

West Halton & Coleby Parish Council Annual Report

Chairman's Report 2023/24

Councillors & Clerk:

At the start of this year there were 2 vacancies on the council. The first of these was filled in June by the co-option of Janet Van Der Westhuizen, but unfortunately, Cllr Batley tendered his resignation around the same time. However, I am pleased to report that all of the vacancies have been filled by the co-option of Marina Spellman and Sam Duck. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new councillors, and to thank Alan Batley for his contribution to the council.

Frances Altoft continues her role as clerk and has provided exceptional enthusiasm and continues to ensure the effective administration of the council.

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 again 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 continue to be projects, insurance and maintenance of village assets.

A number of projects were started / completed in 2023/24 and these are continuing in to the current financial year. Examples include erection of a new bus shelter in Coleby (assisted by generous funding from Winterton Lions) and the provision of a speed sign that will be moved between various locations in Coleby and West Halton. This is something that there has been much call for in the village due to the speed at which some people choose to travel through the villages.

The council has introduced a quarterly newsletter, which includes contributions from the Parochial Church Council and the Village Hall committee. This has had positive feedback from residents.

Planning:

There have been no planning applications this year within the parish.

Highways:

Highways continue to be a significant part of the council's work, with a number of issues being raised at each meeting. The response to many issues from NLC is patchy, with some items not being addressed for many months.

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.

The football pitch has been re-marked during the year and the Parish Council now has a line marking machine. This means that the pitch is available to use for matches as required.

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:

The council has continued to work with NLC regarding the drainage / flash flooding issues that affect parts of the village and this has resulted in a number of repairs being undertaken to road drains recently. The effectiveness of these repairs is still to be tested.

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