

It has been a difficult year with having had no Clerk for most of the last 12 months and I would like to thank Nicola for acting as Clerk whilst we were without one and also I would like to welcome our new Clerk Lauren, who I am sure will be a huge asset.

During the course of this year we have dealt with 3 planning applications, all of which were approved. The planning application for the Brick Works extension appears to have been kicked into the long grass for the time being.

The Parish Council website is up and running with no apparent problems and thanks go to David for that and a special thanks for keeping an eye on unread Parish Council emails, even when on holiday abroad.

The Parish Precept was increased to £6000 this year, the first increase in some 14 years.

Pc Cotton attended a Parish Council meeting to discuss the issue of speeding which resulted in the mobile speed camera now being a regular feature in the village.

The text alert ring round seems to be well received by those using it and a useful way of getting information around the village quickly.

Should any property suffer flooding, sand bags have been purchased and are available in the field container. A notice has been put in the notice boards as to how to gain access to them.

The front verge of Kirton Park has been cleared of weeds and nettles and sown with grass and the trees on the banking either cut back or removed completely.

The village has been entered into the Best Kept Village for 2018 and the efforts to win that are ongoing. To tidy up the village, a litter pick was undertaken by 2 Parish Councillors and 9 village volunteers during which 57, yes 57 bags of rubbish were collected. Along with 2 car bumpers and a £5 note which was donated to the church, the £5 note not the car bumpers!

The annual Christmas lunch for the village Pensioners was held again at the Carpenters Arms and was much appreciated by all 50 that attended. Running along with that, the monthly Luncheon Club held at the Red Lion in Wellow continues to be appreciated by the dozen or so that regularly attend. I look forward to the day when we will be able to hold both events at the Fox once again but am not holding my breath!

Following an appeal to the villagers, ⁴²some 100+ poppies have been purchased and will be affixed to the lamp posts in late Oct. or early Nov. to commemorate those who gave their lives during both world wars.

Moving on to the major initiative for this year. Playing field Funding of £10,000 was received from the National Lottery Fund and a very generous £1000 was received from Fortera Brickworks, along with a further donation from the Rotary Club. This enabled us to proceed with plans for both a children's play area and some adult equipment. As all can see, work is well under way. The contractor is pressing for payment in full and Nicola and I arranged to pay him on Saturday 28th of April, providing as he promised, all work was completed. As it still unfinished, he was not paid.

When completed in the next day or so, it will be a tremendous asset to the village for many years to come. A picnic in the park is being arranged for May 20th at which our local MP Mark Spencer will officially open it. Leaflets inviting all villagers have now gone out.

The Parish Council would like to thank Johnathon for the on going use of this room for our council meetings, it is much appreciated.

I would like to thank all members of the Council for their support over the past 12 months, particular thanks Richard for organising the printing of the various leaflets and Nicola for delivering them.

And last but not least, I think we all owe a big thank you to Nicola for keeping the playing field in such good shape and for her heroic efforts in smartening up the village.

Congratulations Nicola on gaining the Rotary Robin Hood award for work in the community, very well deserved. Your enormous efforts regarding the Lottery funding application and all the time you have spent regarding the play equipment, has been greatly appreciated.