



# ANNUAL REPORT METHERINGHAM, SOTS HOLE & TANVATS PARISH COUNCIL 2017-2018

## **Metheringham Chairman – Councillor Sally Wilson**



It has been a productive, but somewhat frustrating year for the Parish Council!

Productive, because we now have a really good children's playground on Prince's Street. Thanks to WREN (Waste Recycling Environmental) we managed to secure £50,000.00 from the FCC Community Action Fund and the Parish Council added a further £15,000.00 to enable the project to come to fruition. This is the final payment anyone can receive from WREN in our area due to the closure of the land fill site at Leadenham. As a result of that grant we now have a modern, safe and very colourful range of play equipment for our children.

Our community library is going from strength to strength with over 800 people visiting in February alone. With 39 volunteers, this has proved to be a fantastic asset for not only our village but for surrounding village communities.

The swimming pool is now on a firm footing. A new boiler has been installed and the volunteers are gearing themselves up for the summer season. If you can offer any time then please contact the swimming pool committee as they are always in need of volunteers.

The parish council listened to your concerns raised at last year's Annual Village Meeting about speeding through the village. We revisited the options and found an affordable solution that could help to reduce the problem; two new speed indicator devices have been purchased which will be installed very soon. The SID's as they are affectionately known will be moved periodically around the village. The data recorded will be sent to the police to enable them to undertake speed checks at the times of the worst compliance.

My highlight of the year has been awarding certificates to organisations who have achieved, for 2017-2018 they were:

Swimming pool, Mel Wright; Christmas Market, Maggie Kristen; Metheringham Community Library, Doreen and Ken; Over 60's - Margaret Amos; Pete Ford, Little Green Book; MAD Minis - for services to drama in the village; John Duggins, for public service

over the years; Preschool – 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday and Yellow Brick Road for achieving an 'Outstanding' from Ofsted.

Frustrating, because we do not seem to be making any inroads into the volume of dog poo that appears in the village. Although we have a dog warden who spends a lot of time in the village and has the power to issue deterrent £50.00 fines, it is really up to the antisocial dog owners who need to search their conscience and realise that it is their responsibility to pick up after their animals.

On a brighter note, our village is virtually free of litter, due to our litter picker; our assets in the village are well looked after by our village caretaker and our office is dutifully managed by our Clerk and her Administration Assistant. On behalf of the council, I would like to thank all of our staff for their hard work throughout the year.

In this year we celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the RAF. As Metheringham had its own RAF airfield, and is the home to countless serving and veteran RAF personnel, it is only right that we acknowledge their contribution to the country, county and parish. Accordingly, we will be hosting a representative number of such people at a drinks reception with a sunset ceremony on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2018. Invitations to surrounding airbases and applications to attend will be going out shortly. Following the reception, there will then be a ticketed 1940's dance in the village hall.

Also this year will see the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WW1. We will take part in the national 'Battles Over' commemoration with the lighting of our beacon in the evening on Armistice Day, Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

We are extremely proud that Mike Credland, was awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) for the fantastic work he does in maintaining and promoting the history of both world wars. Mike was Clerk to this parish council for many years and this accolade is greatly deserved.

October 2017 saw the announcement of the NKDC Community Champions Awards. The Hand in Hand club, which meets once a month for the disabled and their carers, and who celebrated 50 years of activity, sadly missed out on an award. More fortunate was our own Councillor Pete Ford who was recognised for over 54 years with Metheringham Football Club and won the Contribution to Sport award. Pete is also the sole editor of the Little Green Book which goes out to over 3500 households quarterly.

The Fayre & Feast 2017 was a great day despite the strong winds. However the parish council have decided to focus our efforts this year on the summer events. This does not mean the Fayre & Feast will not happen again but it does need a break.

As a villager, I have personally lobbied our MP Dr Caroline Johnson regarding the lack of public transport in the evening and the fact that we have none on a Sunday. She undertook to speak with the Department of Transport on our behalf. The Parish Council have also given our full backing to Lincolnshire County Council and our MP for the Fairer Funding campaign for Lincolnshire as the county is woefully underfunded.

Finally, on your behalf, I would like to thank your Parish Councillors, who are all unpaid volunteers, who work hard on your behalf to keep this village running smoothly.

Thank you for your support.

*Councillor Sally Wilson - Chairman*

## Parish Council

The Parish Council consists of 13 Councillors who are elected to represent the village. Councillors are elected to serve a four year period, the last elections were held in May 2015. The Councillors currently serving the four years 2015 – 2019 are:

Councillor Sally Wilson  
Chairman  
Tel: 01526 321289  
Councillor Nick Byatt  
Vice Chairman  
Tel: 01526 322750  
Councillor Helen Foster  
Tel: 01526 323324  
Councillor Dave Parry  
Tel: 01526 321751  
Councillor Paul Stallebrass  
Tel: 07796935640

Councillor Peter Ford  
Acting RFO  
Tel: 01526 320016  
Councillor Andrew Cleland  
Tel: 07903914553  
Councillor Jane Kendrick  
Tel: 01526 323364  
Councillor Shirley Peek  
Tel: 01526 322575  
Councillor Simon Stocker  
Tel: 01526 320821

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### Officers employed by the Parish Council

- ❖ Clerk to the Council – Sharon Stafford
- ❖ Administration Assistant – Lee Evans
- ❖ Village Handyman – Paul Chambers
- ❖ Village Litter Picker – David Atkin
- ❖ Dog Warden – Michael Cummins (one year contract)

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### Grants Awarded

The Parish Council is eligible to use the General Power of Competence and awards grants each year to local voluntary and community groups. In 2017-2018 the following have been given:

Name	Amount £
Metheringham Primary School - Calendar	25.00
Metheringham Football Club – New Goalposts	1,000.00
Metheringham Swimming Pool – New boiler	4,050.00
1 <sup>st</sup> Metheringham Scout Group – Delivering Annual Report	500.00
Thomas Talbot – Race Runner	500.00
St Wilfrid's Church – Grass Cutting	210.00
Metheringham Village Hall – Emergency Electrical Work	830.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,115.00</b>



Armed Forces Flag Raising 2017



Councillor Sally Wilson with children from Metherringham Primary School



New Swing sign on the beacon



New equipment arriving in Metherringham



# Key achievements 2017-2018

## Some of the major achievements for 2017-2018

- Completion of the new play Park, including RoSPA spec bow top fencing & bike rack – Prince's Street
- Making the village safer by enhancing the CCTV system on the recreation fields
- Purchase of a second hand sit on mower and street sweeper to improve public areas and reduce costs
- Purchase of 2 Speed Indicator Devices (SID's) to assist traffic calming measures in the village



New play park – Prince's Street

## Other achievements and key areas of work:

- Repaid the outstanding Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) of £7,788.34 for improvements to the village hall
- Schedule to replace old concrete street light columns continues, with 6 being replaced in 2017-2018 at a cost of £650.00 each
- Update of heating system in the pavilion – Prince's Street
- Purchase of new multi-coloured Christmas Tree Lights
- Registration of all parish council land is ongoing with the parish council solicitor
- Events - Armed Forces Flag Raising, Fayre & Feast, Remembrance Day and Christmas Light Switch on and Carol Singing
- A thriving library/community hub operated by volunteers
- Installation of new footpath from the recreation fields to the pavilion, to improve access
- Continued training for staff and members, the administration assistant has enrolled to study the Introduction of Local Council Administration
- Attendance at outside meetings to represent the parish council
- Applying for Commonwealth War Graves Commission signage to improve knowledge of the two war graves in the cemetery
- Lobby LCC and MP in relation to the Fairer Funding for Lincolnshire campaign
- Lobby MP for improved public transport in the evenings and weekends
- Communication to reach out to more groups
- Work in partnership with the principal authorities LCC, NKDC and Community Police
- Respond to consultations as and when required

## Key Priorities for 2018-2019

- Public toilets – Recreation fields
- Introduce more quality events for Metheringham
- Business sign for the village
- Additional car parking Prince's Street
- Improve footpaths in play park & recreation field
- Historical noticeboards
- Entry signs into the village
- 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Library - May 2018
- Battles Over - 100<sup>th</sup> Centenary 11-11-2018
- Encourage people to prepare and enter the Best Kept Village Competition
- Obtain Quality Level Accreditation with the Local Council Award Scheme
- Tree survey of all parish council trees
- Ten year strategic plan



Fayre & Feast 2017

## Services Provided



### Lincolnshire County Council (LCC)

- Adults & Children Social Care
- Birth, Deaths, Marriages & Civil Partnerships
- Bus Pass Issue
- Children's Centres
- Disabled Parking (blue badges)
- Emergency Planning
- Fire & Rescue
- Fostering & Adoption
- Highways – including gritting, maintaining, street & traffic lighting, traffic signs, grass cutting, pot holes & road markings
- Household Recycling & Waste Sites
- On Street Parking Enforcement
- School Admissions, Free School Meals & School Transport
- Street Lights
- Trading Standards
- Public Health



## **North Kesteven District Council (NKDC)**

- Anti-social behaviour
- Council Tax Collection
- Council Tax Benefits & Discounts
- Grass cutting
- Housing
- Housing Advice & Homelessness
- Leisure Facilities
- Licensing
- Planning & Building Control
- Street Cleaning and bins
- Refuse Collection



## **Metheringham Parish Council (MPC)**

- ❖ Allotments
- ❖ Baskets and Planters
- ❖ Beacon
- ❖ Car Parks x 2
- ❖ Community Library
- ❖ Events: Armed Forces Flag Raising, Fayre & Feast, Remembrance Service (in conjunction with the local churches), Christmas Tree and Lighting Ceremony
- ❖ Grants
- ❖ Play equipment and maintenance of Shiregate and Prince's Street Play Parks
- ❖ Grass cutting of the recreation fields
- ❖ Multi Goal End, Skate Park and Youth/Meeting Shelters
- ❖ Public Toilets – Fen Road
- ❖ Street Furniture (including benches, bus shelter, notice boards, litter bins/dog bins, finger post information signs)
- ❖ Street Lights x 200
- ❖ War Memorial and garden



Christmas Tree Lighting



War Memorial



LCC Highways visit

## Parish Council Finances

The acting RFO produces a proposed budget and supporting information for the ensuing year. The Finance Committee is appointed by full council and meet in November/December to carry out an extensive review of the budget and decide how much money needs to be raised from our parishioners (via the Precept, Council Tax process). The full council at the meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2018 approved the proposal of a 3.8% increase. This is becoming increasingly difficult with austerity, a reduction in funds from central government and services from LCC and NKDC. The precept request for 2018-2019 is £137,129.00, an increase of £4,369.00 on the 2017/2018 figure of £132,760.00. Detailed below are the expenditure for 2017-2018 and Budget for 2018-2019.

	Actual	BUDGET	To end of	Estimated	Plus/minus	BUDGET
INCOME	2016/17	2017-18	Nov 17-18	end of 2017-18	on budget	2018/19
Precept	122,202.00	130,358.00	130,878.00	130,878.00	0.00	136,000.00
Council Tax support	4,448.00	2,402.00	2,402.00	2,402.00	0.00	1,129.00
Other income	56,174.00	21,908.00	76,758.00	80,137.00	58,749.00	28,046.00
	182,824.00	154,668.00	210,038.00	213,417.00	58,749.00	165,175.00
EXPENDITURE	actual	BUDGET	to end of	Estimated	plus/minus	BUDGET
	2016/17	2017-18	Nov 17/18	end of 2017-18	on budget	2018/19
SALARIES / PAYE / PENSIONS	52,881.00	54,013.00	35,645.00	53,475.00	-538.00	60,800.00
ADMIN - ON-GOING	10,599.00	13,085.00	6,772.00	8,946.00	-4,139.00	14,675.00
AMENITIES	24,022.00	29,370.00	26,196.00	35,303.00	5,933.00	27,200.00
EVENTS BUDGET	6,238.00	7,500.00	4,179.00	5,000.00	-2,500.00	6,000.00
LIBRARY	13,482.00	5,000.00	4,988.00	6,500.00	1,500.00	6,500.00
LAP - COUNCIL OFFICE	6,877.00	2,000.00	11,652.00	15,000.00	13,000.00	7,500.00
EMERGENCY FUNDS RE PC ASSETS	10,258.00	12,225.00	9,856.00	13,796.00	1,571.00	10,000.00
GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE	2,533.00	2,000.00	2,500.00	2,750.00	750.00	4,000.00
VAT RECOVERABLE	11,793.00	7,000.00	6,086.00	7,500.00	500.00	5,000.00
WORK IN PROGRESS	15,083.00	13,750.00	5,423.00	12,650.00	-1,100.00	13,500.00
PROJECTS	16,613.00	8,725.00	5,330.00	159,586.00	150,861.00	10,000.00
	170,379.00	154,668.00	118,627.00	320,506.00	165,838.00	165,175.00
INCOME	182,824.00	154,668.00	210,038.00	213,417.00	58,749.00	165,175.00
EXPENDITURE	170,379.00	154,668.00	118,627.00	320,506.00	165,838.00	165,175.00
BALANCE	12,445.00	0.00	91,411.00	-107,089.00	107,089.00	0.00

### Contacts

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<http://parishes.lincolnshire.gov.uk/Metheringham/>