

Witherley Parish Council

Serving the villages of Atterton, Fenny Drayton, Ratcliffe Culey and Witherley

Papers for the Council Meeting: Thursday May 12th 2022

Chairman's Report

This has been an interesting year as chairman of Witherley Parish Council; one which has been challenging due to varying responsibilities and familiarisations which the role demands. My thanks firstly go to Mark Simpson (Vice-chairman) for all his help and support during the year.

Last summer we saw the resignation of Cllr Conway after many years dedicated service to the Parish Council and the election of Alan Waters to the Council for Witherley ward.

As a Parish we have been fortunate to have had support and interventions on our behalf from both our Borough Councillor and our new County Councillor, they are very much thanked for that support.

This year finally saw the end of Covid restrictions where Council meetings were held via Zoom, then streamed to the public from the Council meeting room to finally holding meetings once again in normal format in the public domain.

The Parish council likes to think it is providing services appreciated by residents of the Parish and we are mindful that it is public money that is being spent. The council agreed an increase to the precept this year, however our Parish still has the lowest council tax in the Borough for an average band D property. This year the Parish Council funding has included: Gates and bench for Atterton, purchase of CCTV cameras (to monitor fly tipping and dog fouling), Grass cutting, additional dog waste bin in Witherley, continued maintenance of playing fields and safety inspections of play equipment and emptying of waste and dog waste bins in the village. The Parish council has also purchased defibrillators for Atterton and Ratcliffe Culey.

The Parish council has been awarded a grant of £7.5k under the LCC Members Highway Fund to hard surface the Mythe lane footpath. It has also provided support to the Witherley Memorial Playing fields Trust in the application for 106 funds for additional equipment.

It's now over 4 years since the Council embarked upon creating a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). I'm pleased to report that it has now been submitted to HBBC. Delays in the latter stages were encountered in the conversion of the many documents into an accessibility format (legal requirement) largely due to a lack of available training in how to accomplish this task. Thanks go everyone who got involved in the NDP working party which created the draft version of the plan, the Council's NDP Committee and the Clerk for the hours of work they put in, particularly in the latter stages to enable the

submission of the NDP to be made. Hopefully this next year will see completion of schedule 16's independent inspector's approval and a Parish-wide referendum on whether to finally adopt the plan.

During the year, Council approved email domain addresses have been set-up for each councillor (although correspondence should still primarily go to the clerk) and the Parish council now operates internet banking facilities.

Witherley Parish council has achieved much over the last 12 months and administratively has seen an unprecedented level of activity and correspondence. I thank our parish clerk for her dedication, perseverance and inputs above and beyond the requirements of her contract to ensure that the Council maintains its service levels and achieves its legal requirements.

We are also fortunate to have a group of councillors who have provided their time to achieve this unpaid job of work and have given up their free time to help improve the Parish and the community.

Borough Councillor Report

Will be given at the meeting, none received to be included time for the meeting papers.

County Councillor Report

Before moving onto the written report I wanted to provide you all with an update now we are approaching one year since the May 2021 election. Over the past year it has been great working with you all and I hope you have been satisfied with my response times and the assistance of the County Council. As you'll know, compared to my predecessor I am unable to attend all your Parish Council meetings in person, and find my time better resourced through providing you written reports and then picking up on case-work over the phone and email as it arises at your meetings.

As a result, if your Parish would like me to attend in person, please let me know in advance over email and we can set a date that works in accordance with existing LCC and other Parish Council meetings. Finally, at your meetings where my physical attendance has not been confirmed in advance, please assume I will not be attending physically and my written report will be provided instead. Accordingly, to provide consistency to all 12 Parish Councils within the Bosworth Division, I will be sending my written reports out on the 1st of every month, excluding August and December when a report will not be issued due to summer and winter breaks.

I hope the above framework provides you with some clarity, and as always, please continue to stay in contact with me. Thank you again for your support and assistance.

Queens Platinum Jubilee: • I'm happy to share that LCC are doing what they can to make it as easy as possible for residents to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. During the four-day bank holiday weekend (Thursday 2nd June to Sunday 5th June) many residents may be considering hosting street parties. To support these LCC are waiving fees associated with road closures, cutting application times to 6 weeks (this means a deadline 15/4/22), loaning signs and cones for free and reducing the documentation required to hold such an event. • For more information please see here: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/about-thecouncil/how-the-council-works/civic-and-ceremonial/the-lord-lieutenant/her-majesty-thequeens-platinum-jubilee>

Recycling and Waste: • Have your say on how Leicestershire should manage its recycling and waste. The draft strategy covers; Waste Prevention, Reuse Services & Food Waste Collections. • Complete the short survey here: <https://crowd.in/3a18C6>

Ukraine: • Leicestershire County Council's County Hall headquarters were illuminated in yellow and blue in solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

Stonewall's Top 100: • Leicestershire County Council (LCC) has been named as one of Stonewall's Top 100 Employers for LGBTQ+ people. LCC is committed to advancing inclusivity and equality in every area of its work. This award is testament to LCC's staff to create a welcoming workplace for all. • To find out more about our efforts to create an inclusive workplace for all: <https://crowd.in/HYnVP>

Correspondence

- Received notice of forthcoming play equipment inspection for the Council owned playing fields.
- I have emailed and received responses with MIRA Liaison members to arrange an extraordinary meeting, which is proving harder than it should be. It will now take place on a day after the May Council meeting.
- Email received from Suzanne Parker – Community Recovery Team at LCC will be presenting the role of the team at the June Council meeting.
- Email received from Snarestone PC with questions about the Petanque pitch which Cllr Waters very kindly responded to on our behalf giving advice and experiences with gaining planning permission, contractors, costs etc.
- Emailed advise from HBBC regarding the walk-in vaccination sessions in Hinckley. The details were posted on the council website.
- ICO ref: EA/2022/0068 & IC-116753-L2W2 and ICO ref: EA/2022/0072 & IC-111939-T3K0 two ICO Decision Notices being appealed by the complainants through the ICO tribunal procedure. ICO requested authorisation to send submitted documents. Agreed.
- Email from a Ratcliffe Culey resident: I want this bringing up at the parish council meeting.

1. Defibrillator where is it ? Ratcliffe is being let down, we are still waiting for the defibrillator to be put in place. We must be about 1 of the only places in the parish to get one, considering how important they are after all if someone is in need of help not everyone can do CPR and it is not just adults that are suffering from heart attacks now. I think it is just the pole that is needed but I think that is down to the clerk not ordering it in time.

2. The notice board in the village still hasn't been varnished but let me guess it doesn't really matter as the village isn't important, Well it is.

3. The gate for the play area ! have you got a quote to replace it ? or does it have to fall on someone first ? hope a child doesn't get injured. Remember where there is blame there is a claim.

4. Is anything being done about the trees that are in the river they are hindering the flow as some of them have started to root in the river. The trees need to be dealt with by the land owner who's side they fell from which I think you will find is Mr Garland. What is happening about the ivy on the bridge after all it is a listed, there is also graffiti that could be power hosed off.

And finally

5. Can I ask what are the VAS speeding figures for the last 6 months I have already spoken too the police.

- Email from Fenny Drayton resident wanting information about the next elections and how to become a Councillor. Clerk responded.
- Email from Fenny Drayton resident via Cllr Wright regarding grass cutting of verges on Church Lane, Fenny Drayton. Cllr Wright or Clerk to respond.

Clerk Update

Atterton

- Defibrillator mounting posts ordered for manufacture as soon as possible.

Fenny Drayton

- Playing field will be inspected by RoSPA in May
- Have advised grass cutter to mow the daffodil tops on the next cut. He advised he will pass the instruction onto the holiday cover driver.

Ratcliffe Culey

- Playing field will be inspected by RoSPA in May
- Defibrillator as Atterton.

Lane Setting

This year's event went smoothly, and everyone seemed to enjoy it.

The musicians Hamish and Alan as previous were excellent and have stated they would be happy to play again next year.

The auctioneer Mike Carter was on form and is also willing to conduct it again next year.

Although the local farming community attended in good numbers, there weren't many non-agricultural residents, and many contacts since the event were sad to have missed it.

Last 10 years income and this year's

Lot	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2022
1	240	190	220	240	270	270	290	280	200	150	230	440
2	28	30	25	30	28	34	50	42	45	40	32	70
3	20	20	24	28	30	38	40	50	45	45	35	30
4	24	32	35	38	28	44	40	30	55	47	35	35
5	32	26	10	40	26	34	45	44	35	42	48	45
6	24	28	44	45	38	35	55	48	50	50	45	50
7	46	25	40	46	32	39	85	78	60	45	105	105
Total	414	351	398	467	452	494	605	572	490	419	530	775

This year's costs are:

Auctioneer	£99.33	(£77.50 - 10% of auction takings, and 48.5 miles @ .45p)
Gate Inn	£300.00	
PA hire	£90.60	
Musicians	£200.00	Totalling <u>£689.93</u>

As a result of questions raised after the auction by successful bidders as to what they can do with the land that they “own” Cllr Trivett and I will review the wording used for the event to eliminate any future misunderstanding.
Other observations and suggestions for improvement are welcomed.

Witherley:

- Reported shoddy workmanship to LCC senior management for investigation and rectification.
- Contacted Warwick University regarding the Roman coffin plans, no outcome yet.
- Reported the potholes in Kennel Lane are still outstanding and a hazard to road users from A5.
- Reported potholes in Mill Lane
- Reported surface fretting in Chapel Lane.

Parish:

- Councillors trained for new Code of Conduct: Richard Reading and Kim Liggins.
- Audit given to internal auditor for scrutiny prior to sending to PKF Littlejohn LLP.
- Reported planning portal issue to HSBC Planning dept. The application for 32 Kennel Lane has since been received. HBBC have acknowledged our comments.

Planning – no applications to consider at the time of completing this report.

Finance

£35,000 transferred from HSBC account by cheque to the new Unity Bank account.

HSBC current account will be closed as soon as all cheques are cashed and the ICO direct debit is paid.

Unity Bank – all payments from this meeting forward will be done using the Unity online account.

12/5	U001	M & BG Limited			500.00					100.00	600.00	
12/5	U002	Screatons Ltd						14.20		2.84	17.04	
12/5	U003	A Forsyth	██████	12.78				26.40		0.00	██████	
12/5	U004	ESPO				302.00				60.40	362.40	
12/5	U005	R Reading						52.50		0.00	52.50	
12/5	U006	MG Event & Sound Ltd							75.50	15.10	90.60	
12/5	U007	Witherley Parish Room						60.00		0.00	60.00	
12/5	U008	Parish Online						100.00		20.00	120.00	
12/5	DD HSBC	ICO						35.00		0.00	35.00	
12/5	U010	Thistle Loo Hire							185.00	37.00	222.00	
12/5	U011	Helen Cartwright (Jubilee)						160.00		0.00	160.00	
12/5	U012	Mike Carter							99.33	0.00	99.33	
		Expenditure to date:	600.53	3.06	751.68	0.00	398.86	1014.19	1138.10	250.00	347.18	4503.60
		Allocated Budget	7,145.00	830.00	11,489.00	4,337.00	3,737.00	1,300.00	21,080.00	4,748.47	347.18	55,013.65
		Remaining	6,544.47	826.94	10,737.32	4,337.00	3,338.14	285.81	19,941.90	4,498.47	0.00	50,510.05

General Power of Competence

The General Power of Competence (GPC) was introduced by the Localism Act 2011 and took effect in February 2012. In simple terms, it gives councils the power to do anything an individual can do provided it is not prohibited by other legislation. It applies to all principal councils (district, county and unitary councils etc). It also applies to eligible¹ parish and town councils. It replaces the wellbeing powers in England that were provided under the Local Government Act 2000.

The scope – and some limitations – of the General Power are set out in sections 1 to 6 of the Localism Act 2011. In summary, the GPC enables councils to do things²:

- an individual may generally do
- anywhere in the UK or elsewhere
- for a commercial purpose or otherwise, for a charge or without a charge
- without the need to demonstrate that it will benefit the authority, its area or persons resident or present in its area (although in practice councils will want to realise such benefits).

¹ An eligible council is one which has resolved to adopt the GPC, with at least two thirds of its members being declared elected and the Clerk must hold an appropriate qualification (Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012).

² Further discussion of the legal implications of the GPC can be found in the Local Government Association (LGA) essay 'Power to make a difference', October 2011: <http://tinyurl.com/nppcc4b>

But there are some limitations on the General Power, either because they are not things which an individual can do or because they are excluded by the Act. The GPC will not:

- provide councils with new powers to raise tax or precepts or to borrow
 - enable councils to set charges for mandatory services, impose fines or create offences or byelaws, over and above existing powers to do so
 - override existing legislation in place before the Localism act 2011, so-called ‘pre-commencement limitations’ (however powers enacted after commencement of the GPC will only limit the GPC if this explicitly stated in the legislation). Where using the GPC for charging or trading purposes, the recipient should agree to the service being provided, the income from charges should not exceed the cost of provision and, where things are done for commercial purposes, this must be done through a specified type of company.³
- Notwithstanding the limitations outlined above, the GPC remains a broad power.
If the Council does not confirm it’s preference to adopt the Power at it’s annual meeting it cannot use it during that financial year should it wish.

Financial Regulations

Agree to retain the current version which can be viewed in full on the Council website, adopted in 2020.

Standing Orders

Agree to retain the current version of the Standing Orders which can be viewed in full on the Council website, adopted in 2021.

Committee Memberships

Personnel Committee: Currently The Chairman, Cllr Liggins, Cllr Cook.

Neighbourhood Development Committee: Currently Cllrs Robinson, Flude, Cook and Simpson. Cllr Robinson has resigned from the Committee.

Appoint a representative to attend the LRALC AGM on Saturday 17th September 2022 (this cannot be the Clerk). It is a good event with a range of speakers, a “marketplace” where key suppliers to the sector will be on hand to talk to delegates about their services. Don’t forget too there will be lunch.

Asset Register

ATTERTON		ASSET LIST				
Description	Number	Location	Purchase Date	Unit Price	Total Value	Disposed
Noticeboards	1	Atterton Road	2006/7		0	2013/14
Millennium Stone	1	Atterton Road	2006/7	780.70	780.70	
Bench	1	Atterton Road	2013/14	203.94	0	Aug-21
Noticeboards	1	Atterton Road	2013/14	315.00	315.00	

Walkie talkies	1	Emergency store	Oct-20	75.00	0.00
Bench	1	Atterton Road	Aug-21	459.00	459.00
Defibrillator	1	Atterton Road	Mar-22	2820.00	2820.00

4374.70

WITHERLEY ASSET LIST

Description	Number	Location	Purchase Date	Unit Price	Total Value	Disposed
Picnic Bench	1		2006/7		0	Oct-16
Seat bench	6		2006/7	903.67	5422.02	
Litter bins	2		2006/7	173.01	346.02	
Dog bins	3		2006/7	127.85	383.55	
Noticeboards	2		2006/7	416.91	0	Sep 2018
Dog bin	1		2007/8	170.00	170.00	
Noticeboard	1	Church Road	2010/11	636.94	636.94	
Dog Bin	1	Church La	2013/14	208.53	208.53	
Grit bin	1	Mythe/Hall Lane	13/14	76.78	76.78	
Village Sign	1	St Peters Ave/Kennel Lane	2013/14	1188.00	1188.00	
Defibrillator	1	The Blue Lion public house	May-14	2370.00	1975.00	
Bench	1	Riverside	Feb-15	385.00	385.00	
Vehicle Activated Speed Sign	1	Kennel Lane	Sep 16	3720.00	3720.00	
Noticeboard	1	Kennel Lane	Sep 2018	2188.00	2188.00	
Generator	1	Mythe Lane	Oct 2020	240	0	
Walkie Talkies	1	Emergency Store	Oct 2020	75	0	

16699.84

FENNY DRAYTON

ASSET LIST

Description	Number	Location	Purchase Date	Unit Price	Total Value	Disposed
Picnic Benches	3	Playing field	2006/7			2017
Litter bins	2	Playing field	2006/7	127.85	255.7	
Noticeboard	1	In bus shelter	2006/7	416.91	416.91	
Noticeboard	1	Old Forge Rd by Post box				2018
Basket ball stand	1	Playing field	2006/7	709.11	709.11	
Tarmac surface						
Giggleswick	1	Playing field	2006/7	6544.57	6544.57	
Apollo Bouncer	1	Playing field	2006/7	1709.77	1709.77	
Spring Elephant	1	Playing field	2006/7	1063.09	1063.09	
Spring Horse	1	Playing field	2006/7	1026.37	1026.37	
Log cabin	1	Playing field	2006/7	2392.15	2392.15	
Boogie Woogie	1	Playing field	2006/7	10583.77	10583.77	
Noughts and Crosses panel	1	Playing field	2006/7	1558.81	1558.81	
Cone climber	1	Playing field	2006/7	3345.85	3345.85	
Natural Sports Ground surface	1	Playing field	2006/7	6911.75	6911.75	
Slide	1	Playing field			2000.00	
Dog bin	1	Drayton Close	2007/8	170.00	170.00	
Land - playing field	1	Drayton Close	1977	1.00	1.00	
Bus shelter	1	Old Forge Rd	2006/7	7000.00	7000.00	
Swings	4	Playing Field			2090.00	
Football Goal posts	2	Playing Field			0.00	Aug 15
Memorial Bench (Mr Maybery)	1	Playing Field			300.00	
Bench	1	Playing Field by swings			300.00	
Memorial Bench (John Stevens)	1	George Fox Lane			300.00	
Memorial Bench (Steve Yem)	1	Old Forge Rd			300.00	
Bench	1	Drayton Lane			300.00	
Bench	1	Rookery Close			300.00	
Bench	1	Old Forge Rd/A444			300.00	
Gates into Playing Field					1200.00	
Boundary Fence		Playing field	1995		2,000.00	

Grit Bins	4	Various (green coloured)	2013/14	76.78	307.15
Noticeboard	1	Church La/Old Forge Rd	2013/14	2118.35	2118.35
Bench	1	Rookery Close	Jul-14	439.00	439.00
Dog bin	1	Old Forge Rd by Kiosk	Jul-14	170	170.00
Phone kiosk	1	Old Forge Rd	Mar-14	1.00	1.00
Defibrillator	1	in Kiosk	Mar-14	2405.12	2405.12
Adult gym equipment	2	Playing Field	Jul-15		6943.20
Goal posts	1	Playing Field	Aug-15		141.60
Vehicle Activated Speed Sign	1	Old Forge Rd	Apr 16	3720	3720.00
Giant games	3	stored in church wendy house	16/17	250	0.00
Picnic tables disabled access	3	Playing field	03/18	512.5	1537.50
generator	1	Phone kiosk, Old F Rd	2020	240	0.00
walkie talkies	1	Emergency store	2020	45	0.00
					70861.77

RATCLIFFE CULEY ASSET LIST

Description	Number	Location	Purchase Date	Unit Price	Total Value	Disposed
Litter bins	2		2006/7	173.01	346.02	
Noticeboards	1		2006/7	416.91	416.91	
Bench	1	playing field	?	?	0	
Dog Bins	1		2011/12	87.61	87.61	
Grit bin	1		2011/12	83.70	83.70	
Land	1	playing field	2011/12	1.00	1.00	
Swings	2	playing field			0	Oct-15
Phone Box (old red style)	1	Main Rd	Dec-12	1.00	1.00	
Swing equipment	1	Playing Field	Oct-15	4990.80	4990.80	
Goal post	1	Playing Field	Jan-16	141.60	141.60	
Vehicle Activated Speed Sign	1	Main Rd	Apr 16	3720.00	3720.00	
Goal post	1	Playing Field	Sep 18	141.60	141.60	
Zip wire	1	Playing Field	Oct 2019	6499	6499	
Tower with wall and slide	1	Playing Field	Oct 2019	6995	6995	
Twin rider (see saw)	1	Playing Field	Oct 2019	2317	2317	

Gravity Bowl	1	Playing Field	Oct 2019	1188	1188
Generator	1	church	Oct 2020	240	0
Walkie Talkies	1	Emergency Store	Oct 2020	75	0
Defibrillator	1	Main Rd	Mar 22	2820	2820

29749.24

Parish Clerk ASSET LIST

			Purchase	Unit	Total	
Description	Number	Location	Date	Price	Value	Comment
Street Signs	5		2006/7			all signs this year totalled
Village Name Signs	2		2006/7		3799.93	
Digital Map	1		2009/10	113.83	113.83	

			Purchase	Unit	Total	
Description	Number	Location	Date	Price	Value	Disposed
Laptop	1	Cool Hill	2006/7	663.83	0	2009
Laptop and software	1	Cool Hill	2009/10	431.25	0	2015
Printer	1	Cool Hill	2009/10	244.74	0	2015
Printer	1	Cool Hill	Jul-15	212.40	212.40	
Laptop	1	Cool Hill	Aug-15	358.80	0.00	Dec-21
Laptop for VAS records	1	R Reading	Jan-18	469.15	469.15	
Laptop Clerk	1	Clerk	Dec-21	608.00	608.00	

5203.31

Total assets £127,888.90