

Market Deeping Town Council

Annual Report

May 2017 – April 2018



Mayor: Councillor Mrs Pauline Redshaw

Clerk: Candace Brent

Deputy Clerk: Sarah Lydford

MARKET DEEPING TOWN COUNCIL MAYOR'S REPORT
MAY 2017 - APRIL 2018

The Council members were delighted when Candace Brent, the Town Clerk gained her CILCA qualifications. This means she is well qualified to advise the Council. It meant a lot of hard work and dedication. Many congratulations Candace.

In October, the Council members were pleased to welcome Sarah Lydford as Deputy Clerk and hope she enjoys working with us. Sarah is being mentored by Candace and is already attending training courses. She is already a great asset to the Council.

Several councillors have also been on training sessions during the year which have been very helpful. The Council have been very busy this mayoral year. The hedge has been removed from the Glebe field to enable people with pushchairs and mobility scooters to move safely along Godsey Lane. It is hoped that the newly planted hedge will grow quickly. The Council felt it necessary to erect a fence round the John Eve field to protect it, but there is still pedestrian access to use the field. The circus had to be abandoned due to the heavy rain and the fair had to be postponed. It is at this point I'd like to express my thanks to the Council's ground staff for all their hard work in keeping the Council's land looking so good. Special mention must also be made of the volunteers who are helping to maintain Rectory Paddock. The pond has been bubbling with frogspawn and many kinds of birds are enjoying the habitat. The daffodils have been a ray of sunshine on the recent dismal days and soon many varieties of wild flowers will bloom. The volunteers have been put forward for a special environmental award by the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust and we're delighted that they have reached the final round of the selection process.

The Town has been entered for the Best Kept Village award. It would take a community effort to impress the judges. They'll be looking for tidy gardens, litter free paths and roads, tidy notice boards as well as a well-kept industrial site, school grounds and churchyards. Can you help?

The Mohican Cubs visited the Town Hall and after hearing a bit of information about the building, a mock Council meeting was held. A mayor was elected together with various chairmen of committees. The cubs main focus was on houses in Market Deeping. Were there enough? - if not, the question was 'where will they be built?' The boys were also dismayed by the amount of litter around the Town. As a result of this discussion the cubs have made some posters reminding people about keeping the Town tidy. Maybe we have some future councillors in our midst!

My time on the mayoral circuit has been interesting and has taken me and my Consort Rob to different parts of Lincolnshire and North Cambridgeshire. We have enjoyed meeting fellow councillors and discussing problems we have in common. My thanks to Rob who has been very tolerant.

All residents are welcome to attend a council meeting and put their point of view and to ask questions. There is an SKDC councillor's surgery in the Town Hall on a Wednesday morning and Town and Parish councils' monthly surgeries at the Library on the first Saturday of each month from 10am till 12 noon. The council's Clerks are happy to provide information on weekdays between 9.30 and 12noon. It must be born in mind that Councillors can't act on their own and make decisions; they can provide information and refer any problems to the Council or appropriate bodies. All councillors are here to help and do their best for the Town.

My thanks go to my fellow councillors for their hard work and to the Town clerks who endeavour to keep us in order. All good wishes go to my successor.

Councillor Mrs Pauline Redshaw
Mayor of Market Deeping 2017 – 2018

MARKET DEEPING TOWN COUNCIL AMENITIES & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE
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Over the winter, the Town Council's park keepers, in addition to the usual winter maintenance schedule, have been busy keeping our park areas free of litter and repairing vandalised amenities.

The Riverside Gardens (next to the Boundary fish and chip shop) have now been completely cleared of Leylandii as the root systems were harbouring rats from the river, attracted by the fast food outlets on either side. The horse chestnut tree is diseased and has to go I'm afraid, but hopefully we will find a new replacement

The BMX track has been made ready for the summer use and we have had positive feedback on replacing the hedge on the Glebe Field, opposite the school, with a new fence and the footpath widened to 1.5 metres. A new hedge has been planted further into the field and is thriving.

The District Council, after strong lobbying from us, has paid for the new vehicle barriers on Tattershall Drive and Jamie and Peter, our two park keepers, have planted fifty new trees there, which were kindly donated by Oakwood Financial and Insurance Services.

After careful budgeting, a new ride on mower has been purchased with centre swivel steering to allow better grass mowing around the trees we planted twenty years ago that are now maturing.

In my view, our small town is fortunate to have these green areas of approximately six acres and a dedicated team to keep it maintained to such a high standard. We are ready for the new spring and summer season

Councillor Bob Broughton
Committee Chairman

MARKET DEEPING TOWN COUNCIL PLANNING & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

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This year we have managed the current Planning & Highways considerations and are involved in a significant number of important developments affecting both Market Deeping and Deeping St James.

This year we have, as a committee, been improving our effectiveness in our role in the processing of planning applications and our relationship with our SKDC counterparts.

I would like to mention two items related to this year: Firstly the amenity cutting of the grass verges, which we took over from LCC in 2017, but was delayed because of an error by them until 2018, has commenced by our contractors this April and we would ask for performance feedback.

Secondly, the Town Council continues to seek improvements to Footpath No. 4 which passes through the new Persimmon housing development behind Tesco. They have built houses which obstruct the official route of the path. LCC are proposing to make legal orders to move the official route of the path to match what is now there. We are unhappy with this and have objected to it. There will be a Public Enquiry this August, and we will be contesting, because this route is significant with the increasing travel to the large number of new houses planned for that part of Deeping St James.

Now to planning developments. The third and what I hope final version of the Draft SKDC Local Plan 2018 is about to be published. As I said last year, this report defines the proposed sites for housing and employment for Market Deeping and Deeping St James for the next twenty years. We are deeply involved in the discussions on it, and you will have your right to criticise at the Engagement Display in the Deepings Community Centre in June.

The Deepings Neighbourhood Plan, which answers to the two Councils, has a vision for the area and is therefore liaising also with SKDC about the strategic development and the effect of site location.

Specific careful consideration is needed for two sites with permission, Towngate East and Commercial Peterborough Road, and three Local Plan Sites, Towngate West and two sites west of the Linchfield Road.

One project that emerged from the Neighbourhood Plan, which has been adopted by our Council, is the Deepings Green Walk which is being presented at the Annual Town Meeting.

Finally, I would like to mention, following the announcement by the SKDC Leader, that among other projects, he wants a new Leisure Centre for the Deepings. This is something that has been considered here already, but in response the two Councils have formed a joint working party to specify the requirements for and location of what could be a Leisure/Cultural Centre.

Councillor David Shelton
Committee Chairman

MARKET DEEPING TOWN COUNCIL TOWN HALL AND CEMETERY COMMITTEE
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2017-18 has seen improvements in the Town Hall as well as progress in the eternal battle with the disposal of green waste in the cemetery and Paddock area. Thanks go to our excellent staff and the team of volunteers for their efforts throughout the year.

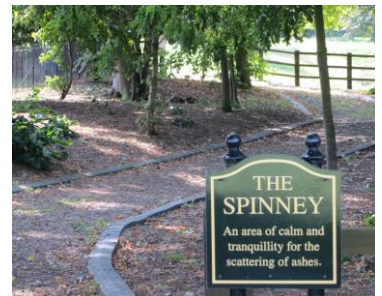
The Cemetery

A big problem for a number of years has been getting rid of our green waste from the cemetery, the fields, the Boundary and Riverside parks, the Spinney and the Paddock. Up until this year most waste has been put in the skip but in the past, wood and branches from the trees have also been skipped or burnt. We have now purchased an industrial wood chipper for the branches and smaller tree and bush waste. The cost of £1500 should soon be recovered from reduced use of skips and the great convenience and environmental benefit of chipping on the spot and using the chippings as mulch. This has meant that, since its purchase, there have been no piles of waste building up anywhere. The cemetery has been enhanced by the planting of flowers in boxes along the drive and the area around the store tidied and improved. We have had difficulty in the storage of wood chippings and the soil needed to top up the graves. This area was expanding and beginning to look very untidy. To solve the problem, railway sleepers have been purchased to contain the material with previous areas of damage being cleared ready for seeding this spring. The drive has been re-gravelled this autumn and the path to the Spinney, that had suffered damage, has been resurfaced as well.

The new phase of ashes burials in the cemetery has begun. This is 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. Thanks must go to our grounds staff, Jamie and Peter who both help in the cemetery but special thanks must go to our cemetery keeper, Ron Bottomley.

The Spinney

After a slow start, this area is being used on a regular basis now for the scattering of ashes. The plants are maturing well with people appreciating the quiet ambience of the woodland setting. We have kept it weed free and covered the whole area in wood chippings again. Many of the new plants this year have been donated by families of the bereaved from the list kept in the Town Hall. Families may choose to have a plaque placed on the path edging.



Town Hall

Thanks go to our clerks, Candace Brent and Sarah Lydford, who have worked hard supporting our ground staff to achieve the transformation in our park and cemetery areas. The Town Hall has had a new coat of paint this year and a little work on the outside fabric. The office window has also been double-glazed. After many years of the outside door sticking, we finally took it off its hinges and raised it with two washers. It now works perfectly. 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, providing 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 for the last two years. The new flail has allowed us to cut the meadow at the right height and also collects the grass. It is a very useful piece of equipment that has already saved us the cost of hiring outside contractors. The quality of the paddock has improved with regular maintenance and there are no longer piles of rotting grass all over

the field, stifling wild flowers. Norah Littler and the team of volunteers have continued to work on the wildflower areas and the pond. Norah planted dozens of cowslips that she had grown from seed at home last year and we hope they will have rooted to provide a fine display this year. In February, Norah was spotted planting half a bucket of orchid seeds around the front of the pond. Disappointingly, I am



told that these will take five years to grow and show evidence on the surface! Getting rid of the ivy and brambles is an on going task throughout the cemetery and Paddock and takes up a disproportionate amount of time. The pond continues to be a joy with water levels a foot higher so that we need full-length waders to go in for regular maintenance. Frogs and newts are the main residents but we have seen small fish and, of course, an eel spotted three years ago. In the Paddock itself we have had a deer and a fox. There are owls and sparrow hawks in the trees and the swift tower will be turned on as usual to emit calls to attract birds

returning from Africa and offer them a safe home.

Thanks must be given to Norah Littler, Mike Stott and Keith McClelland for their sterling voluntary help over the last two years. We also welcome Mike Donoghue to our Thursday morning band of volunteers.

Mapping project

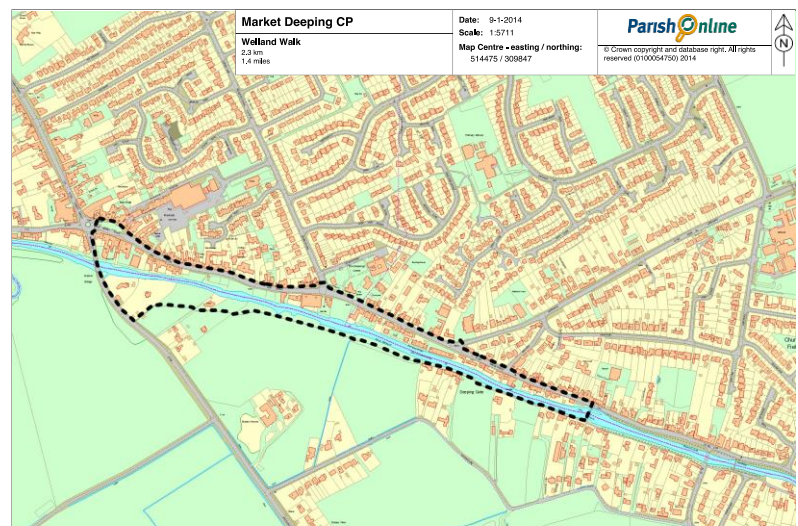
– Walks around The Deepings.

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 2017-2018

<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	£73,455		£73,455	£57,009	£16,446
AOS	£98,232	£250	£98,482	£58,699	£39,783
Cemetery	£12,506	£1,271	£13,777	£5,073	£8,704
Highways	£14,404	£2,568	£16,972	£7,645	£9,327
Town Hall	£6,825	£1,136	£7,961	£4,841	£3,120
Public Toilets	£350		£350	£787	(£437)
Totals	£205,772	£5,225	£210,997	£134,054	£76,943

Grants Aid payments - Apr 17 to Mar 178

These monies constitute s137 expenditure

Charity/Organisation	Amount
Deepings Methodist Church	£250.00
Deepings Lions	£500.00
Carer Sitter Service	£250.00
Age Concern Deepings	£500.00
Gang Show	£500.00
Royal British Legion: poppy wreath	£150.00
Deepings Bowls Club	£437.18
Total Grants paid to date:	£2,587.18

Budget for 2017/18 = £3000

Amount remaining in budget:

£412.82

Market Deeping Town Council

Events Calendar 2017/18



2 nd – 5 th March		Pinders Circus
13 th -18 th April		Taylors Fair
28 th -30 th April		Deepings Literacy Festival
20 th June	6.30pm	Walking the Footpaths – meet at the Town Hall
2 nd July		Deepings Carnival, John Eve & Glebe Field
11 th July	6.30pm	Walking the Footpaths- meet at the Town Hall
15 th July	2pm	St Guthlac's Church Fete
6 th August		Deepings Raft Race
27 th Sept – 1 st Oct		Circus Vladimir
11 th – 14 th Oct		Gray's Fair
5 th November	3pm	Opening of Remembrance Garden
11 th November	11am	Two minutes silence at Riverside Park
12 th November		Remembrance Sunday
19 th November	3pm	Closing of Remembrance Garden
26 th November	10am-4pm	Christmas Market
19 th December	7pm	Carols Round the Christmas Tree