

# WELFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Meeting held on  
Thursday 28th April 2022 commencing at 7.00pm  
in the Village Hall, West Street, Welford

## Present

**Councillors:** Dr. M Gorrod (Chairman), Mr. N Brotherton, Mr. A. Curtis Mr. T. Forder, Mr. W. Hughes, Mr. T. McCullagh, Mrs. S. Phelan

**Clerk:** Mr. I Kelly

**Member of Parliament:** Mr. C. Heaton-Harris

**Unitary Councillor:** Mr. J. Harris

**Public:** 17

Minute	Report
<b>1. Apologies for absence</b>	
Apologies were received from Unitary Councillor Irving-Swift and Unitary Councillor Parker	
<b>2. Welcome and introduction by the Chairman of Welford Parish Council 2021/22, Councillor Martin Gorrod</b>	
Cllr. Gorrod welcomed all attendees to the meeting and observed that it was nice to see the village getting back to normal.	
<b>3. To approve and adopt the Minutes of the 2019 Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2019</b>	
The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2019 were approved	
<b>4. Welford Parish Council Annual Report</b>	
<p>Cllr. Gorrod gave an overview of the achievements of the Parish Council since the last Parish Meeting. Cllr. Gorrod said the Parish Council is responsible for grass cutting, street lighting, bins and maintaining the playing field, pocket park, old church cemetery and defibrillators, with the help of a number of volunteer groups for which the Parish Council is extremely grateful. The Parish Council also has a consultative role in a number of areas such as planning and try to use our influence to ensure WNC address areas such as rights of way, highways, often with mixed results. Cllr Gorrod said that the Council had a budget of £43,500 for the last year.</p> <p>The highlights of the report include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ A new 3 year contract with R &amp; G to mow grass areas of the village</li><li>➤ Completion of LED lighting upgrade across the village</li><li>➤ Subsidy towards the bus service of £1,679.23</li><li>➤ Additional dog poo bins sited around the village</li><li>➤ Electric Vehicle charging point to be installed in May</li><li>➤ Parish Council was able to obtain funding of £2,310 from Northamptonshire Police's Road Safety Community Fund for a replacement Speed Indicator device</li><li>➤ Supporting conservation work within the Parish</li><li>➤ Supporting and providing funding the Pocket Park sub-committee</li><li>➤ <b>Planning Highlights:</b> Much of Welford also became a conservation area during 2020, which increased the requirement for planning both building work as well as tree work.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ With the introduction of a conservation area, tree work in the area now requires planning approval which would come to council for comment. It was decided that, apart from work on TPO trees, the Parish Council did</li></ul></li></ul>	<p><a href="#">Appendix A</a></p>

<p>not need to be consulted and that the decision should rest with the WNC tree warden/officer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Bosworth Quarry – Parish Council objected to increased road traffic through the village.</li> <li>➤ The Parish Council would like to thank Mr Boffey for repairing the footpath through the old cemetery as part of the resurfacing of the Elizabethan Car Park</li> <li>➤ Class Q Developers presented a proposal for developing the plot on the corner of Newlands and Northampton Road to the Parish Council and asked for our views.</li> <li>➤ Potholes continue to be an issue, especially along Newlands Road, as does speeding within the village</li> <li>➤ The Parish Council maintains a minimal Social Media presence on twitter and Facebook</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5. To receive the Welford Parish Council Financial Report 2021/22</b></p>	
<p>The Clerk said that The budget for 2021/22 was £43,500 and for 2022/23 is £44,500. Last year the Council spend was £45,073 although £4.8k was VAT which will be reclaimed. The Clerk said that most of the increase in the current year had been taken up by the electricity increases to light the village which has seen a 50% increase in the 2 year contract which was renewed in January at £1,900 p/a The Council has put in place a Reserves and Asset Renewal Policy. The Council is required to have reserves of between 55% and 75% of the budget. To plan for asset replacement the Council allows a lifespan for each asset and has set aside funds to replace items rather than run the reserves down below the required level. This includes play equipment replacement, defibrillators and walls in the village that are the responsibility of the Council</p>	
<p><b>6. Unitary Council Reports 2021/22</b></p>	
<p>Mr. Heaton-Harris MP took the opportunity to say that said that he likes to attend Parish Council meetings. Mr. Heaton-Harris thanked the Parish Council for the work they undertake which at times can be thankless. Mr. Heaton-Harris said that he was aware of the issues affecting Welford having worked with the Parish Council, developers and Highways England in relation to traffic matters affecting the A14 and M1</p> <p>Cllr. Harris and said that the Unitary Council has been in place for a year and will take up to 5 years to full working order. Cllr. Harris explained the workings of the Unitary Authority and also the size of the Brixworth Ward. He said that he had helped Welford in relation to the EV charging point and is supportive of the work of WAG. Cllr Harris said that there is a pilot running in the county for a community shopper hopper bus service for villages.</p>	<p><a href="#">Appendix B</a></p>
<p><b>7. Matters raised by Parish Residents – Open Forum</b></p>	
<p>Yvonne Dean expressed concern about the reopening of the Husbands Bosworth Quarry and the axle loading of vehicles along the High Street which was causing damage to buildings.</p> <p>Dr. Paul Brown said that he had concerns about the speed of vehicles along the High Street. Dr. Brown asked for more prominent speed camera signs and to approach the Police for enforcement within the 20mph zone. Cllr. Gorrod that these matters were an agenda item for the Parish Council meeting and also said that the SID device which was recently updated does provide valuable data to approach the Police with. Andrew Parsons asked about the derelict house on the High Street. Cllr. Gorrod said that the Parish Council had approached both Highways and Planning at WNC, with Planning advising the Council that it has nothing to do with them. The Council is</p>	

concerned at masonry falling from the building and have raised it with the conservation officer at WNC and the Georgian Society.  
 Alice George said that a new head teacher had started at the school and the garden at the front of the school was to be tidied and planted.

**8. To receive reports from Community Organisations**

- Guides: Apologies were received and a report provided. The concern of the Guide leaders is the groups are in urgent need of more volunteer leaders, if no new leaders are found by September the Rainbow and Brownie units will have to close until volunteers are found.
- SID: Michelle Wilson said that they are using the old SID device as well as the newly purchased device from which the first report had been made available. Prior to purchasing the new device there had been no data available for over a year.
- Sports Field Association: Adrian Scullion said that the football team continued to strengthen while the Rounders dropped one team although they do look stronger for the future. An artificial cricket strip has been installed which helped lead to the reintroduction of senior cricket into Welford. Financially, the Sports Field are in a very strong position despite limited fundraising. The 100 club continues to be well supported by the village and we benefitted from a number of government grants.
- Tennis Club: Nick Read said that the tennis Club had been in existence since 1958. It is a private club raising money through subscriptions. Nick Read acknowledged the support of the Parish Council and Welford Educational Trust in supporting the Club. He said that that it had been a stop start year and that the playing surfaces are not suitable for competitions. The AGM of the Tennis Club is due to take place shortly.
- Village Hall. Geoff Newman said that since the start of the Pandemic, we have followed the government guidelines as advised through Northants ACRE. They are now seeing regular users returning along with new ones. Some of our former regular bookings have not yet returned, and may never do so. He said that work was being done to improve ramp access to the Village Hall and LED lighting had been installed throughout the building. There is concern over a lack of response from the Market Harborough medical centre as to when or even if they intend returning to the Welford Clinic.  
  
 Chris Brown as Treasurer for the Village Hall said they have more than 20 regular groups and users of the Hall covering sport, craft, social, amateur dramatics other societies and administration groups; there is a Music weekend planned for 7 & 8 May and there are 2 autumn exhibitions planned for later in the year. Since we re-opened from Lockdown on 17 May 21, they have hosted nearly 500 bookings. These events have brought over 4,500 guests into the Village Hall • This financial year they expect Room Hire income to be approx. £7,500.00 and forecast that they will have a deficit of approx. £500 this year for day to day running
- Welford Bugle: Andrew Parsons said that the Bugle is now on its 286th edition – released every 2 months and publicising events in and around Welford for free and providing a mechanism for communicating with the wider village, printing 700 copies per run. It is funded by advertising of local businesses - over the last couple of years we have had significant cost increases in printing and postage (and a drop in donations) and have responded by increasing the cost to advertise and allowing larger adverts at a higher cost
- Welford Green Group: Ellen Worrell said that Green Welford was established on the back of Great Big Green Week in September 2021. Their aim is to raise awareness of the need to live more sustainably; encourage sustainability across

[Appendix C](#)

[Appendix D](#)

**Clerk to contact Market Harborough surgery re future plans**

[Appendix E](#)

[Appendix F](#)

the community of Welford village; educate members of the village about how to live more sustainably; implement sustainable best practices and be a point of contact for the community of Welford village on all matters relating to sustainability and green living. They have established a regular bi-monthly EcoFika that also coincides with fortnightly visits from Rita the Refill Roadster. These informal coffee & cake mornings allow village residents to get together in the Village Hall. There is also a monthly mending circle to encourage Welfordians to learn to repair their clothing and make it last longer. One of their biggest successes to date are the recycling bins in the bus shelter.

[Appendix G](#)

➤ Welford Victoria FC: James Bland said that the teams are dependent upon people giving up their time to keep it running. As such, it goes through phases of activity, shuts down, then starts up again. The 2021/22 year has been a resounding success through not only sport but charitable work by members. The Club raised £1,100 for the Hope against Cancer charity and more than £1,000 through the sale of a charity calendar involving club members in varying states of undress for PSC Support which helps people suffering from a very rare chronic liver condition. As well as raising money for these incredible causes, we also think that the opportunities we offer for exercise and socialising do a little good too – not just to people’s physical health, but to their mental well-being as well. The club is looking for players and coaches to help keep the club going. A charity event was arranged for July 3<sup>rd</sup> on the Sports Field

[Appendix H](#)

➤ Welford WI: Sue Brotherton gave an overview of the WI in Welford. There had been meetings over Zoom from February 2021 and subjects covered by guest speakers included tax, social history of fashion, Hedging and Farming, Dancing with Diana and Coco Chanel. A Saturday morning walking group and Monday afternoon craft sessions were commenced and have continued. The WI has supported numerous events in the village including Advent jars, flowers to decorate the Pocket Park, donating food for the homeless and buying a tree for the Jubilee. Sue Brotherton felt that the highlight was when they sang Jerusalem at the April 2022 meeting, which was the first time the WI had met in person since February 2019.

[Appendix I](#)

**9. Vote of thanks to all participants**

Cllr. Gorrod thanked all attendees for the participation in the meeting

**10. Meeting closed at 8.14pm**

**Signed that the Minutes are a true and accurate record**

Signed by Chairman	Dated

## Appendix A

### Report from Chairman of the Parish Council, Dr. Martin Gorrod

#### Lock Down

The last couple of years have been an unusual time for the village. There wasn't an annual parish meeting last year due to lockdown and parish council meetings were held over zoom with meetings not resuming in the village hall until May 2021.

#### Role of Parish Council

The Parish Council is responsible for grass cutting, street lighting, bins and maintaining the playing field, pocket park, old church cemetery and defibrillators, with the help of a number of volunteer groups for which the Parish Council is extremely grateful. We also have a consultative role in a number of areas such as planning and try to use our influence to ensure WNC address areas such as rights of way, highways, often with mixed results.

The Parish Council is funded via the Parish Council precept included in the Council Tax which is used to fund the Parish Council's activities and results in an annual budget of £43,500, although all Parish Councillors are unpaid and give up their time freely for the benefit of the village.

#### Grass Cutting

The grass cutting tender is reviewed annually and is currently performed by R&G. It is the largest annual expense of the Parish Council, costing in the region of £9,500 per year, but ensures the village looks tidy and well kept.

#### Lighting

Completion of the cutover to more robust and lower cost/carbon emissions LED lighting was completed and a survey issued by the Parish Council to gauge the opinion of the village as to if and where additional led lighting might be required. Degrading concrete lamp posts were also replaced as part of this change (Outside WYCC and Salford Close).

#### Dog mess

Lock down resulted in a lot more people walking around the village and it seemed as if a lot more dogs were being walked around the village with the resultant dog mess issues. To try and address this the Parish Council:

- Poo bin relocated to Hemploe Junction
- New large poo bin by Church Yard

#### Playing Field

Working with the Historical Society, the Parish Council erected a sign at the West Street entrance to the Playing Field displaying its official name of "Welford Playing Field" as well as highlighting that it was purchased by the village as a safe space for the children of the village to play in.

Additional signage was also added at this entrance to highlight that the West End entrance is a permissive right of way and that dogs should not be taken onto the playing field through the entrance. This was to both legally protect the entrance from designation as a public right of way and to try to reduce the issue of dog mess and loose dogs on the playing field interfering with the ability of children to enjoy the area.

The Parish Council continues to maintain the play equipment and has added a climbing cone which will be installed shortly, as well as the benches within the park with the wood replaced in the bench by the basket ball hoop. The access to the Spinney was also cleared with the assistance of Dave Cliffe.

#### Sports Field

The Parish Council holds the position of guardian trustee of the Sports Field meaning that the Parish Council purely holds the ownership of the land on behalf of the Sports Field Association but has no other

input into the Sports Field beyond its guardianship role. This guardian trustee status does mean that the Parish Council are the signatory to any legal documentation regarding the Sports Field and were happy to support both their application to extend the Sports Field building as well as ensure they were engaged in discussions on the proposed development of corner plot of Newlands and Northampton Road.

### EV Charging Point

Progress is finally being made with WNC that they would install the previously agreed charging point by the new cemetery. We are awaiting its final installation.

### Church Cemetery

The clerk produced a policy on the management of the headstones, as well as documenting their condition/safety as the Parish Council has the role of maintaining this area on behalf of the Diocese.

### Platinum Jubilee

The Parish Council was happy to fund the marquee on the Playing Field for the Jubilee celebrations and would also be planting a tree at the top of the Spinney to mark the event.

### Bus Service

The Parish Council continues to subsidise the bus service and has been concerned at the deterioration in the level of service provided despite the large amount of subsidy provided. The Parish Council currently provides an annual subsidy of £1,679.23 for the current financial year.

### SID

The SID device after many years of service finally failed and the Parish Council was able to obtain funding of £2,310 from Northamptonshire Police's Road Safety Community Fund for its replacement, to whom we are very grateful. The SID continues to be managed by a group of volunteers acting on behalf of the Parish Council and I would like to thank them for their work.

### Defibrillator

The Parish Council continues to financially support the defibrillators and has been trying to obtain replacement pads and batteries for some time due to supply chain issues. Training was provided in October to a number of villagers and village groups and new volunteers have taken over the monitoring of the defibrillators following the departure of Michelle Wilson from the Parish Council.

### Conservation

The Parish Council has not declared a climate emergency but continues to consider green and conservation issues in all decision making. This has included:

- Enabled the Green Welford team to utilize the Bus shelter for recycling collection
- Turn off you engine signs by the school to try and reduce vehicle pollution/emissions near the school
- Parish Council supported Helen Dyson in obtaining a grant to improve habitats and bio diversity across the Parish area and that the funding would be used for a detailed feasibility study to identify the sustainable locations to plant mature trees across the Parish area

### Pocket Park

The Parish Council continues to support and provide funding the Pocket Park sub-committee. However the dwindling number of volunteers meant that the Councillors did not feel they could commit to purchasing the land rather than continuing the existing lease until a sustainable plan for managing the area was produced.

### Planning (Highlights)

Much of Welford also became a conservation area during 2020, which increased the requirement for planning both building work as well as tree work.

- With the introduction of a conservation area, tree work in the area now requires planning approval which would come to council for comment. It was decided that, apart from work on TPO trees, the Parish Council did not need to be consulted and that the decision should rest with the WNC tree warden/officer.
- Bosworth Quarry – Parish Council objected to increased road traffic through the village.
- The Parish Council would like to thank Mr Boffey for repairing the footpath through the old cemetery as part of the resurfacing of the Elizabethan Car Park
- Class Q Developers presented a proposal for developing the plot on the corner of Newlands and Northampton Road to the Parish Council and asked for our views.

### Highways

Highways are the responsibility of WNC although the Parish Council does have some influence when reporting issues. Potholes continue to be an issue, especially along Newlands Road, as does speeding within the village. The Parish Council funded the prizes for a poster campaign (2020) with the school which resulted in posters being placed around the village to highlight the issue. The Parish Council also supported Oliver Tann's proposal for traffic calming on Northampton Road, which will be discussed in the follow on Parish Council meeting.

### Village Assets

The village asset register has been reviewed with the water pump and plaque on West End was identified as not having anyone responsible for it. The Parish Council agreed to take on this role to ensure it was insured and maintained. The Allotments were also registered as an ACV and the Clerk and Cllr Sue Phelan also engaged in the WNC asset mapping project to detail the village assets held by WNC.

### Social Media

The Parish Council maintains a minimal Social Media presence on twitter and Facebook. These channels are only used to post information and not to engage in debate which should occur through the monthly Parish Council meeting. The Clerk also maintains the village website where all relevant Parish Council information is posted.

### Neighbourhood Plan

It has been a number of years since the neighbourhood plan was produced and the Parish Council is revisiting the document to review and ensure any proposals have either been implemented or will be re-reviewed by the Parish Council.

### New Councillors

This year saw the departure of two Councillors but the addition of one new Councillor, Will Hughes and I'd like to welcome him to the Parish Council. During lockdown we were also fortunate to be able to co-opt Sue Phelan onto the Parish Council during the online zoom Parish Council Meetings.

## Appendix B

### Unitary Councillor Jonathan Harris

#### Background

West Northants Council has been up and running since vesting day on the 1st April last year, with Councillors being elected the following month. The current make-up of the council is as follows:

65 Conservative Councillors  
 20 Labour Councillors  
 5 Liberal Democrats

### 3 Independents

The council is run in 'cabinet' style meaning that the vast majority of decisions are made by the cabinet made up of a Conservative administration. Cabinet meets once a month and is open to members of the public to make statements and Councillors to question/comment on the deliberations of the cabinet.

### General

It is fair to say the council is still finding its feet, and operating to some degree in silos. There is work taking place to address this, and it is worth remembering that although there was an extra year for the council formation, COVID came along and certainly did not help in the preparation or transformation process. The general exception is that this process is probably going to take at least five years as a minimum to complete. The council continues to evolve and there is ongoing restructuring taking place in planning, transformation and sustainability.

Brixworth Ward. The Brixworth ward is made up of 13 parish councils and 8 parish meetings, serving the following:

Arthingworth, Brixworth, Clipston, Cold Ashby, Cottesbrooke, Creaton, Draughton, East Farndon, Elkington, Great Oxendon, Hanging Houghton, Haselbech, Kelmars, Lamport, Maidwell, Marston Trussell, Naseby, Scaldwell, Sibbertoft, Sulby, Thornby, Welford and Winwick.

Some 5,000 dwellings and an electorate of around 10,000 people.

### My year as Councillor

The primary focus of my twelve months has been working and serving the needs of parishes and residents alike, dealing with issues as needed and working a wide variety of case work. I have attended in the region of 35 - 40 plus parish council meetings since the May elections.

My council responsibilities include representation at the following committees and working groups:

Committees:

Strategic Planning

Democracy and Standards

Planning policy

Also substitute for colleagues on:

Daventry Area Planning

Corporate Scrutiny

In addition I have responsibilities on the following Working Groups, working on specific projects and/or policy proposals:

Equalities board

Boundary review

Welford Education Trust (council nominated position) - soon to change constitution which won't require

Councillor representation

Bus Service Improvement

Bus Enhanced Partnership

Norse Liaison

Constitution Review

Sustainability oversight group

In addition to these committees and working groups, there are regular briefings and training sessions and my group regularly attend meetings with officers, including Director of Place, Director of Adults, Children's Trust, S151 Finance Director. I attend regular monthly cabinet meetings – usually 2 or 3 Lib Dem Councillors - where we make statements, ask questions and challenge thinking of the cabinet with a view to encouraging them to see an alternative perspective to the issues that they are debating.

Some of the Lib Dems areas of focus and campaigns:



- Our equality motion to ensure access to services for those without internet access was successfully supported in July 2021 - still ongoing work and challenge.
- We are fighting for focus on climate - finally resulting in council signing UK100 net zero pledge & holding council to account on their yet to be published strategy. We now have a pathway and cross-party oversight group, but will be working on clarity around the strategy itself
- We are fighting for greener planning policy - linked to the above point
- We are continuing to push for council to become White Ribbon accredited in the campaign for the prevention of violence against women and girls.
- We've campaigned to save Fraser Park (Northampton) green space from developers (the inspector in local planning is now insisting that equivalent green space must be found)
- We have proposed the declaration of an ecological emergency to sit alongside the declaration of a climate emergency (sadly defeated at the April council meeting)
- We've campaigned for pension divestment from Fossil fuels to greener funds and for more ethical investments, particularly on light of the war in Ukraine
- Locally, the FOCUS team have carried out a number of 'knock and drop' survey visits to villages within the Brixworth ward to get views on local resident issues and we included Welford in this process late last year.
- Currently engaged in supporting Homes For Ukraine with local volunteer networks and working to create a hub in Brixworth

### **Brixworth Ward information**

#### Welford Focus:

- ensuring the follow up and implementation of the two EV charge points - which have taken far longer than they should have, but we now have installation dates
- WAG - picking up on the issue of the Mick George Quarry - taken to CHH at Brixworth coffee morning for further support, establishment of local liaison group - requirement for Northamptonshire under Waste and Minerals policy but no so for Leicestershire I understand so,
- weight limit signage and zone - installation now imminent. Requested take account of conservation area, no specific signage for this purpose but posts will be black, not shiny grey!

#### Wider Ward:

We are planning to introduce a "Shopper Hopper" service around Brixworth, working in conjunction with Community MiniBus (a 14 seater minibus) The plan will be to bring shoppers to the new Aldi in Moulton/Overstone Leys or to Weston Favell Centre/Brixworth stop enabling them to travel and do their weekly shopping independently. Bus pass holders will be able to travel for free. The route will be 'on demand' and will initially cover Cottesbrooke, Haselbech, Naseby, Cold Ashby, Thornby, Creton and Brixworth. Spratton have requested to be included, so we have adjusted the route to do so. The pilot service will launch on Tuesday 17th May.

Earlier in the year, successfully added a one day a week community bus service to Scaldwell which has been without any service since NCC cut all services during its financial difficulties.

I hope that we will be able to run the pilot for two to three months to gauge demand with a view to running a regular weekly service from there on in.

## Appendix C



Welford continues to have 3 thriving units of Guiding, a Rainbow, Brownie and Guide unit who meet each week in the Community Centre. The units provide fun and skill building activities for 35 girls aged from 4 to 14 from Welford and the surrounding area.

The units continued to meet during lockdowns via Zoom, all leaders became creative with online activities to ensure the girls continued to have fun and support for their wellbeing during these difficult times. Activities included a well-loved scavenger hunt game which became a weekly request, this was much joy to parents as the girls ran around their homes looking for a selection of items each week. During one meeting the girls were tasked to find an unusual item, no one was expecting a guest appearance from a day old new born sibling. We invited guest speakers along including a memorable evening learning sign language.

Leaders from the Guide unit were nominated and received a County award for continuing to provide meetings and wellbeing for the girls throughout the lockdowns including all school holidays.

The girls have undertaken First Aid and CPR training as well as a fund-raising evening for Leicester Hospital and other charities once they were all able to meet again face to face.

Unfortunately, the groups are in urgent need of more volunteer leaders, if no new leaders are found by September the Rainbow and Brownie units will have to close until volunteers are found. The village has had a Brownie Unit since 1929 it would be such a shame to lose this now. We would welcome new leaders/volunteers to work with any age groups of the girls as this would enable existing leaders to switch groups if needed to keep all of the units open.

Anyone who is interested in joining these thriving fun groups of girls, please drop into the Youth Centre on a Monday evening when we meet or please contact Janet Roberts or Jackie Hewes.

## Appendix D

### **Welford Sports Field Association 2021 report for the Parish Council**

Last year, 2020, was incredibly tough for everyone and whilst in 2021 Covid was still a major factor it was something we were all starting to learn to live with, and I believe that sport will help to play a big part in this both physically and mentally.

The football club, as we had hoped, continued to strengthen with four teams (2 adult, 1 Vets and 1 junior), together with kids coaching, meaning we introduced a second pitch.

Unfortunately, Welford Rounders did have to drop to one team, but this does now look stronger, and I am hopeful for the future.

And dreams do come true, for me at least, because last year we were able to instal an artificial cricket strip. This helped lead to the reintroduction of senior cricket into Welford for the first time in too long. Huge thanks and praise must go to Robin Bennett who has kept the club going almost single handedly. Hopefully, 2022 will see the club continue to develop with more senior games and maybe junior cricket following suit.

Financially, we are in a very strong position despite limited fundraising. Our 100 club continues to be well supported by the village and we benefitted from a number of government grants. However, spending the money proved to be a huge headache for us. Plans for extending the social area of our pavilion came and went, chopped and changed and caused us many sleepless nights. We have now regrouped and with lessons learned, we will finally move forward in the coming 12 months. This will be dependent on a number of factors including rising prices and the availability of builders.

## Appendix E

### Village Hall

Since the start of the Pandemic, we have followed the government guidelines as advised through Northants ACRE. We are extremely grateful for their support and advice as well as the financial support received from Daventry and West Northants council.

We are now seeing regular users returning along with new ones. Some of our former regular bookings have not yet returned, and may never do so – e.g. Dancing For Fun.

With the grants received we are looking to invest in major improvements to disabled ramp and steps. We are also aware of the increase in energy costs and have therefore updated the lighting throughout the building to LED. Our next steps in this area will be to look at the feasibility of PV Solar Panels, the insulation of the building and installing a new efficient heating system.

One area of concern is a lack of response from the Market Harborough medical centre as to when or even if they intend returning to the Welford Clinic. We have approached them with a view to start renegotiations for a new lease agreement. The existing one expires in April 2023. As this is a key Village facility and the lack of transport options to either Husbands Bosworth or Market Harborough, we would look to the Parish Council for their support in keeping this going.

Our Financial Year runs from 1st September to 31st August. In terms of our current activities:-

- We have more than 20 regular groups and users of the Hall covering sport, craft, social, amateur dramatics other societies and administration groups
- We have hosted 4 parties so far this financial year, there is a Music weekend planned for 7 & 8 May and there are 2 autumn exhibitions planned for later in the year.
- We are diversifying!!
- We also hire out our tables and chairs and equipment on request. Since we re-opened from Lockdown on 17 May 21:-
- We've hosted nearly 500 bookings
- These events have brought over 4,500 guests into the Village Hall
- This financial year we expect our Room Hire income to be approx. £7,500.00
- We currently receive £1,848.00 a year for the lease on the GP Surgery Like everyone else, we are being subjected to rising costs, especially electricity which was already our biggest cost by value. Our forecast is that we will have a deficit of approx. £500 this year, for day to day running. So, we are looking at our Room Hire Rates which are very reasonable and were last increased in 2019. As already said, the Grants received for Covid restrictions mean that we have funds available to progress our other modernisation and improvement projects, and we are actively looking at other Grants to cover future improvements

## Appendix F

### Welford Bugle

- Welford is now on its 286<sup>th</sup> edition – released every 2 months and publicising events in and around Welford for free and providing a mechanism for communicating with the wider village
- We print 700 copies per edition, ~50 of which are sent by post, 600 are delivered to Welford and surrounding area from a team of local volunteers and the remainder at shop, garage, church. Also available online on the Welford village website
- Funded by advertising of local businesses - over the last couple of years we have had significant cost increases in printing and postage (and a drop in donations) and have responded by increasing the cost to advertise and allowing larger adverts at a higher cost
- Typically costs ~£320 per edition to produce and distribute
- Broadly a breakeven operation with a sound financial foundation in case of tricky periods (eg covid, our previous printer going out of business)
- Main group producing is Andrew Parsons and Sheila Scullion with support from John Nicholas and Susie Bevin. Always keen for new volunteers to join our crew and help lay out pages which is probably the area we are most in need of additional support.

## Appendix G

### Green Welford

Green Welford was established on the back of Great Big Green Week in September 2021. Our aim is to raise awareness of the need to live more sustainably; encourage sustainability across the community of Welford village; educate members of the village about how to live more sustainably; implement sustainable best practices and be a point of contact for the community of Welford village on all matters relating to sustainability and green living.

We are a small committee with 6 members but we are keen to welcome any new members who are interested in pursuing the aims of the group. Thus far, we have established a regular bi-monthly EcoFika that also coincides with fortnightly visits from Rita the Refill Roadster. These informal coffee & cake mornings allow village residents to get together in the Village Hall, while chatting about all things green-related, be it recycling, upcoming Green Welford projects, or even to learn a new craft.

We have also set up a monthly mending circle to encourage Welfordians to learn to repair their clothing and make it last longer, thereby reducing the carbon footprint of all these items. We ran a successful seedling swap at the recent church stall event, and have grand plans for future events. Two group members have completed a Carbon Literacy course and are keen to share their knowledge both with the Parish Council and the wider village community.

We submitted a funding application to the Attainable fund seeking funding of approximately £4000 to run an ambitious programme of events spanning 12 months, but unfortunately our application was unsuccessful. We are still seeking new funding opportunities but for now, our plans have been somewhat scaled back as we need to ensure they are initially self-funding.

One of our biggest successes to date are the recycling bins in the bus shelter. We would like to thank the Parish Council for their support when we first approached them about it, and would like to thank villagers for their enthusiastic use of these bins. We are now able to recycle a large variety of otherwise hard-to-recycle items, including crisp packets, medicine blister packs, contact lenses, dental products,

beauty/hygiene products, ink cartridges, batteries and pens. To date, we have collected over 98kg of recycling and raised close to £106.55 for Doctors Without Borders.

## Appendix H

### **Welford Victoria FC**

The club itself has been around since 1898 and has a rich and varied history, but – like so many rural village teams – is dependent upon people giving up their time to keep it running. As such, it goes through phases of activity, shuts down, then starts up again. The current iteration grew out of a Veterans team that started up about five years ago and the current custodians very much hope that this one will be here to stay for a good while yet.

The 2021/22 has been a resounding success. Not necessarily on the pitch – some of our results have been ghastly – but we define success a little differently. For us, a successful season is, of course, one in which we fulfil our fixtures, run our teams and hold our training sessions, but more important than any of that is that we enjoy our football and manage to do a little bit of good as we go along.

#### **WVFC RAISES £1,100 FOR ‘HOPE AGAINST CANCER’**

On Saturday 20th November WVFC staged a concert at Shearsby Bath to support the fabulous Hope Against Cancer charity once again. A superbly- attended event featured superb DJ sets and live performances, with Welford’s very own Startled Magpies a particular highlight. Our particular thanks to all who generously donated an array of wonderful raffle prizes and helped us raise a total of £1,100.

#### **WVFC RAISES MORE THAN £1,000 FOR ‘PSC SUPPORT’**

Our second charity calendar – “The (c)Hunks of Welford Victoria” raised money for a charity close to our hearts.

PSC Support helps people suffering from a very rare, chronic liver condition and a member of our club’s family has PSC. Featuring our Veterans and Sunday Adults in varying states of undress, it raised £1,010 for the charity.

But as well as raising money for these incredible causes, we also think that the opportunities we offer for exercise and socialising do a little good too – not just to people’s physical health, but to their mental well-being as well.

There’s always room for improvement –we’d love to win our leagues, but that’s secondary. We want more participation. We’re always open to new volunteers – especially if they can coach – but we feel we need a few more players because sometimes getting a team out has been a struggle. The Under 8s (soon to be Under 9s) sessions are really fantastic and deserve a larger number of boys and girls to attend. Working with the Under 16s (soon to be Under 17s) is incredibly rewarding and being part of the Veterans’ squad is just great for those of us refusing to accept we’re getting any older. We want to offer football to girls and women too – the Girls’ Development squad wound down before the pandemic and we’d love for that to start up again

### **JOIN US**

If you want to play weekend matches or just join training sessions during the week, we’d love to hear from you.

Please contact Simon Stevens (**07707 654510 | [secretary@welfordvictoria.com](mailto:secretary@welfordvictoria.com)**) or Barrie Dowsett (**[chairman@welfordvictoria.com](mailto:chairman@welfordvictoria.com)**) We don’t currently have a women’s team, but we’d like one. If you’d be interested in joining, please get in touch

Team	UNDER 9s	UNDER 17s	SATURDAY ADULTS	SUNDAY ADULTS	VETERANS	WOMEN
<b>Eligibility</b>	Boys and Girls under 9 at 31/08/2021	Boys under 17 at 31/08/2022	Men 16+	Men 16+	Men 35+ (but all are welcome at 'training')	
<b>Training</b>	Wednesdays 18:30 Sportsfield	Tuesdays 18:30 Sportsfield	Wednesdays 19:30 Sportsfield	Tuesdays 18:30 Sportsfield	Wednesdays 19:30 Sportsfield	
<b>Matches</b>	N/A	Sundays 14:00	Saturdays 14:00	Sundays 10:30	Sundays 10:30	

WELFORD SPORTSFIELD, NEWLANDS ROAD, NN6 6HR

# WEDNESDAY NIGHT IS FOOTBALL NIGHT...!

**UNDER 9s (MIXED)**  
18:30 - 19:30

**UNDER 17s (BOYS)**  
18:30 - 19:30

**VETERANS (MEN)**  
19:30 - 20:45ish

INCLUSION TEAMWORK RESPECT SUPPORT

**WELFORDVICTORIA.COM/JOIN-US**

## Appendix I

### Parish Meeting Report from Welford WI - April 2022

Like most organisations the last two years have been challenging but we have ' weathered the storm'.

We had zoom meetings for coffee, committee and speakers from February 2021 before resuming in the Village Hall in June, with restricted numbers, wearing of masks, no coffee or raffle and running zoom alongside. Speakers were either on zoom or in person covering tax, social history of fashion, career in the news, Welford Polish Camp and School, Hedging and Farming, Dancing with Diana and Coco Chanel.

During lockdown Secretary Jane produced a weekly newsletter which is still running now although fortnightly. As soon as permitted a walking group was formed on a Saturday morning and craft afternoons commenced on a Monday afternoon in the village hall to learn new skills. Both still going along with delivery of flowers for illness and birthdays.

We continued, in accordance with Government guidelines, to sell books and jigsaws for charity and a cheque for a staggering amount of £536.00 was presented to the Lewis Foundation in September. This year our charity is Thomas's Fund.

Although lots of events and outings have been cancelled we have managed to attend, provide or support numerous things, a few of which are:-

- Goody bags
- Advent Jars
- Quizzes
- Street Market
- Flowers to decorate the pocket park ,.
- Visit to Tolthorpe to see The Importance of Being Ernest
- Lunch at the Bulls Head
- Carol Service in the Chapel
- Christmas Jar Swop
- Supplying green hearts for Big Green Week
- Donated food for the homeless
- Posters on ovarian cancer being displayed in ladies toilets in facilities throughout the village
- Buying a tree for the Jubilee
- On line courses run by Denman College
- Cakes for Cynthia Spencer Hospice
- Toys on the Table
- Attracting new members
- Northamptonshire Federation event and outings

I think the highlight was when we sang Jerusalem at our April 2022 meeting for the first time since February 2019.

As everyone knows the WI likes a challenge and I think we have met a big one and look forward to the future with hope.

### Appendix J Community Groups not at the meeting but had supplied a report

#### Allotment Association

At the start of the first lockdown in March 2020 there was some uncertainty as to whether it would be possible to work on the allotments. But as the weather soon became warm and sunny people started to come and cultivate their plots.

We received guidelines from the Allotments governing body through the Parish Clerk which I put up on the notice board. The theme of this was to use common sense, no sharing of tools, to wear gloves when operating the water taps. We also propped the entrance gate open so no one had to touch it and obviously keeping out distance.

All the plots were taken and as it became an excuse to get out in the fresh air people kept asking for a plot so we had a long waiting list!!

We still have a waiting list in April 2022, but during 2020 & 2021 as plots became vacant I split some of them in two to allow more people to get off the list with a 1/2 plot and some even shared with someone.

There are 54 plots in total which is the same number that were drawn up in 1896 when the area for the allotments was originally leased by the Parish council from the Earl of Normanton. The land was then bought by Mr William Wakefield in 1909 and leased back to the Parish Council for 15 years and has been ongoing ever since.

At the bottom of the plots on the right hand side the area that had become very neglected a sub-committee was looking at making it into Bee and Butterfly wildflower garden as wildflowers were becoming more rare in the county through more intense farming methods and to encourage bees in particular that were in decline and butterflies to help with pollination. This was first discussed in 2014.

After some different ideas since then we now have an orchard planted with fruit trees and various benches made out of tree trunks or metal construction allowing people to sit a while and look at the view across to North Kilworth.

We have an annual allotment judging competition with various categories including one for an allotment using organic principles.

At the top of the allotments there is a table for people to put surplus produce and/or seedlings for locals or people out walking as there is a footpath through the allotments.

**William Lees Secretary**

## **ANNUAL REPORT MAY 2021 – APRIL 2022 From your Conservative Councillors**

May will mark the first anniversary of the creation of West Northamptonshire Unitary Council (WNC). It has been a challenging year for everyone with the pandemic and then the sad situation with the Afghans and Ukrainians refugees.

Nonetheless, your Council's first priority was to be rigorous with its finances in year one.

Up to date, WNC accounts are solid. Without using our reserves, we closed the year on budget – possibly even under budget (we still need to be audited).

To achieve this demanded a new rigour and a new approach to budgeting. We are delivering our manifesto and main actions in our first year as follows:

- WNC joined the UK 100 Net Zero Council group



- WNC has been chosen to be a pilot for Integrating Social Care. In the next few months, this will be rolled out for the benefit of our residents

- The trust for Children is working well for our most vulnerable children

These are the major elements of spending in our budget. By making Adults and Children services robust, your Council will deliver our manifesto in full.

We also took some small actions which have an important impact on your life

- Fly tipping: after a few successful prosecutions, we are going to take a hard line towards the culprits as we want to stop this blight on our environment. We also have a great recycling centre at Brixworth.

- Tree planting: we have been active helping communities and schools to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and to be part of the Tree Canopy Challenge

- Covid Grants: We had £2,500 Covid grant per councillor. We spent it helping across our ward and across the ages from the Scouts to the WI, focused on improving well-being.

Now, towards the future, we are looking to develop a new strategy for our rural connectivity, to make planning across WNC a smoother process and to improve the interaction you have with WNC.

Finally, we would like to thank everyone who contacted us. It is only by working together that we will make our West Northamptonshire Council the best for us all.

**Cllr Kevin Parker and Cecile Irving-Swift**  
**April 2022**

### **Helen Dyson, Biodiversity Advisor**

The arrival of the Covid pandemic scuppered plans for the Welford 'Bioblitz Day'. This will now be held in 2023 to complete the wildlife species audit of the parish.

Focus has shifted to planting trees.

The role of trees in controlling climate change is well-known. Tree cover in this area is just 8% compared with 13% in similar areas. There is also the added and urgent need to address ash die-back disease which is becoming more and more apparent. Approximately half the mature trees in Welford are ash trees.

Unfortunately, it isn't as simple as just getting saplings and planting them. The parish has little or no public land available for the purpose and roadsides and verges are not always suitable due to the utility piping that lurks below.

So we need expert help, and to that end, an application was made to The Lottery Fund for cash to commission a feasibility study.

### **RIGHT TREE, RIGHT PLACE, RIGHT TIME**

The application has been successful and already plans are being made under the twin banners of 'The Queen's Green Canopy' and 'Plant a Tree for 23'.

It is intended, that by working with the Wildlife Trust, the Northants Tree Officer and Northants ACRE to involve as many people and organisations in the village to make the idea of planting hundreds of trees throughout the parish, a reality.

## Welford and Sulby Historical Society notes for Parish Council

The historical society hasn't met since September 2021. We meet next on 5<sup>th</sup> May at 1900 in the village hall and will be meeting bi-monthly for the rest of the year. We normally attract over 25 people to our meetings.

**Sulby Book** – We launch the Sulby Hall Kitchen Garden book on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May at the Gliding Centre, 2-4pm. The book includes the history of the hall and the families that lived there.

**Welford Mill and Harold family** – members have been researching Welford Mill and the Harold family.

**Facebook** – Our Facebook page now has over 500 members and a high level of activity, sharing photos, memories and looking for answers to local history questions. Bob Cooke has been sharing his huge collection of family photographs and postcards of the village.

**Francis Howcutt** – who runs the Naseby historical society Facebook page, has acquired for us the entire Welford 1921 census directly from Kew.

**October Exhibition** – We are looking to borrow the Welford cup replica from Northampton Museum for an exhibition in October.

**Collaborations** – we are working with the church on a “70 Years of Welford” Jubilee exhibition and contributing to a proposed monument to celebrate 60 years of the Gliding Centre.

**Parish Magazines** We have archived a collection of Parish Mags from 1905-1950

**Geophysical Surveys** – we are looking at the possibility of surveying key historical sites in both villages using geophysics. We want to combine that with data from LIDAR and fieldwalking.

**Bill Wright** – April 2022.

### WELFORD ACTION GROUP – Update for Parish Meeting

An overview of our current activities and plans.

- We meet National Highways twice a year to discuss upcoming A14/M1/M6 roadworks and the required mitigation plans. Also ongoing discussions to improve emergency diversion routes.
- The meeting with the Minister of State for Transport was cancelled a week before the first lockdown. We have not rearranged as we need to engage with the new unitary authority first. We are liaising with Cllr Harris.
- We continue to object to proposals for a new quarry, bagging and batching plant in Husbands Bosworth.
- We have sought hard traffic movement data from the operations at Pebble Hall which has only been possible by enforcement action being taken by LCC.
- The operators at Bruntingthorpe Proving Ground continue to do a very effective job keeping car transporters to the required route, and we encourage people to continue to report any infringements to them.
- We continue to support the two SID devices.
- We support Oliver Tann's proposal for traffic calming at the south entrance to the village.