

**ANCASTER, SUDBROOK, AND WEST WILLOUGHBY PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 22 MAY 2023
AT 6.30PM IN THE PARISH HALL ANNEXE.**

Prior to the meeting we met at Ancaster Community Orchard for Caroline Johnson MP to plant a Coronation Tree – Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa* ‘Regal’) to commemorate the coronation of HM King Charles 111.

Present: Cllr D Sayer(Chair) Guest Dr Caroline Johnson MP, County Cllr Wootten and 10 members of the public

1.Welcome by Chair: Cllr Sayer welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

2.Apologies for Absence: None

3. To resolve to accept the notes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16 May 2022 (copies circulated at the meeting). It was proposed, seconded and **Resolved:** that the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16 May 2022 be accepted as a true record, and these were signed by the Chair.

4.Presentation of Annual Reports:

- **Chair** – David Sayer presented his annual report, and a copy is attached to these minutes.
- **County Cllr** – Ray Wootten presented his annual report, this was read out by the Chairman, and a copy is attached to these minutes.
- **District Cllr** – No report

5. Finance Report by Responsible Finance Officer: The Parish Clerk gave a report, and a copy is attached to these minutes.

6.To Welcome Guests

The Chair welcomed Caroline Johnson MP to the meeting and thanked her for attending and planting the Coronation Tree. She thanked the parish council for inviting her saying it was particularly nice to attend meetings in her local constituency. She answered questions from the floor including education, dentists, RAF Scampton, and Immigration.

7. Any other business which residents wish to raise None

The meeting closed at 8.15pm

Signed:
Chairman Ancaster Parish Council

Date:

Ancaster, Sudbrook and West Willoughby Parish Council

Chairmans Report May 2023

I am pleased to present the annual report for the Parish Council. The Council's main business is to represent its Parishioners with various stakeholders in local government and organisations. We highlight and comment on issues arising regarding Highways, Planning, Transport, Policing and the general continuation of essential services for the Parish.

I would like to highlight a few areas,

Highways

One notable accomplishment this year was that Lincolnshire County Council Highways Department have finally resurfaced almost the entire length of Ermine Street. The successful completion of this, whilst originally delayed has certainly been worth the wait providing a smoother and safer experience for road users and some rest bite to the homeowners whose houses shook with every vehicle that passed.

We are now concerned with speeding motorists and heavy lorries passing through our village and the effect these will have over the long term on road safety and road life span. We have begun the process of community and stakeholder engagement to try to deal with these issues.

Potholes still unfortunately blight our residents on almost every other road, both within and outside our Parish, whilst we see many roadworks about, it seems the catch up on road maintenance across the region and indeed the country has far to go still.

Speed Watch / Speeding in General

The Speed Watch initiative has been successfully maintained throughout the year, thanks to the dedication of a small band of volunteers. Their efforts, along with the vehicle activated speed sign and the passive signs contribute towards responsible driver behaviour, thus fostering a safer environment for both pedestrians and residents. Criticism has been passed to the Lincs Road Safety Partnership that the speed watch volunteers need more feedback on their volunteering efforts in terms of letters sent out, motorists spoken to, as well as regular speed surveys to see if their efforts are making a difference to road speeds.

We are still concerned that actual speed enforcement by the Police is virtually non-existent and that we do not qualify for resources such as speed enforcement Camera Vans as well as not meeting criteria for speed reduction or pedestrian safety measures.

We have requested a 20mph and no parking zone on Ermine Street and Mercia Drive around the school entrance.

Housing Developments

Bellway Homes are now well on with their development of 96 new homes. This has proceeded with some difficulties over boundaries, working hours and noise / disruption, especially for those in the vicinity of Wilsford Lane. This is a significant development for our village, on one hand it helps our local businesses and those seeking new housing but for some it represents the continued growth of the village and the ongoing loss of that small village community feel. This is our challenge in the years to come.

A development that has received planning for 30 dwellings on Station Approach has not yet progressed.

As we move forward the Council remains committed to working diligently to address the concerns of the Parishioners for the betterment of our community. Following the uncontested election of 8 of the 11 Parish council positions, we still currently have 3 vacancies on the Parish Council, whilst we have had some recent interest they are still to be filled.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude towards our Parish Clerk, Parish Hall Bookings Clerk, Caretaker and community cleaner who continue to carry out sterling work. I also thank my fellow Parish Councillors who work on your behalf, unremunerated along with the other stakeholders such as our County council representative, our 2 district councillors including Rosemary Kaberry-Brown who recently stepped down after many years and of course our local MP.

With the continued support and participation of all the stakeholders, we can strive to work on your behalf in the coming years.

David Sayer

Chair of Ancaster Parish Council

Ancaster Parish Council Annual Update
May 2023

It has been one year since I suffered a stroke so I want to start by saying thank you to the Parish Council for supporting me in my recovery and for the welcome that you have given me at meetings. I returned to Council duties last July and have spoken on various subjects including Grantham Hospital and Traffic Regulations at committees.

The increased cost of living has hit most people that I have spoken to, but if anyone needs help or assistance please refer to the SKDC website or visit the Citizens Advice Bureau in Grantham. Lincolnshire County Council are planning efficiencies through better use of technology and the use of reserves to ensure that the books are balanced whilst protecting frontline services.

Most complaints that I receive involve Highways. The County Council budget for maintaining our roads is around £93m, we have added an extra £7m for 2023/24 from reserves. I am pleased that the resurfacing of Ermine Street finally went ahead after the horrendous state the road got into, and we obtained unwanted notoriety in the national press. The cost to repair this road was in the region of £320,000. Increasing costs has put pressure on the Highways budget due to contract inflation of £5.5m and £3.8m for street lighting costs.

I was pleased to secure a speed limit reduction on the A153 from 60 mph to 40mph and will continue to press for a lower 30mph through West Willoughby. I personally believe that every village should have a 30mph limit calls for a 20mph zone across the County are currently being examined by an LCC scrutiny committee.

School safety is very important and I was pleased that my request for restrictions on Mercia Drive have been accepted for further investigation. As an Authority safety around schools is important. If a Traffic Regulation Order is granted it will be a case of educating the public of the new restrictions.

Due to my stroke I had to stand down from the Lincolnshire Police and Crime panel but I have been reappointed. This is where the committee holds the Police Commissioner to account and I will be able to update you on Policing issues once again.

If any resident has any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me by phone 01476 400183 email cllr.wootten@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Thank you
Councillor Ray Wootten
Grantham North

REPORT FROM RESPONSIBLE FINANCE OFFICER 2022/2023

INCOME:

At the beginning of the Financial Year the Parish Council had a total of £28224 in the bank.

Our income for hire of the parish hall was up on last year, but cemetery fees were down.

EXPENDITURE:

Utility expenses have increased as expected and our biggest expense is the grass cutting.

The budget for 2022/2023

INCOME

BUDGET	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
£47175	£48787	Plus £1612

EXPENDITURE

BUDGET	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
£46440	£46454	£14 overspend

At the end of the Financial Year the Parish Council has a total of £28248 in the bank.

CASHBOOK

Attached Cashbook from 01 April 2022 to 31.03.23.

Financial Summary - Cashbook

Summary of receipts and payments between 01/04/22 and 31/03/23 inclusive. This may include transactions with ledger dates outside this period.

Balances at the start of the year

Ordinary Accounts

HSBC - Current Account £5,838.15

Short Term Investment Accounts

HSBC - Parish Hall Account £7,069.45
HSBC - Savings account £7,344.14
HSBC: Cemetery/N Meadow/Grounds Maint £7,972.70
Total £28,224.44

RECEIPTS

	Net	Vat	Gross
General Administration	£35,187.52	£0.00	£35,187.52
Parish Hall	£9,585.78	£0.00	£9,585.78
Cemetery/N.Meadow/Grounds Maint.	£2,117.88	£0.00	£2,117.88
Playing Field/Play Equipment	£1,866.50	£0.00	£1,866.50
Savings Account	£29.92	£0.00	£29.92
Total Receipts	£48,787.60	£0.00	£48,787.60

PAYMENTS

	Net	Vat	Gross
General Administration	£27,631.62	£400.34	£28,031.96
Parish Hall	£5,820.58	£575.67	£6,396.25
Cemetery/N.Meadow/Grounds Maint.	£8,150.51	£869.33	£9,019.84
Playing Field/Play Equipment	£1,940.00	£216.00	£2,156.00
Misc	£2,911.50	£248.23	£3,159.73
Total Payments	£46,454.21	£2,309.57	£48,763.78

Closing Balances

Ordinary Accounts

HSBC - Current Account £7,285.23
£7,285.23

Short Term Investment Accounts

HSBC - Parish Hall Account £12,056.56
HSBC - Savings account £7,374.06
HSBC: Cemetery/N Meadow/Grounds Maint £1,532.41
Total £20,963.03
£28,248.26

Signed



Chair


Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer



Coronation Tree

Sweet Chestnut

Castanea sativa 'Regal'

will be planted in Ancaster Community Orchard
on behalf of the Parish of Ancaster, Sudbrook
and West Willoughby to
commemorate the coronation of

HM King Charles III

on

Monday 22 May 2023

at 6.00 pm

This will be followed by the
2023 Annual Parish Meeting
for Ancaster, Sudbrook and West Willoughby
in Ancaster Village Hall.

All are warmly invited to both events.