

# Foston Parish Council

ANNUAL REPORT 2014/2015

## MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS AND COMPLETED PROJECTS

### Chairman's Summary

Foston Parish Council remains optimistic despite our limited resources and we think positively to make the most of what we have. It has been an eventful year for the Council with two major planning applications, the Neighbourhood Plan and the Japanese Knot Weed to deal with. The main focus has been the Neighbourhood Plan and we are well on the way to having a draft document. Augusta Lees who has been a Councillor for four years has resigned following her marriage and relocation to London; we wish her a long and happy marriage.

**Website:** The parish website continues to grow and can be found at [www.fostonvillage.org.uk](http://www.fostonvillage.org.uk). When looking for a local service make the village website your first stop - <http://www.fostonvillage.org.uk> on the home page click on Foston Business Directory. We are now offering free Advertisements to Foston based businesses on our website.

**Finance** - The Annual precept was £9300 and other income included grants towards the Neighbourhood Plan for £698, £666 towards keeping the village tidy, £400 Big Society Lottery grant from Cllr Paul Wood for community projects and £150 for keeping part of the Goosegate footpath clear.. Pitch hire raised £570. The Parish council donated £1100 to 7 village organizations with grants from £50 to £500. Major expenditure items included Playing Field mowing and maintenance £1365 including starting to remove Japanese knotweed, staff costs £2513, insurance and audit £409, neighbourhood plan expenditure £5037 plus £650 for village tidying and litter picking. This year we purchased tennis nets for the MUGA for £1215.

**Section 137 Grants:** We have continued to support a range of local good causes such and awarded s137 Grants to the Scouts, Conservation Group, Parent & Toddlers, Village Hall, and LIVES. The Parish Council also pays the loan for the repair of the Village Hall roof and St Peter's Church receives a grant to help with

grass cutting costs to keep the Churchyard neat and tidy for us all to enjoy.

**Meetings:** Foston Parish Council has had six Parish Council Meetings during the financial year.

**Planning:** During the year the Parish Council considered and reported on 7 planning applications. This included the two major developments the Top Farm de-rated wind turbine off Chapel Lane and 4 poultry units, 2 control rooms, office and general purpose building, feed bins, hard standing, gas tanks and electric substation off Fallow Lane. Other planning applications have been the demolition and construction of a property on Long Street and various minor alterations to properties and tree thinning.

**Conservation Group:** A Foston walks leaflet can be found here on the Lincolnshire County Councils website

[http://microsites.lincolnshire.gov.uk/upload/public/attachments/1320/Foston\\_Leaflet.pdf](http://microsites.lincolnshire.gov.uk/upload/public/attachments/1320/Foston_Leaflet.pdf)

This leaflet can also be found on the Parish Council's website under Conservation Group and is also available in the noticeboard on Main Street.

**Playing Field:** The Parish Council had instructed LK2 from Lincoln to take on the changing facility project; on the playing field unfortunately they declined to accept our project. The Parish Council continue to invest in the Playing Field and the Parish Council will soon be focused on the provision of improved facilities for the playing field. A feasibility study has been carried out and we have had a lot of support via the Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire and we are looking at the best way forward.

We will be looking at a business plan to get the project underway again in the not too distant future. The priority will be replacing the Footballers Hut with suitable facilities on the playing field which would benefit the residents, Scouts and Footballers when the Neighbourhood Plan is completed. We have already got a basic feasibility.

**Neighbourhood Watch:** This Group continues to receive information through the various co-ordinators. Insurance premiums can be reduced to members of Neighbourhood Watch schemes.

**Roads and Footpaths:** The Council continues to receive complaints from residents regarding speeding along Long Street, and Newark Hill. We are pleased with the resurfacing of Tow Lane and Church Street and Long Street is due to be dressed sometime in the next financial year.

**The Emergency Plan:** The Emergency Plan for the Parish is currently on-going.

**Community Cleaner:** The Scouts have continued with their role as community cleaner and have been given a proportion of the money allocated to the village for cleaning purposes. They will continue with this role for another year funding permitting.

## LOOKING AHEAD

**Neighbourhood Plan:** We have a core group of Volunteers and Parish Councillors putting together Foston's Neighbourhood Plan and they have worked tirelessly throughout the year with the help of the Planning Aid Advisor Clive Keeble who has advised us and held training sessions. We hope to have the plan completed in 2016. Once it has been to the referendum to be and this should give our village a major say in shaping development in our area.

**Broadband:** Broadband is at long last on its way to Foston and the cable has already arrived and we are waiting for a cabinet.

**CONCLUSION:** The Chairman wishes to express gratitude to all the members of the Village who give their time freely for the benefit of the Village. Thanks to all the members of the Parish Council, Clerk Mrs Wendy McCallin and internal Auditor Mr Patrick Traynor for their continued support and help throughout the year.

Finally we would like to thank the members of the neighbourhood Plan working group who have met regularly and worked tirelessly throughout the last 12 months to put together Foston's Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr. Mrs Christina M Lees,  
CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

## Councillors: Contact Details

Christina Lees, Chairman  
01400 281309  
Email: cmlees@btopenworld.com  
Western House Main Street Foston

Tracey Gardner, Planning  
01400 282727  
Email: tracey.gardner@talktalk.net  
Lancasters Goosegate Lane Foston

Stephen Peto, Neighbourhood Watch & Police Matters  
01400 282193  
Email: stephenpeto@btinternet.com  
Salix House 4 Highfield Close Foston

Malcolm Smith, Playing Field Management Committee:  
01400 283385  
Email: malcolmsmith159@btinternet.com  
Millom Long Street Foston

Augusta Lees  
01400 281309  
Email augustalees@btinternet.com

Ian Hesford  
01400 281441  
Email: ianhesford@hotmail.com  
Highfield Lodge, Long Street, Foston.

## Parish Clerk

Mrs Wendy McCallin  
01400 282001  
Email: Foston Parish Council  
foston.parishcouncil@fostonvillage.org.uk  
Clensey House Dry Doddington Newark  
Nottinghamshire NG23 5HT

South Kesteven District Council (**SKDC**)  
**01476 406080**

District Councillor Mrs Kaberry-Brown  
**01400 230413**

Lincolnshire County Council (**LCC**)  
**01522 552222**

County Councillor Paul Wood  
**01400 282223**

**Potholes** report to Highways on 01522 782 070 or **LCC** home page click on **Report**