

*Healing Parish Council*

**ANNUAL REPORT &  
ACCOUNTS FOR THE  
YEAR 2023/24**

*Published May 2024*

# ANNUAL REPORT

For Year 23/24

During the year members of the public, Ward Councillors and development team representatives attended the meetings. The agendas for meetings are published approximately one week before the meetings and meetings are held in the new Village Hall.

The Council had elections in May 2023 and only 4 members stood for election and were returned at that point. The Council then finished the year with 7 members There are 10 available seats on the Parish Council, so vacancies remained throughout the year.

Councillors attended the meetings as shown:

## Attendances from total of 12 monthly meetings

Cllr. Paul Fieldgate (Chairman)	12 from a possible 12
Cllr. Melanie Dickerson	9 from a possible 12
Cllr. Dave Spreadborough	12 from a possible 12
Cllr. Dave McIntyre	8 from a possible 9
Cllr. Hannah Jones	6 from a possible 7
Cllr. Hannah Tofton	4 from a possible 7

## Former members

Cllr. Steve Norton	3 from a possible 6
Cllr. Ashley Wright	1 from a possible 1
Cllr. Neil Cass	0 from a possible 4

Councillors also served and represented Healing on various outside bodies at meetings including the Town and Parish Liaison Committee held with NELC and the ERNLLCA District Meetings.

Councillors and the Clerk also regularly attend training sessions provided through NELC, NALC, the local County Association and the Society of Local Council Clerks. During the year the Chairman and the Clerk attended the Local Government Conference in Hull.

## Parish Clerk

The Parish Clerk for the year was Kathy Peers, a CiLCA qualified Clerk. Mrs. Peers is also an associate member of the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC).

## *Planning Matters*

---

The Parish Council is a statutory consultee of the local Planning Authority, which is North East Lincolnshire Council. The Parish Council is consulted on every planning application within the Parish and also those which are on its boundary or close to its boundary within a neighbouring Parish.

During the course of the year 21 planning applications and/or planning appeals were considered which is a significant decrease on the previous year. Consultations were also received, mainly on potential industrial projects in the parish area or adjacent.

The Parish Council also took part in consultation with NELC on the new proposed local plan, submitting comments on the plan to the local authority.

All planning applications and comments made by the Parish Council are published each month in the Healing Village News and are contained in the minutes published on the Parish Council website.

## *Healing Village Newsletter*

---

The Parish Council continued with the Newsletter throughout the year. The Newsletter goes to every household in the village and this is carried out by a team of local Healing-based young people who act as a distribution team for the Parish Council.

Although village groups advertise their events for free and publish monthly reports, advertising space is professionally sold within the magazine and this income helps to support the cost of producing the Newsletter. Advertising brought in £2,990 revenue during the year which is an increase on previous years.

The Newsletter is now being printed in full colour.

The Parish Council is grateful to all those who have advertised their services or business during 23/24 through the Newsletter and also to the local village groups who submit their articles for each edition.

### *Healing Village Hall*

---

The Village Hall changed its operating system when the new Hall become operational. The Parish Council still employs two job-share members of staff for the Village Hall during the week and two job-share members who act as weekend caretakers.

During the year revenue generated from Hall usage was £15,474 this is around a 25% increase on the previous year's hall revenue. The Hall has seen increased usage both from regular hiring groups and private parties held at the weekends.

### *Land ownership*

---

The Parish owns the Moated Manor Site, Cornflower Copse and land at Quantock Gardens. It also leases Porri's Wood, Fords Avenue Park and Poplar Road Park from NELC.

Routine maintenance is built in each year for the sites.

The Parish Council conducts bi-annual inspections of all of its Sites, as required by the insurance cover and submits a report to the Council meetings for works to be agreed and then carried out.

For the two park areas, the Parish Council is responsible for grass cutting, hedge cutting, tree maintenance, playground equipment inspection and maintenance, emptying the bins, tennis court maintenance and also the Bowling Green maintenance.

The Healing Bowling Club donate towards the maintenance of the bowling green which it uses as its home ground.

The costs of maintaining the Parks for the year is subsidised by NELC, with the Parish Council responsible for business rates, insurance and utility costs for water and energy. NELC supports the Parish Council by reimbursing the costs for essential maintenance of grass cutting, hedge cutting and emptying of the bins. NELC repaid the Parish Council £6,457 towards the maintenance costs incurred during the previous year of 22/23.

## *Finance*

---

The precept set by the Parish Council for 23/24 was £65,000.

Other income came from the following sources:

- Hall Revenue - £15,474
- Newsletter advertising - £2,990
- VAT reclaimed from previous year - £5,715
- Ward Cllr. funding - £1,800
- Events Income – £1,882
- Parks subsidy from NELC - £6,457

Basic expenditure was as follows:

- Village Hall expenditure - £13,751 (excluding the costs of staffing) this includes some new equipment, loan repayment against loan taken towards new hall build, water rates, the Performing Rights Society licence, heating and lighting and general everyday maintenance and repairs and a proportion of the insurance cover of the Council. Business rates were given free of charge for the year as part of local business support assistance.
- Staffing costs - £28,128 which covers 6 permanent staff positions – the Parish Clerk, four staff positions at the Village Hall and 1 position for a litter picker. The expenditure includes staff salaries, relief/holiday cover for the village hall,

administration and all Inland Revenue PAYE payments, pension contributions and Employer's Liability cover. Rates for salaries are set either with national living wage rates or through NALC for Government Officers salary scales.

- Donations - £800 which goes to the Church to assist with its grass cutting maintenance.
- Newsletter - £12,457 which covers printing and distribution costs.
- Maintenance of the park sites - £12,914
- Events - £7,273 which included £850 for the purchase of the new marquee used for events etc., the summer holiday clubs, the Christmas event, the Summer event and entertainment and then the senior's lunches.
- Highways/Footpaths/Land management - £6,757 on grass cutting and general maintenance, tree maintenance on the sites owned by the Council and works on the Healing Moated Site including removal of the old fencing and tidying the site and having an initial treatment for nettles and thistles
- General admin - £11,850 which covers insurances, subscriptions to local authority organisations, training, stationery and office expenses, website provision, internal and external audit services, maintenance of the defibrillators under a contract with LIVES and any necessary repairs including £800 for a new cabinet and fitting for one of the de-fibs.

As with each year, the Parish Council met to set the precept and agree its budget in January 2024 for the coming year 24/25 and during the year the Council complied with its statutory requirements to have both an internal and external audit carried out. The Council's internal auditor for the year was Mr. M. Peterson and the external auditor (appointed through the DCLG) was PKF Littlejohn, based in Canary Wharf, London. There were no required outcomes from the audit which was conducted.

The Parish Council complied with the requirements of the audit regulations and advertised a period for electors to inspect the accounts should they wish to do so. The Parish Council also publishes its financial information on its website during the year.

## *General Matters*

---

During the financial year 23/24 the main project was the installation of a hearing loop into the Village Hall upon request from hall users. Thanks to our Ward Cllrs., Cllr. Henry Hudson and David Hasthorpe for ward funding to help us deliver this and other projects.

The Parish Council continues to maintain a dialogue with the local policing team, although there is very limited attendance at meetings, but monthly written reports continue to be received.

The Parish Council organised the Remembrance Day Event in November in liaison with the Royal British Legion, which was very well attended as always. Thanks to the Parade Marshall, Mr. Wayne Okopskyj, for his help in planning the event and all others who helped on the day.

During the year the Council continued its new programme of events. The quiz nights were very popular, with 4 being held, and thanks to Alexanders Plaice for supplying the pie and peas each time and also to all those who have attended. There are usually around 70 people at each quiz and they are proving very popular.

The Summer Event of a Village Fete and a Proms in the Park music event was very popular and attended by over 250 residents. Thanks to Luke Robinson, local band Relic and Adam Austin for our entertainment, everyone who helped put the marquee up and helped us man and run the event and to the Scouts for their refreshments on the day.

The Summer Clubs were also very popular with a different set of activities each week and these were well attended.

A new venture of Seniors Lunches for the over 70's were also very popular, enjoying the social aspect of getting together and enjoyed a good lunch. The last one of the year, held in March 2024 saw a collaboration with Healing Academy and a dozen of the pupils coming along to help serve the refreshments. This was very successful and was warmly welcomed by those attending and this will hopefully continue throughout 2024/25.

The Christmas event saw carol singing around the tree outside of the Hall with refreshments afterwards and a big thank you to Vibe Musical Theatre Group for assisting us with this event.

The Ward Councillors for the Wolds Ward, which includes Healing Village, were Cllrs. David Hasthorpe and Henry Hudson, with Cllr. Hasthorpe attending the majority of the Parish Council meetings.