

Market Deeping Town Council

Annual Report

May 2016 – April 2017



Mayor: Councillor Wayne Lester

Clerk: Julie Bourne
Deputy Clerk: Candace Brent

MARKET DEEPING TOWN COUNCIL MAYOR'S REPORT
MAY 2016 - APRIL 2017

In May 2016 I was delighted to be asked by members to continue in the role of Chairman for Market Deeping Town Council. As Chairman I attend all committee meetings and steer meetings of Full Council.

In March a ceremony was held at the Town Hall for the raising of the Commonwealth flag. This event occurred across the country and the Commonwealth. This event will be held yearly and I can see that this ceremony will grow and develop over time.

In June I hosted my Civic Service and was delighted to have been joined by members of this Council as well as other dignitaries from other Councils. After attending a wonderful service at St Guthlac's Church, hosted by the Reverend Philip Brent, refreshments were served at Coronation Hall. The hall looked splendid, decked out in union flags to also pay respect for the Queen's 90th birthday.

Unfortunately at my car boot which was held on the Glebe Field in June the weather wasn't kind to us and it poured with rain, that said though, we still managed to raise £100.

Part of my role in my term of office as Chairman is to raise awareness and support for local community groups. For 2016/17 my chosen charities were the Deepings Men's Group and the Army Cadet Force of Market Deeping. Fund raising events took place via a car boot sale, the Christmas Market, Carols round the Christmas tree and from ticket sales at the Mayors Civic Dinner, where the gang show put on a fantastic performance.

I am delighted that a total of £2419.32 was raised from these events and this will be split between the two charities. I am very grateful and thankful to all of you who gave your support and donated to the Mayors fund to support these two charities, hugely appreciated and thank you.

Work on our open spaces has continued throughout the year as our Park Keepers maintain these very important areas. In the spring snowdrops and crocuses (planted by the Rotary) burst into life at Riverside Park and Welland Gardens, nature providing a display of colour in the areas that are enjoyed by many. Over at the John Eve & Glebe Fields the cutting of grass went through right until November and the BMX track received a top up of dolomite dust to keep the track in good order. Every year an Arboriculturist inspects the trees at Riverside Park, Welland Gardens, John Eve & Glebe Fields, Rectory Paddock, as well as The Spinney and in the Cemeteries. Sadly we did lose one or two trees through decay and infection, however, the Woodland Trust provided us with 12 fruit trees and these have been planted. Our Park Keepers are managing their growth and development and are keeping a diary to share with the Woodland Trust on the saplings development.

The surface of the pathway between Oak Grove and the Cemetery was causing difficulties for some due to roughness of the topping. Through experimenting a new topping has been laid and this has made the surface easier to walk on / navigate for many. We will continue to monitor the surface for wear and tear. The extension of the iron fencing around the John Eve Field has blended in very well with the surroundings and provides protection for the field. Access on and off the field is now controlled by our Park Keepers so that we can always ensure only those who are authorised to use the field have access. At the end of May a joint project with Lincolnshire County Council is planned on Godsey Lane / John Eve Field in the location of the pedestrian crossing. For some time now many people have expressed concerns about the lack of visibility in the vicinity of the crossing, which is close to two schools. The objective of the project is to widen the pathway and improve the lighting on the crossing. In order to widen the pathway the existing hedge will need to be removed and planning permission has been sought for the removal of the hedge. A new wild life replacement hedge will be planted and this will

consist of; hawthorn, rowan, blackthorn, silver birch, hazel and oak, kindly supplied by the Woodland Trust. The saplings are to be planted in November and I would be delighted to hear from anyone, or local groups who would like to come and join us in November to help with the planting (date yet to be decided).

Every year our play equipment is inspected by RoSPA and as a Council we follow up with recommendations that are made. In addition weekly checks are performed by the Park Keepers and this is to ensure that we are aware of any potential issues or concerns so that we can correct them. There has been an issue under the Pendulum swing with puddling during wet weather. In the winter months our Park Keepers will carry out some work to help improve this situation and it is intended to remove the wet pour areas current surface and replace with bark. From September through to January I encouraged all Chairmen of committee's and members to carefully assess their budgets for the following year, ensuring that we get the best value for money for the public purse. Many sessions were held as each budget line was scrutinised. Residents of Market Deeping are an important part of this exercise and I would encourage residents to attend the public open session at Full Council meetings which are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm (excluding August) in the Town Hall Chambers where they can share ideas and thoughts with members of the Town Council.

In this past year the Council has been very pleased to have given support to:

- The Deepings Youth Centre £5,000
- Madcaps Play Scheme £4,000
- Deepings Library £6,000
- Deepings Lions (Carnival) £500
- Deepings Methodist Church (Summer /Lunch Club) £200
- Deepings Literary Festival £100
- The Rotary Club of the Deepings (Grimethorpe Colliery Band) £750
- Deepings Gang Show £500
- The British Legion £150
- Deepings Raft Race £250
- Deepings Methodist Church (Refurbishment of kitchen) £250
- Deepings Scouts and Guides £250

For the period 2017/18 a new requirement was included in the Precept planning for the cutting of the grass verges, brought about by Lincolnshire County Council informing all that they are to cease the cutting of the grass verges. Initially Parish and Town Councils understood that this would cease from the period ending 2016/17. Residents of Market Deeping were consulted as to whether it was their wish for this Council to take over the cutting of the verges, and the responses returned stated that the majority wanted the Council to take this task over which resulted in a small increase in the precept. Late in the day we were advised that Lincolnshire County Council will continue into 2017/18, therefore funds for this work will be ring-fenced and put aside for use in 2018/19.

I would also like to thank all of the Committee Chairmen, Town Councillors, the Clerks and our staff for their help over the past two years and collectively for maintaining and delivering the services to the residents of Market Deeping.

Councillor Wayne Lester

Mayor of Market Deeping 2015 - 2017

MARKET DEEPING TOWN COUNCIL AMENITIES & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT 2016 - 2017

Market Deeping Town Council is fortunate to own key pieces of green open spaces in the town for the enjoyment of its residents. Located at; Riverside Park, Welland Gardens, Glebe Field, John Eve Field, the Paddock where the pond is situated. These areas are maintained by our two Park Keepers who have a schedule of tasks to complete in order to keep the areas in good order.

Over the winter months the Park Keepers completed a maintenance programme which included the topping up of the BMX track, repairing and re painting benches and noticeboards, edging pathways, formal pruning of tree's and repairing fences etc.

Courtesy of the Woodland Trust fruit trees were given to the council (apple, cherry and pear) and these have been planted in the Paddock and John Eve Field. Our Park Keepers will maintain and monitor their progress as they grow, and we will keep the Woodland Trust up to date with the tree's progress.

We recently saw a burst of spring in the Welland Gardens and Riverside Park as the snowdrops and crocus came into bloom, a beautiful sight in splendid colour, a sign of spring's arrival...

Glebe Field / Godsey Lane

Over the years many residents have expressed concerns regarding the pedestrian crossing on Godsey Lane. Concerns raised included that the crossing was difficult for pedestrians and vehicle users alike due to poor visibility, and particular concerns raised that this crossing is located very close to schools that children use the crossing to enter the John Eve Field. These concerns were raised by this council to Lincolnshire County Council.

At the end of May 2017, works will be carried out to improve this area, the work will be funded jointly between this council and Lincolnshire County Council and will include the existing pathway in the vicinity of the pedestrian crossing on the side of the Glebe Field being widened, so that all who use the path will have more room including those who use buggies and wheelchairs. In order to widen the pathway the existing hedge will be removed. A new wild life hedge will be planted, courtesy of the Woodland Trust, and whilst the new saplings are growing a post and rail fence will be erected. At the same time Lincolnshire County Council will reinstate the pathway and resurface as well as improving the lighting on the pedestrian crossing.

The planting season for the new hedge saplings will be in November and this council will make contact with local groups and organisations inviting them to come along and help with the planting of the saplings.

John Eve Field – Play area

The wet pour area underneath the Pendulum Swing has been repaired on a number of occasions over time, the root cause is the ground underneath, consisting of a clay bed and the height of the water table. Towards the end of the year our Park Keepers will be taking up the wet pour area and replacing the surface with bark, this is hoped will help the issue of 'pooling' under the swing in wet weather.

John Eve Field – Oak Grove path to the Cemetery

Our Park Keepers and Cemetery Keeper have been trying different materials to help improve the surface of the path that runs from Oak Grove into the Cemetery. During April a new layer of dolomite dust will be applied which will be wacked down, it is hoped that this will improve the surface of the path.

Vandalism

The Council works hard to keep all of its green open spaces in good order and safe for people to use. Recently there have been acts of vandalism which have included; graffiti on benches and other areas, fires that have been started on the John Eve / Glebe Fields and most recently the cages that have been placed to protect the young trees have been damaged. This Council would greatly appreciate the help of its residents to help with this matter and if anyone see's any acts of vandalism to report these incidents to 101, the non-emergency police number.

Councillor Bob Broughton
Committee Chairman

MARKET DEEPING TOWN COUNCIL PLANNING & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

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For this report, I am focussing on our Council's developments in the context of our Planning & Highways responsibility referring to events of this year where relevant.

Local Plan

Our infrastructure is dictated by the Local Plan produced at regular intervals by South Kesteven District Council to cover development for the next twenty years. They are currently in the process of producing the next new plan, and we believe that it is vital that both we input officially and we urge yourselves to do so via the planned public consultation. This consultation will start now in July, delayed by the General Election, when there will be events in Market Deeping for your participation. These will be well advertised nearer the time.

Neighbourhood Plan

As you are aware, we in conjunction with Deeping St James are producing the Deepings First Neighbourhood Plan and we are one year into the project. Our timing is right as we are able to input our initial findings into SKDC's Local Plan mentioned above. This is particularly relevant where our council has to review major site applications as I will refer to in the next item.

The Deepings North East Area Developments

We have been asked to comment on a proposal for development west of Linchfield Road. Although this is in Deeping St James, it is relevant to Market Deeping. The Current Local plan for the Deepings, says that we need about 800 new houses in the next 20 years. Most of this is allocated to be built on the sites bordered by Linchfield Road and Towngate East to the east and north. We must therefore press for its design to conform to the infrastructure and the holistic concept that we are proposing in our Neighbourhood Plan. Hence it is important that we work together with our Deeping St James Council neighbours.

Footpath No 4

This is the footpath to the south of Tesco, by the new housing estate and eventually reaching Linchfield Road. A significant problem has risen from the changes to the footpath from the development. A lot of concern has been expressed by the various interested parties, and a satisfactory negotiated settlement/compromise needs to be reached which may need some legal council.

Amenity Cutting of the Grass Verges

In March 2016, Lincolnshire County Council gave notice that from April 2017, it would cease Amenity Cutting of all grass verges on roads and footpaths in built up areas throughout the County.

Our Council, along with Deeping St James Parish Council, decided to accept this responsibility and submitted it to public consultation, indicating the estimated increase in Council Tax that would arise. Following a positive response, the councils went out to tender to three companies to our specification and received quotations.

From this information, we adopted a precept for this task for the financial year commencing April 2017. Late in the day, LCC notified us that our contracts for Amenity Cutting, which had been subcontracted to SKDC, who had further subcontracted to a private contractor Glendale Grounds Management, have a further year to run to March 2018. We have therefore to continue under this contract, charged to LCC. The contract has a reduced number of cuts, but Glendale has agreed with us, that they will give us cuts every 4 to 6 weeks through this season. Their first cut for this season for our two Councils was started in week commencing the 27th March.

This is therefore an interim year, and we have notified the quoting companies that we will return to them again at the end of this year, for the contract starting April 2018.

Councillor David Shelton
Committee Chairman

MARKET DEEPING TOWN COUNCIL TOWN HALL AND CEMETERY COMMITTEE
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2016-17 has seen improvements in both the Town Hall and in the cemetery area. The groundsmen have worked very hard throughout the year and I believe the cemetery and surrounding areas look better than they ever have with staff not only on top of the job but making suggestions for improvements which have then been implemented.

The Cemetery

This year we had to remove two trees from the new cemetery which had grown too large and were damaging nearby burial areas. One tree in the old cemetery was also removed due to rot at the base. All the bushes in the old cemetery have been 'lolly popped', clearing the ground at the base and look very attractive. Ivy continues to be kept under control with the latest area being cleared on the driveway hedge.

A new feature is the water trough to replace the dripping tap where you can now fill a watering can instantly and let the trough fill back up on its own. We have cleared the old roses round the skip and replaced them with a flower planter. Flower planters, built by our staff, now line the edge of the gravel drive and should look really attractive in the summer.

This year should see the start of a new phase of ashes burials in the cemetery. They are going to be along the northern fence and will be four rows of plaques, 10ins by 10ins, set into the ground. The colour of stone used will be a matter of choice for the family concerned. This will allow for easy maintenance of the area as well as reducing costs to families.

The Spinney

Winding through the Spinney, on the path to the new cemetery, the plants that have been planted over the last four years are now beginning to mature and enhance the area. Interesting fungi can be seen quite often due to old tree stumps below the surface and the wood chippings we put on each year. The volunteer team has planted another £200 of bushes and laid a layer of wood chippings over the whole area again. It is now an integral element of the cemetery and people scatter ashes, sit and reflect on the bench or simply walk through, often when walking their dogs to take advantage of its quiet beauty. Thanks must be given to Mike Stott and Keith McClelland for their sterling voluntary help over the last two years.

Town Hall

Our clerks Julie Bourne and Candace Brent have worked hard this year and have supported our ground staff to achieve the transformation in our park and cemetery areas. We have provided them with improved heating and double-glazing. The Town Hall will also have a new coat of paint this year and a little work on the outside fabric. The Town Hall may be small but it provides a central place at the heart of town to meet and make decisions for the Town Council *and* local groups. It is also the place where our invaluable clerks advise and guide members of the public whilst assisting councillors to fulfil their obligations successfully. The clerks are vital to our community as they provide an essential service so I thank them for the excellent job they have done.

The Rectory Paddock

Our volunteers from Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust continue to advise us on the planting and maintenance of the Paddock but they have not been needed for any major works this year. We have now purchased a new flail that allows us to cut the meadow at the right height and also collects the grass. It is an amazing piece of equipment that will save money in only three years and save hours of labour immediately. The quality of the paddock will be improved with regular maintenance done exactly when needed. Norah Littler and the team of volunteers have continued to work on the wildflower areas and in February, on the bank of the pond Norah planted dozens of cowslips that she had grown from seed at home. We have cleared the final hedges along the main road and also along the cemetery driveway. Getting rid of the ivy and brambles has revealed new planting had taken place but not allowed to grow. Now, with proper maintenance, this hedge can flourish with a little help and encouragement from our skilled staff.

The pond has been a revelation this year with water levels a foot higher and full-length waders needed to go in for regular maintenance. Frogs and newts are the main residents but we have seen small fish and, of course, the eel spotted two years ago. In the Paddock itself we have had a deer and when Keith was mowing near the road hedge a fox frightened him to death! It was happily sunbathing and was not pleased to have to move. Finally the swift tower will be turned on as usual to emit calls to attract birds returning from Africa and offer them a safe home.

Mapping project – Walks around the Deepings.

On our website there is a folder which has walks in the area of The Deepings to allow locals and visitors easy access to quality maps and information to enhance their enjoyment of our surroundings. The first five are already on line and more will be added. Detailed maps and descriptions will be enhanced by a folder of walks with detailed maps but less description for people to try. All the walks have been compiled with the aim of making them safe for families. Warning! There may be stiles involved in some as well as plenty of mud occasionally.

In the future, it may be a good idea to have a section submitted by members of the public so anyone with ideas for routes with maps and route descriptions already done, please submit them to the council. Let's get walking, exploring and enjoying our countryside.

Finally, I would like to thank all the committee members for their dedication to the job and their invaluable help throughout the year.

Cllr. Roy Stephenson
Committee Chairman

Draft Summary of Market Deeping Town Council Expenditure 2016-2017

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Precept Amount</u>	<u>Taken from Ear marked reserves</u>	<u>Updated Precept Amount</u>	<u>Total Spend</u>	<u>Remaining Budget</u>
Administration	£84,044		£84,044	£79,962	£4,082
AOS	£105,894	£32,000	£137,894	£127,074	£10,820
Cemetery	£12,372		£12,372	£10,214	£2,158
Highways	£10,501		£10,501	£9,814	£687
Town Hall	£6,526		£6,526	£4,428	£2,098
Totals	£219,337	£32,000	£251,337	£231,492	£19,845

Grants Aid payments - Apr 16 to Mar 17

These monies constitute s137 expenditure

Charity/Organisation	Amount
Deepings Lions (Carnival)	£500 £500.00
Deepings Methodist Church (Summer Lunch Club)	£200
The Rotary Club of the Deepings (Grimethorpe Colliery Band)	£750
Deepings Literary Festival	£100
Deeping Gang Show	£500
Royal British Legion	£150
Deeping Scouts and Guides	£250
Deepings Methodist Church (kitchen refurbishment)	£250
Deepings Raft Race	£250

Budget for 2016/17 = £3000

Amount remaining in budget:

£50.00

Market Deeping Town Council

Events Calendar 2016/17



10 th May 2017	7.30pm	Annual General Meeting, Town Hall Chambers, Market Place
20 th June 2017	6.30pm	Walking the Footpaths - meet at the Town Hall
2 nd July 2017		Deepings Carnival, John Eve & Glebe Fields
11 th July 2017	6.30pm	Walking the Footpaths - meet at the Town Hall
15 th July 2017	2pm	St Guthlac's Church Fete, St Guthlac's Church
6 th August 2017		Deepings Raft Race
5 th November 2017	3pm	Opening of Remembrance Garden, Riverside Park
11 th November 2017	11am	Two minutes silence at Riverside Park
12 th November 2017	10am	Remembrance Sunday, St Guthlac's Church
19 th November 2017	3pm	Closing of Remembrance Garden, Riverside Park
26 th November 2017	10am-4pm	Christmas Market, Market Place
19 th December 2017	7pm	Carols Round the Christmas Tree, Market Place