

# Parish of Walkeringham

## Annual Assembly 21st April 2021

### Chairman's Report

#### **Covid 19 Pandemic 2020/2021**

The period between March 2020 and the current date have been difficult from a Parish Council perspective. Face to face meetings have not occurred since March 2020 and virtual meetings, where members of the public have been able to attend via a 'Zoom' link have become normal. In this way, the Parish Council has maintained its operations albeit in a restricted way.

A Village Hub operated by the Village Hall & Playing Field Committee has been a beacon of local endeavour during this period providing a village food shop and offering deliveries to local house-bound residents. Our thanks go to all involved.

#### **Village Council Tax Precept**

Walkeringham Parish Council increased its precept by 3.1% for the coming year. The increase was kept to a minimum during these tricky times.

To put this year's PC precept into a local perspective, a band D property in Walkeringham will pay a Parish Council precept of £66.83. In Gringley this figure is £65.81, in Misterton £128.86, in West Stockwith £133.10, and in Beckingham £85.75

#### **Walkeringham Neighbourhood Plan**

The Neighbourhood Plan has completed all its examination stages and has been approved by the External Examiner and approved by Bassetlaw District Council. The Pandemic has interrupted the final step of the plan which is the public referendum which was scheduled to take place in July 2020. This referendum had to be postponed until 6th May 2021 which is the new date for Walkeringham residents to approve or dismiss the plan. The plan itself however does still have influence and has shown its worth in several local planning disputes, being used by both Bassetlaw Planning and Nationally.

## **Walkeringham Community Garden**

One project which has moved forward during the Pandemic is the proposed Walkeringham Community Garden. The site has now been legally transferred from Bassetlaw DC to Walkeringham PC. A Garden Design Consultant was employed to make proposals for the site and his design was accepted as suitable. A grant of £10k had previously been awarded to the Parish Council from the National Lottery for this project. A contractor has now been approved to install the hard landscaping for the garden and that is expected to go ahead during 2021.

This is an exciting and ambitious local project which should improve both facility and visual appeal onto an otherwise unused piece of ground.

## **Walkeringham Parish Council Website**

During 2020, the Parish Council website has been transformed.

The new site operates from [www.walkeringham.info](http://www.walkeringham.info) and as the new site was being built, it existed alongside the previous website.

The new site is now fully up and running and is a significant improvement and is receiving a much higher number of visits than previously.

The Parish Council, during the last year, also introduced its own Facebook page to try to get news items out to residents as quickly as possible.

## **Notable Village Losses**

Former Parish Councillor Maynal Vessey died in 2020 following a long illness as did former DAC leader and Village Magazine editor Jean Priestley. May they both be remembered with affection by our community.

Roger Capp and John Sowter both left the Parish Council during the past year. Roger had been a very long standing Councillor of 30 years and John left due to illness. I wish them both well.

Chris Howard  
Chairman Walkeringham Parish Council  
01427 891850