

NETTLEHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

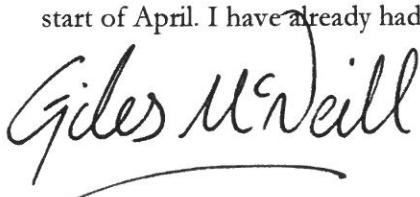
Tuesday, 20th March 2018

District Councillor's Report

Since the last meeting of Nettleham Parish Council I attended the **CCA Conference** in Kenilworth, Warwickshire, between Thursday, 1st and Saturday 3rd March, where I was on a panel talking about West Lindsey District Council's commercialisation agenda, as part of a workshop organised by the **Association of Public Service Excellence**. I had the opportunity to discuss a number of issues with several ministers including the Secretaries of State for both Defence (Gavin Williamson MP) and Local Government (Sajid Javid) and a number of ministers. It was particularly useful to talk with Heather Wheeler MP (Homelessness and Housing) about issues around her portfolio within the district. I was shocked last year to be contacted by a constituent who had become homeless, whilst this was resolved quickly, homelessness is not an issue that is often associated with Nettleham. I have attended a **Chairmen's Briefing** for the Governance and Audit Committee on Monday, 5th March, this was rescheduled from the Wednesday, 28th February. Because of the so-called 'beast-from-the-east' weather pattern. On Monday, 5th March I also attended a meeting of **Full Council** at the Guildhall where the primary item of business was the Executive Business Plan, Medium Term Financial Plan 2018/19-2022/23 (including the Financial Strategy, Financial Analysis, Revenue **Budget 2018/19** and Capital Programme 2018/19 to 2022/23). Despite the continuing difficult context of local government finance we have been able to balance our budget for next year. The average Band D property's district portion will increase by £6.03 over the year (or less than 12p a week). The administration announced a new £500,000 Community Grant Scheme which will run over the next few years. We have achieved £4.77m of savings since 2012/13 and a further £250,000 have been identified up to the close of 2019/20. A further £1.66m will need to be achieved by the close of 2022/23. As the administration's Chief Whip I was very pleased that the budget passed with cross-party support from Conservatives, Labour and Liberal Democrat councillors. I would particularly like to record my thanks to Cllr. Mrs. Angela White, who broke party ranks and backed the administration's budget. On Tuesday, 13th March I chaired a meeting of the **Governance and Audit Committee**, the committee considered the Combined Assurance Report. This has shown a degree of improvement on the previous year with 71% (previously 55%) of critical activities performing well 29% (previously 39%) were assessed as being known issues, which if not addressed could impact on the Council's operations. Unfortunately owing to my work commitment I was unable to attend the **Leaders' Panel** held at the Guildhall on Wednesday, 14th March.

I regret that I have been unable to attend the Parish Council's meeting this evening as I am away in London on work commitments. On Thursday, 22nd March I will be hosting Her Majesty's Principle Secretary of State for Foreign & Commonwealth Affairs, the Rt. Hon. Boris Johnson MP, to a Dinner in the locality. I regret that this will preclude my participation in the Parish Council's Personnel and Standards meeting on that day. I will be conducting interviews for the membership of the District Council's Independent Remuneration Panel on Tuesday, 27th March, a **Chairmen's Briefing** for the Governance and Audit Committee on Wednesday, 4th March prior to the meeting of that committee on Tuesday, 17th March. I will be representing the District Council on Wednesday, 18th April at the **Public Sector Audit Appointments** Local Audit Quality Forum in London.

I have the final tranche of £1,000.00 from my **Councillors' Initiative Fund** which will become available at the start of April. I have already had a number of expressions of interest.



Giles McNeill

Working hard for the Nettleham Ward