors is also the panel chairman. We work collaboratively to address issues of petty crime, road safety (including speeding) and anti-social behaviour, for example.

Set and manage budgets: The council sets its annual budget via the Finance Committee. Councils have a legal duty to manage their budgets according to set criteria. Although the whole council is corporately responsible, its financial officer Peter Ford plays a vital role in helping manage the process. Please see Peter's report overleaf in this document.

The parish council couldn't function without the dedicated, hard work of its staff, volunteers and Councillors. So we sincerely thank all those who give their time to help build our community. These include Sharon Wetherall (parish clerk), Lee Evans (her assistant), Paul Chambers (handyman), Michael Cummins (litter picker and dog warden), the library and swimming pool coordinators and volunteers, and last but not least each individual Councillor with their diverse knowledge and skills. We recently said goodbye to David Honisett who retired after 16 years as the village caretaker and parish Councillor for 13 years before that. We say a special "thank you" to him and wish him a long and happy retirement.

What do Councillors actually do, and how?

Councillors work through working groups (which also include members of the public) and committees. The council works in partnership with many other organisations to improve village life, for example Lincolnshire County Council representative Councillor Patricia Bradwell (highways, traffic management, grass cutting, education, leisure, culture & learning), North Kesteven District Council representatives Councillors John Money and Rob Kendrick (planning and building, waste recycling collection, council tax collection, housing and leisure facilities and Lincolnshire Police (as outlined above).

Communication and consultation are key aspects, so we inform and gather opinions from you by Notices, Facebook, questionnaires, MACLA magazine briefings and monthly parish surgeries, for example. We've also invested in a computerised screen which is situated in the Parish Office window. This displays notices and events so parishioners can be kept almost immediately informed.



It's **YOUR** council so your input is essential. We would welcome more involvement in the projects above however! If you'd like to help, or if you want further information on any of these issues, please speak to the clerk or any of the Councillors. Together we can continue building the kind of community in which we all enjoy living.

Joanna Finegan
Chairman Parish Council

Chairman 1913 – present

Name	From
Joanna Finegan	2015
Dr Michael Allen	2004
Brian Creasey	1995
Bill Chambers	1991
John Rose	1990
Dr Brian Wright	1979
Bill Chambers	1977
Dr Brian Wright	1966
Rev Sam Radford	1965
Cyril Yates	1964
Phil Chaplin	1963
Cyril Baldock	1962
A Hague	1961
Dr Eric Wright	1960
Cyril Yates	1959
Fred C Townsend	1958
Ald George Flintham MBE	1941
F Townsend	1913



Vice-Chairman & Chairman 2015-2016

Clerks 1927 – present

Name	From
Sharon Wetherall	2006
Mrs Jenni Honisett – Acting Clerk	2004
Mr Michael Credland	1980
Mrs A McAleely	1973
Richard Yates	1972

Frank Hutley	1966
W H Dykes	1952
Frank Hutley	1951
J W Haire	1947
Frank Hutley	1927

Parish Councillors 2015-2016

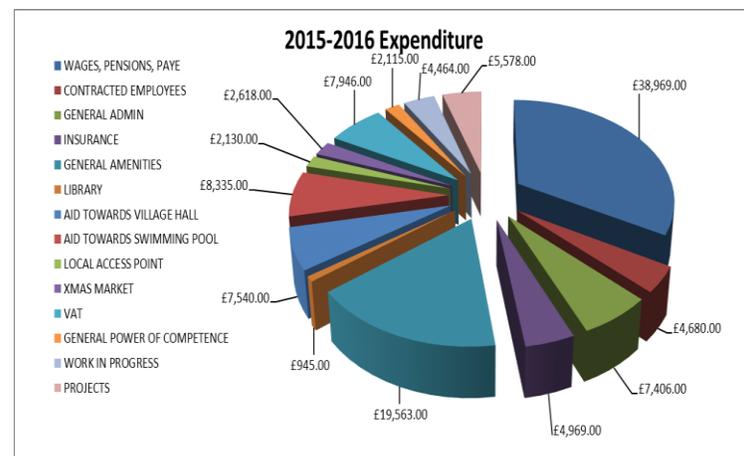
Councillor Joanna Finegan
 Chairman
 Tel: 01526 320849
 Councillor June Gwilym
 Vice-Chairman
 Tel: 01526 320541
 Councillor Peter Ford
 Responsible Financial Officer
 Tel: 01526 320016
 Councillor Michael Allen
 Tel: 07802500262
 Councillor Nick Byatt
 Tel: 01526 322750
 Councillor Mark Gascoigne
 Tel: 01526 268185
 Councillor Jane Kendrick
 Tel: 01526 323364
 Councillor Shirley Peek
 Tel: 01526 322575
 Councillor Simon Stocker
 Tel: 01526 320821
 Councillor Sally Wilson
 Tel: 01526 321289

Budget/Precept 2015-2016: The Finance Committee meet in November of each year to discuss the proposed budget for the following year, this meeting is open to members of the public to attend. In the past four 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 committee have also had to consider taking responsibility for other services such as the library. 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 January for approval by members.

The past few years has seen a reduction in the Council Tax Support Grant which comes from the government to North Kesteven District Council, this has been passed to the parish council but has seen a reduction from £7,209.25 in 2015-2016 to £4,448.11 for 2016-2017. The devolution of services from the district and county council is something the parish council are mindful of and the implications this may have on the precept. Detailed below are the expenditure for 2015-2016 and Budget for 2016-2017.

Expenditure 2015-2016



Budget 2016-2017

