

West Halton & Coleby Parish Council Annual Report

Chairman's Report 2022/23

Councillors & Clerk:

This year there have been a number of changes to the councillors. Steve Hodson resigned early in the year due to his other commitments. This was followed by the resignation of our clerk, Emma Bainbridge later in the year, due to her taking on a full time job away from the area. I would like to thank Emma for her contribution to the council over the past years. Frances Altoft has resigned her position as a councillor to take on the position of clerk. She has taken on this role with enthusiasm and has made a number of improvements to the operation of the council.

As a result of the vacancies arising, John Clough joined the council as a co-opted member early in 2023. The council was subject of an election in May 2023, with all the existing councillors re-standing and being elected unopposed, with the exception of Ralph Ogg who did not stand. Ralph has been a member of the council for many years and was re-elected as a ward councillor, so it is hoped that he will continue to be present at our meetings and make an ongoing valuable contribution to the council.

As a result of these changes, there are currently 2 vacancies on the council that will be advertised.

All of the councillors continue to make a full and active contribution to the council and I would like to thank all of them for their continued service.

Finance:

The council has increased the precept for the current year to reflect the increased costs that everyone is experiencing and to allow us to carry out more work around the villages.

The main expenses are currently projects, insurance and maintenance of village assets.

The council took on the maintenance of the public rights of way during 2020 / 21 and receive an additional grant from North Lincolnshire Council to cover this cost. This arrangement is continuing in to 2022/23.

A number of projects were started / completed in 2022/23 and these are continuing in to the current financial year. Examples include further maintenance of the village green wall, erection of a funball on the green, purchase and installation of new notice boards in both West Halton & Coleby and refurbishment of the village phone box. These projects have been driven by Fran Altoft and Ian Williams, and I would like to thank them for their efforts.

The council has been supported by a number of residents that have contributed to projects during the year, including the phone box refurbishment, replacement of a gate on the village green and provision of a number of benches around the village. I would like to express my thanks to all those that have contributed to this project.

Planning:

There has only been 1 planning application this year within the parish. This was for the erection of a sectional garage within the parking area behind the bungalows on West Street. The council raised no objections to this and permission was subsequently granted.

Highways:

Highways continue to be a major part of the council's work, with a number of issues being raised at each meeting. The council are in the process of obtaining a speed camera for use in a number of locations around the villages. This is to address concerns from a number of residents regarding speeding along Coleby Road / Whitton Road and through Coleby itself.

Village Green:

The condition of the wall around the Green remains a cause for concern. 2 sections of wall have now been repaired, with further works planned for later in the current financial year.

Adrian Stephenson continues to mow the grass on the village green and in the cemetery. This reduces the council's costs significantly compared to previous providers and I would like to thank him for continuing to provide this service.

Cemetery:

There have been a number of internments within the cemetery this year. It has been noted that the capacity of the cemetery will be lower than previously anticipated and a revised plan has been created to accommodate this. A number of reservations have also been made for plots during the year.

General:

I would like to thank all my colleagues on the council, for their support. Thank you also to Ralph, Elaine and Helen who have been re-elected to serve as Ward councillors for Winterton & Burton and who have supported the parish council on a number of matters over the last year.