



# Scotter Parish Council

The Clerk for the meeting: Kyela Mathieson

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Minutes of the Annual Meeting of The Parish held on 19 April 2021, held virtually via Zoom.

**Parish Councillors Present:** Cllr Jon Harper – Chair, Cllr Bali Kaila, Cllr Margaret Armstrong, Cllr Paul Wood, Cllr Paul Boulton

**District Cllrs Present:** Cllr Lesley Rollings, Cllr Liz Clews

**County Cllrs Present:** Cllr Clio Perraton-Williams

**In attendance:** 13

Cllr Harper opened the meeting at **18.32**

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## **2021/1 Chairs Report**

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. He expressed his gratitude for all the key workers and community members who had kept the village going during what has been a challenging and unprecedented year. He found it humbling to see how the community had pulled together. Aside from the pandemic, it has been a testing year for the parish council but pleased to report that the parish council has made great progress to getting back to financial and legal compliance.

There has been positive steps made towards flooding concerns and the parish council are taking an active roll. The Speedwatch Campaign had been a huge success, thanks given to Brian Gilchrist who has given so much time to get this in place. It will be an asset to the village to help provide insight into the traffic and speeds within the village. With a full compliment of councillors we are looking forward to the year ahead and making a noticeable difference.

## **2021/2 District Councillors Report**

The following report was read out by Cllr Lesley Rollings

### **Working together**

Scotter is represented by three district councillors – Lesley Rollings, Mandy Snee and Liz Clews. Lesley was elected in 2006, Liz and Mandy in 2019.

Since their election, the three councillors have worked closely together, trying to ensure that at least one of them attends Parish council meetings in the ward, enabling them to stay in touch with the work that the Parish councils are undertaking and support local residents.

Most of the parish councils in the ward have seen some change in the last few years, but all are welcoming to the district councillors and this enables the councillors to work proactively on behalf of residents.

Many of the issues faced by residents in rural villages are ongoing and not easily resolved in the short term.

Sometimes the issues are complex and involve large agencies, like the Environment Agency, with their policies on river maintenance, Planning departments, having to work to national planning policy, which can often lead to conflict in development, the County Council with its policies on speeding traffic and roads, to mention but a few. For us, the important thing is that we commit to working with our residents and parish councils over a period of time to try and resolve these issues and that we don't give up!

### **Flooding on the River Eau**

During the last year, we have managed to get the key partners, responsible for flooding on the River Eau, to come together, with a view to making changes downstream of Scotter, which will help reduce the risk of flooding in the village. With the support of the District Council and indeed member support from North Lincs Council, we have managed to get Lincolnshire County Council, as the lead flood authority, the Environment agency, responsible for maintenance on the river, Scotter Parish Council, actively working for residents, the Scunthorpe

and Gainsborough Water Management board and local landowners together. Between these partners, some very positive suggestions have been made around the future maintenance and management of the river. The important thing to note is that the district councillors will be looking to ensure that the EA and the water management board push ahead with changes that will make a difference. We will not be giving up! It is essential that we do not see a repeat of the flooding in 2019.

We have set up a Scotter Flooding and Drainage Action group on Facebook, which we are looking to use as a point of contact in times of emergency and very high water levels when information for the public is required.

#### **Speeding traffic**

Speeding traffic through the village continues to be a problem. As district councillors we have supported the Community Speedwatch scheme and are delighted that the recent cameras seem to be having an impact. We are also looking at the national **20's Plenty** initiative which seeks to give communities more of a say on speed limits where people live. We would urge people to look at the scheme.

#### **Planning and Development**

Unwanted planning and development continues to be a problem and is a big part of the councillor workload. Where we can, we will continue to support local residents, though sometimes, our hands are tied by planning policy and a national ombudsmen that can overturn decisions made locally.

#### **Going forward**

During what has been a very difficult year, with Covid restrictions, Scotter Parish Council must be commended for its Zoom meetings enabling effective governance to take place. The sudden departure of several former councillors and the Clerk left new councillors with a great challenge which they have risen to. They should be congratulated on this.

Lesley, Liz and Mandy have all got strong backgrounds in Sport and health and wellbeing and are all keen to work more closely with and support organisations and sports clubs in the village. We will continue to work on the flooding and drainage issues and help drive reductions in speeding traffic and the quality of our roads.

Working together is key, in a non- political way and is essential if we are to make progress that benefits everyone in our community.

We would ask any residents who would like our support with projects or issues, to get in touch. We will always help where we can.

Cllr Lesley Rollings

Cllr Mandy Snee

Cllr Liz Clews

WLDC Councillors Scotter and Blyton Ward

### **2021/3 County Councillors Report**

Cllr Perraton-Williams advised that Lincolnshire County Council had spent £1.5million on highways improvements in the last year which includes Gainsborough Road. Potholes throughout the area are being fixed. She congratulated the parish council on the speedwatch campaign. Its been a good positive year even though difficult due to the pandemic but the community should be commended for pulling together.

Cllr Perraton-Williams was challenged on the comment of potholes being fixed by a member of the public. A discussion took place where she was advised that the system for reporting the 'Fix My Street' does not result in action at all or in a timely manner. The repairs that are been actioned are not to standard and therefore are not lasting more than a couple of weeks. All this has resulted in bad feeling among resident's and they feel ignored. Cllr Perraton-Williams advised she was not aware of these issues and if the details could be sent to her she would look into it. She explained the method of repair and that it had improved. Resident and Cllr Wotherspoon disagreed saying that it was money wasted as we are not receiving quality repairs.

Cllr Harper urged residents to report matters on fix my street as the more reports the more likely there is to be action. If details are sent through to the clerk she will also report them on behalf of the parish council. Cllr Rollings urged councillors use fix my street also.

### **2021/4 Community Reports**

**Scotter Bowls Club** – The following report was read out

It's been a difficult year for us all at the bowls club as it has been for everyone everywhere. Our team of greens men have made the best of a difficult time by completely transforming our green and it is now in tip top condition and all the surrounding areas have been attended to and the whole area is looking ready for the new season. We did manage a week or two of socially distanced bowling at the end of August but it was almost the end of the season and soon afterwards we moved into a new lockdown.

Behind the scenes the committee haven't stopped working and planning for the new season and now we have had the go-ahead to start by opening the green on May 1<sup>st</sup> for social bowling and practice and on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May the league will begin again, of course with restrictions and extra safety measures. Hopefully before then we will have completed the re-decorating of the pavilion, the work is now underway and will be finished by the

beginning of the season. Our thanks must go to the Scotter Parish Council for their generous grant which has enabled the work to go ahead because we certainly would never have been able to do it without the grant. We are hoping that our existing members will all re-new their membership this year and I am pleased to say we have had several inquiries from potential new players so we are feeling optimistic about our future even though the last year was certainly make or break for the club. We fully intend to carry on and hopefully will attract new members.

Stephanie Parman on behalf of Scotter bowls club.

Scotter Forward – The Following report was read out

Scotter Forward was setup in 2003 by Sue Mumby ; the idea was to form a group of community-focused Scotter Parish individuals to develop, fund and run initiatives, events and projects that will benefit the people of Scotter, Scotterthorpe and Susworth.

Many projects now take place under the banner of Scotter Forward.

### **Events**

Classic Car evening held in June normally, (in 2021 the date is Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> August )lead by John Fardell and the fundraising committee .

In 2020 the Scarecrow trail was developed online due to Covid restrictions, along with payment of donations to the Scotter Forward account through their email with pay pal. This year it will organized for 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021 and judged on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

The duck race will run annually, this year the date is 17<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at the riverside 1pm start.

A garage sale will be organized for 11-12th September weekend.

Profits go to a charity or a project in the village who need monies to match with grant funding.

This year fundraising monies are for Scotter Preschool full time, day care centre and Scotter Junior Football Club pavilion, a joint project on the playing fields.

Scotter Development group meet with coopted Scotter Forward trustees to drive this forward:-Scotter Methodist Chapel started their project in 2014 and still require at least 50k to put in several new windows a new entrance door and new kitchen. A Heritage Centre proposal has been put in by Scotter Forward and is awaiting permission from The Methodist Circuit.

Two defibrillators have been funded by previous Events and are now in place, one on Scotter Village Hall and the other on Scotter Fisheries. Weekly checks have to be done and the upkeep is paid for by Scotter Forward monies.

Scotter Play Area is in the process of being built. This project cost 110k

### **Scotter Forward Library and Community Hub**

Scotter Forward has Trustees who make decisions, and allocate monies from the events, also any funded projects in the Parish under this umbrella are paid under out as per grant conditions. From May 2021 the Library will become a charity in its own right with its own bank account and constitution. The management committee of the library will be its' Trustees.

Scotter Forward pays several insurances to cover all the community hub groups, events, and schemes. Over 60 volunteers support the projects below:-

The library was taken over by volunteers on August 20<sup>th</sup> 2015 and has opened on Thursday, Fridays and Saturdays apart from the usual bank holidays. All the volunteers are trained and are an integral part of the day to day running. We have taken on new volunteers and training is ongoing. The Volunteer Coordinator is Sue Mumby and is the contact for library questions/queries. We need new volunteers now.

Scotter Volunteer Car Scheme has been running for 6 years and help people who have no transport from Scotter, Scotton, Northorpe, Blyton, to go for surgery appointments at Kirton and Scotter, provide transport for hospital appointments ,vaccines ,dentists and opticians .Ladies and gents over the age of 85 years can be transported for haircuts in the village.

The library also organises activities to help fund the library and help with the residents health and wellbeing.

Mans shed is to be resumed on Monday afternoons, 2pm to 4pm when possible

Help is available to people on the computers during library time, or tutoring by appointment with Sammi Lockley.

New age kurling is held in Scotter Village Hall, Mondays 2.15pm to 3.50pm cost £2 including refreshments. It will commence again as soon as possible

Walking Football –Friday nights Jon Harper

Scotter Heritage Centre (history of Scotter Parish) The Scotter Methodist Chapel will be opening in June

Tuesdays 10-1pm for people to view .

### **Heritage Trail**

The Heritage Trail is launched and leaflets are in the Church or library.

### **Communication**

Lots of work has to be done to get the website running well. [Scottervillagewebsite@gmail.com](mailto:Scottervillagewebsite@gmail.com) is the new email address for the village website .Please send any notices to this email.

(the website is being redesigned to suit the current situation(linked with the Parish Council site) and a new Facebook page will be introduced and linked to the Scotter News Forum.)

There is a new volunteer who is helping with this, please be patient, and hopefully soon we will have better communication online. Sue Mumby

**2021/5 Scotter War Memorial & Playing Field Committee** – The following report was read out

On behalf of my colleague's I would like to present a report on the current activities and position of our village playing field.

Like everyone else the year has been dominated by the Covid pandemic and the restrictions placed on us all by the government. I'm sure the field proved a great asset to everyone during last summer's late lift in restrictions enabling people to get out and enjoy the open spaces. However it also meant that recreational sport could not take place and the facility was not used for considerable periods of time.

We have pursued two exciting new projects in line with the survey done some time ago. Firstly under the stewardship of Martin Ely a new play area complete with new equipment obtained sufficient grants and funds to enable work to start for completion by May 2021. Secondly a new football pavilion and pre-school building are planned and grants for funding are currently being pursued. We hope to see these completed in the near future. We have many day to day management issues that need addressing none more so than the boundary edges to keep out rabbits to ensure the field is safe to use particularly football. The environment agency did river bank work on our section of the river and donated trees and bushes to landscape some areas.

We are financial viable for the foreseeable future but with restricted funding from various sources we are under pressure to maintain the current standard. As always we work to ensure we get funds in place to keep the field open and for the benefit of the village.

We always welcome new volunteers to help and if anyone is interested please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

Richard Barwell, Chair

**2021/6 Scotter WI** – The following report was read out

Members of Scotter WI have been able to meet during the pandemic, their last meeting was held in the Eau Centre, Their birthday meeting in March 2020. The committee have kept in touch with their members over the last 15 months with letters and e-mails and every member receiving their birthday card.

The annual meeting is to be held in April 2021 by letter and email and the committee have met twice via zoom. A programme has been organised to March 2022 with the first meeting to be held in the Eau Centre on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021 all being well.

Scotter WI was formed in 1965 and currently has 21 members, we are a friendly organisation who meet in the Eau Centre on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm. We hope to continue for many more years and we will work to promote the WI in the village.

For more information contact Jean White 01724 764501 or Pat Whittingham 07825665572

**2021/7 Scotter Speed Watch**

Brian Gilchrist gave thanks to the Parish Council for supporting him and advised that all the equipment is working, in place and collecting data. Speed watch should be considered as an education programme to slow people down, there is no prosecution involved just reporting. Hopefully they will be able to get out with the speed gun soon, once training is completed. If anyone would like to get involved please contact him.

**2021/8 Scotter Junior Football Club**

Bridget Jackson spoke on behalf of the football club and advised that they have managed to maintain football throughout the year. She is please to announce that they have just set up a club for 3-6 year olds called Acorns and has received approval to become a Wildcats Academy for girls only. This all shows that there is a good appetite for football in the area. Their aim for the future is to have a new pavilion building which will supply much need facilities and become a community sporting hub.

**2021/9 Bell Ringing**

Brian Gilchrist advised the club is still going and they have recently rang the bells in respect for the passing of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. New members are always welcome.

**2021/10 Scotter Pre School**

All the staff work tremendously throughout Covid and adjusted brilliantly to the ever changing rules and regulations. However the pandemic has caused financial difficulties as due to a drop in numbers of children as parents were working from home or isolating. Things are moving forward and numbers have improved, they are proud to say that they didn't have a single case of Covid. In the near future they hope to achieve their goal of an extension to the village hall which would provide full day care facilities for the village.