

Metheringham, Sots Hole & Tanvats Parish Council



Annual Report 2016-2017



The Council and its Committees

The full Council oversees all the activities of the Council. The main areas of the Council's work are covered by a number of Committees. These are Planning, Finance and Staffing.

The Council meets at 7.15 p.m. on the last Tuesday of each month. Meetings of the Planning Committee take place on the second Tuesday of the month, Finance and Staffing Committee meet by agreement. Members of the public are welcome to attend any meeting. A 15 minute public forum is held prior to the start of the official council meeting.

Parish Councillors

Metheringham should have thirteen Parish Councillors that represent the parish. They are elected every four years. The next election is in May 2019. Parish Councillors are unpaid volunteers and are non-party political. At the present time we have eight members, if you are interested in joining the parish council please contact the Clerk, details can be found on page 3.

Grants to Voluntary Groups

The Council gives financial support to a number of local clubs and organisations. During 2016-2017 the Parish Council awarded the following grants:

- Metheringham & Dunston LIVES £600.00
First Responders
- 1st Metheringham Scout Group £300.00

Chairman's Report

Thanks to some amazing volunteers we have had a really productive year here in Metheringham. The Community Library is thriving! The numbers using this facility is rising every month, under the very careful eyes of Doreen and Ken who have excellent

fund raising ideas. The new porch in the library has also made a huge difference.

The Village Hall Management Committee are busy fund raising. Their plans are to redecorate, modernise the kitchen and have new comfortable chairs. This is such a vital part of our village to have a community building.

The Swimming Pool is again run by a very hard working and dedicated group of volunteers who worked extremely hard last year to give this important leisure facility a more modern look. We look forward to this year having a heated pool, so we can again say that not one child has left our village primary school without learning to swim. This has happened for the last 40 years and is really some accolade and needs to be applauded.

Metheringham Parish Councillors, who are also volunteers, have worked very hard to make sure our village is run smoothly. I would also like to thank those councillors who have now stepped down from public duty this year for all the dedication that they have given our village. A special mention needs to go to Dr Michael Allen who gave 17 years on this Parish Council, 13 as Chairman. We wish Dr Allen and his wife well in the move to be nearer family in the south of the country.

This village with over 3700 parishioners have a Parish Council Staff who work to keep our village in good shape. We, or rather you, employ a qualified clerk Sharon Stafford, who has been in the position for over ten years; who steers the council, Lee Evans our admin assistant, Paul Chambers our village caretaker, and Michael Cummins the Parish Dog Warden. I would like to thank them for all their hard work over the past year.

Our Jewel in the Crown last year was the resurrection of the Fayre and Feast!

It is worth noting that Billingham and Metherringham are the last villages left in the country who celebrate this day. Originally, St Wilfrid's Day it was always held in October to celebrate the end of the warm weather and allowed the surrounding villages to join together to celebrate this occasion. Today it is still an event to see families and friends joining together some 200 years later. Last year the weather was great and with a wonderful atmosphere it showed our village to be a place to be very proud of. 'A Taste of Lincolnshire' was a great event. We know we still have a few creases to iron out, but with your help, I am sure this year's event will be even better. Put the 21st October in your diaries and join us for 'Around the World' journey.



Fayre & Feast 2016

I suppose I need to talk of your precept which allows us to run the village. We have had to make some hard decisions, especially when we set the budget. We know that money is tight for North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council and if we think that either of these councils are going to withdraw some funding e.g. Grass cutting, we need to build this into our budget so that we – the Parish Council can take over this. We are incredibly lucky to have a very diligent Financial Officer, Pete Ford, who has managed the accounts of the village for many years.

So we now look towards the future. We are delighted that WREN has awarded us a £50,000.00 grant towards a new playground on our playing fields. This is due to be opened in July.

The Swimming Pool is now open and thriving; the village hall is in the process of being modernised; the Community Library is a thriving hub. Our village is clean and relatively crime free. We have good and successful football teams, we have a good skate park, tennis court and 2 children's playgrounds. We have thriving scouts, guides, beavers and rainbows, Army Cadets, several play schools and a primary

school to be very proud of. A really good Over 60's group, the Hand in Hand group, a lovely Church and Chapel, even an Amateur Dramatic Group and a Christmas Market team who fund raise all year to put on this special event which is now firmly in the village calendar and finally LIVES who literally save lives! MACLA have provided 4 defibrillators for Metherringham and outlying villages. Again we have to thank Pete Ford for having put together the Little Green Book which is delivered to 3500 households four times a year. The 65th book has just been published.

We have so much to be proud of. We live in a very lovely, quiet part of Lincolnshire, which is full of history, especially regarding our connections to the RAF. But we will not rest on our laurels. Many things need modernising, but we cannot do this without the amazing volunteers we have. This is your village and to continue with all this work we need your time to volunteer. Please contact us if you can give some time for your village, especially if you could help with becoming a Father of the Village and help us to run this community.

Councillor Sally Wilson
Chairman to Metherringham Parish Council



Clean for the Queen 2016

Metherringham Play Park – Prince's Street

Since late 2014 the Metherringham Parish Council has been actively looking at new play equipment for the Prince's Street playground. Central to the development has been the consultation with the youngsters including at school, Beavers and Cadets to find out what they liked. Visits were also carried out to schools supporting disabled children to ensure the selection of inclusive play pieces.

Armed with the evidence of need and the widespread support of the community a grant from the

Community Action Fund of WREN (Waste Environmental organisation) was applied for. Late 2016 the application was approved and the Metheringham play area was awarded £50,000.00. The three quotes received were displayed for comment in the Parish Office and the contractor who we thought provided best value for money was selected. The plan for the area is still on display in the Parish Office but a small copy is reproduced here for interest.



The order has been placed and work is due to commence in June with completion expected in early July. We are hoping for an official opening on 14th July but that could change as some of the build is weather dependent.

We are most grateful for the support we have received for this project to date and thank those that have contributed their time and effort to this project. Most of all, of course, we thank WREN for their continued support as it was they who funded our Skatepark.

Councillor Nick Byatt

Metheringham, Sots Hole & Tanvats Parish Council,
15A High Street, Metheringham, LINCOLN, LN4 3DZ
Tel: 08006343307
parishclerk@metheringham-pc.gov.uk
<http://parishes.lincolnshire.gov.uk/Metheringham/>

Parish Councillors 2016-2017

Councillor Sally Wilson
Chairman
Tel: 01526 321289
Councillor Peter Ford
Responsible Financial Officer
Tel: 01526 320016
Councillor Nick Byatt
Tel: 01526 322750
Councillor Andrew Cleland
Tel: 07903914553
Councillor Jane Kendrick
Tel: 01526 323364
Councillor Shirley Peek
Tel: 01526 322575
Councillor Paul Stallebrass
Tel: 07796935640
Councillor Simon Stocker
Tel: 01526 320821

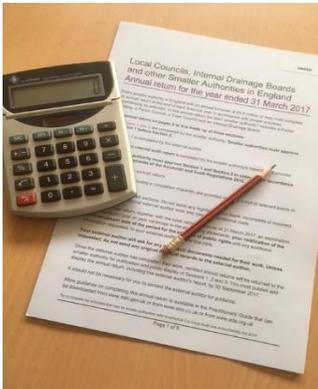


Fayre & Feast 2016



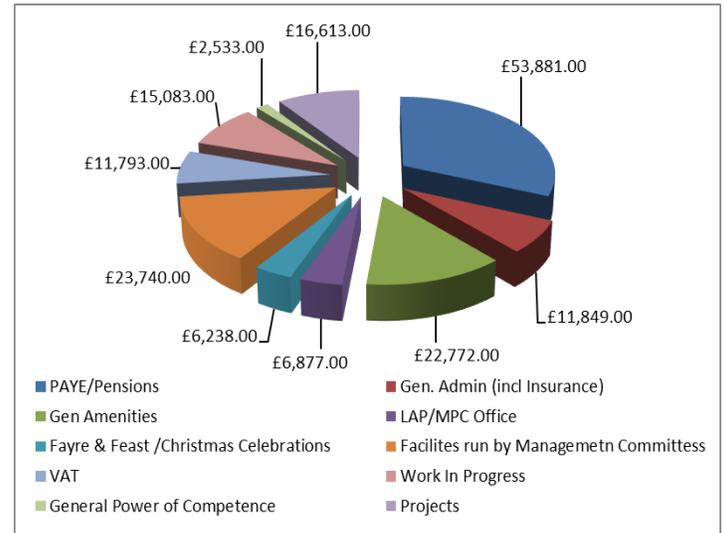
Budget/Precept 2016-2017

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. All members of the Finance Committee are parish Councillors. Each year the committee are met with a 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 in 2015-2016 and grass cutting. The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) Pete 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.

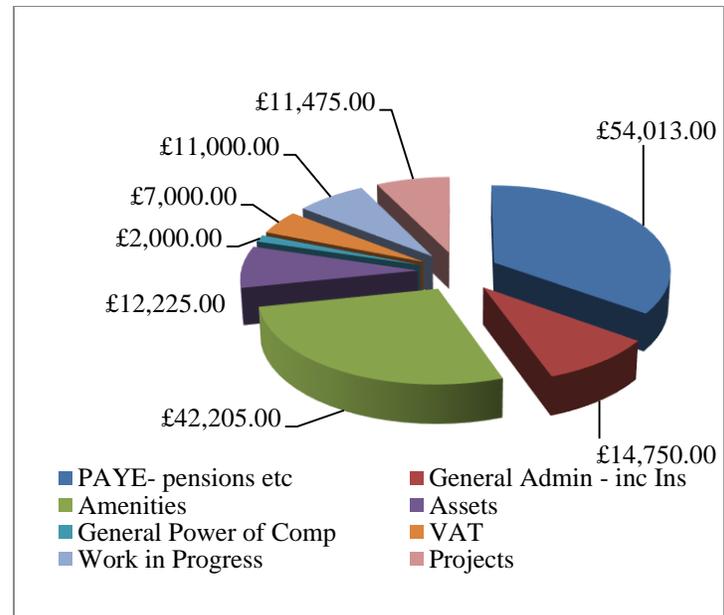


The Council Tax Support Grant which comes from the government to North Kesteven District Council, has been passed to the Parish Council but has seen yet another reduction from £4,448.11 in 2016-2017 to £2,401.98 for 2016-2017. The devolution of services from the district and county council is something the parish council are always mindful of. In 2016 LCC withdrew grass cutting services, but at the very last minute after the parish council had set the budget, they agreed to continue for 2017-2018. The precept request for 2017-2018 is £132,760.00 an increase of £6,110.00 on the 2016/2017 figure of £126,650.00 Detailed over are the expenditure for 2016-2017 and Budget for 2017-2018.

Expenditure 2016-2017



Budget 2017-2018



Conclusion

The Council welcomes views from residents and people working here on any aspect of life in the village. Please contact the Clerk or one of your Councillors.

