

LINDSEY APM, 28th April 2021

LINDSEY PARISH COUNCIL - CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT (2020 & 2021)

May 2019 marked the start of a new four-year term for the Parish Council. We welcomed James Moore and Ben Howe to the Council to join Ruth Howe, Andrew Sturgeon, Rhett Corcoran, Mark Hainsworth and I. We also welcomed Leigh Jamieson as our new District Councillor who, along with Suffolk County Councillor James Finch, has kept us informed on all things in the district and county councils. Thank you to all councillors for their attendance and contribution. We are a small village but have to attend to the same regulatory requirements as all Parish Councils, so thanks also to our clerk, Vicky Waples, who has ensured we have continued to function properly during some challenging times.

The challenging times were as a result of Covid-19 and the accompanying restrictions, which meant we were unable to hold meetings. Last year's Annual meeting was canceled, and the Village Hall was closed. We had to change the way we worked and resumed our meetings remotely via the Zoom platform later in the year. Thank you to the clerk, councilors and other attendees for adapting so quickly to allow us to function so well throughout.

Babergh's planning service continued throughout the 'lock-downs' and we considered various planning applications and responded to the new Joint Local Plan consultation. Thanks again to our clerk for collating our deliberations into meaningful responses.

We were able to complete the permanent installation of the beacon, but, unfortunately, could not use it at commemorative events planned for the 75th anniversary of VE day in May 2020, or Remembrance Day in November, due to the Coronavirus restrictions. Work to re-locate the village sign was suspended but should be completed soon. We were also able to address the long-standing problem of flooding at the White Rose crossroads thanks to the efforts of Cllr James Moore.

We decided we should offer some leadership and direction in the parish to help address climate change issues. Cllrs James Moore and Andrew Sturgeon led our efforts and produced articles for the Lindsey newsletter to explain how the crisis has developed, how it relates to us, and what we can do to help. Thanks to both of them for their ongoing efforts to ensure the Parish Council are helping our community to change the way we live for the benefit of all.

Lindsey remains a great place to live and proved to be a great place for working-from-home during the last year. The Village Hall is now available again and the Lindsey Rose has re-opened as Covid restrictions are eased, so we can look forward to being able to meet more freely as the year progresses. The village is looking lovely in spring and the Parish Council is committed to maintaining what makes our wonderful village and its community so special.

Clive Arthey

Chairman, Lindsey Parish Council.