

Nettleham Parish Council Report 2024 – 25

The Parish Council staff have maintained its properties and managed the finances during the year. Other work has been carried out by working groups with lead Councillors and volunteers. We have also lobbied organisations for improvements in areas where we do not have control e.g. Lincolnshire County Council, West Lindsey District Council, the Environment Agency and Anglian Water.

We thank the residents who continue to hire our properties in increasing numbers and thanks are also due to our staff for maintaining them and assisting hirers.

The **Parish Council** completed the first sixty metres of the Swathe concrete path in June 2024. This is the first part of the cemetery extension. Later, in December 2024, the trees in the Swathe were pruned and coppiced following the recommendation of the arborist who carried out the tree survey there. We are aiming to map out the layout for the cemetery extension this year.

We have now completed tree surveys in all areas for which the Parish Council is responsible; The Swathe; Green Lane; Vicar's Wood; Bishop's Meadow and Mulsanne Park.

Many of the development ideas for the Parish come from our working groups.

The Beck and Flood Risk Working Group has organised several working parties clearing areas of the beck of debris in order to improve flow, so waders have been provided for them. There is now a gauge in the beck at Vicarage Lane to measure the depth of the water. It is proposed to place another one further downstream which residents will monitor.

It was recognised that hydraulic modelling would provide evidence to support potential remedies to prevent flooding. The Parish Council has liaised with Lincoln University who will provide two research students. The project is called BRANCH: beck resilience and analysis of Nettleham Culvert Hydraulics. This is being funded by the Parish Council with matched funding of £5K from West Lindsey District Council.

Flooding is still a problem in the village. Following remedial measures after 2019, which includes regular cleaning and inspection of the drains around Cross Street and the Green, this area has not flooded, but flooding is now occurring around the outskirts of the village e.g. Lodge Lane, Greenfields, Scothern Road, Shaw Way and Sudbrooke Lane. So, when asked to comment on planning applications the Parish Council reminds the Planning Authority (which is West Lindsey District Council) of the provisions and obligations to provide drainage schemes and lessen flooding risk as outlined in **Policy S21 of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan and D3 of the 2024 Nettleham Neighbourhood Plan**.

The **Climate Change group** have continued to promote and help biodiversity around the village, including the rewilding of the Old Quarry. Further planting of bulbs and wildflower seeds at Green Lane, Bill Bailey's field, and other areas designated for 'No Mow May' should see colourful results this spring and summer. Responding to feedback from residents is helping us better manage these areas to counter the decline in our insect and bird populations. To try to deter moles from the burial ground, bulbs have been planted along the boundary with Bishop's Palace

Nettleham Parish Council has sponsored **recycling of blister packs** since August 2024, collecting around 1kg per week. These are sent to a factory in Hull for turning into recycled plastic products, saving around 40kg of landfill to date.

The **Conservation Area group** is aiming to improve the village centre which is the old part of the village. The Nettleham Village History heritage trail in the village has been updated and rewritten. Copies of this are in the newly refurbished red telephone box, now known as In **Phonemation**.

There are three new trees growing alongside the Coop and the three planters are full of flowering plants maintained by Rudies Roots.

The map of the village has been updated, replacing the old one. The composite notice board at the Old School has been replaced with a new oak one. And the composite one has been donated to Minster Fields. The aluminium ones on the side of the Coop are also due to be replaced with oak ones.

Because of the problems with speeding from through traffic and illegal or inconsiderate parking the Parish Council has set up a **Highways Working Group**. Nettleham Parish Council has been lobbying Lincolnshire County Council for several years. The first meeting in relation to a dropped kerb at the corner of the Green and Vicarage Lane with the removal of a parking space to enable residents to cross safely took place over two years ago. Following further lobbying five Councillors went round the centre of the village with a Highways Officer in September 2024 and the changes agreed are now out for consultation.

However, there are still so many areas where improvements could be made e.g. in All Saints Lane near the Infants School. The group has developed a logo **NettSAFE** (Nettleham Street Amenity for Everyone). They have suggested a one way plan and a reduction in speed to twenty miles an hour. When local parishes have met online with Lincolnshire Police we all have the same concerns – speeding to and through villages – so we are planning to arrange a meeting of neighbouring parishes to lobby the Highways and Road Safety Partnership as a group.

It took over two years to get the speed reduced to 40mph along Lodge Lane and we are still awaiting the promised implementation of a reduced speed of 40 mph along the A46 from the Nettleham roundabout to Nettleham Heath. Lobbying for these two reductions was initiated by Councillor Richard Porter and he ceased being a Parish Councillor three years ago. The addition of a footpath from the Dementia Care Home to the Lincoln Rugby Club, being a condition of the planning permission for Dementia Care Home, will benefit pedestrians along this busy road.

In liaison with **Minster Field Community Group** we set up a petition for a pedestrian bridge over the A46 near the Nettleham Roundabout. We have been promised that plans are in place and there will be further information for residents later in the year.

Fortunately, there is now a **Speed Watch** group. This, with the help of the speed cameras provides evidence of vehicle speed around the village. The camera on Lodge lane is a useful addition and we hope a deterrent.

There are now **management plans** in place for Vicar's Wood, the Heritage Orchard in Bishop's Meadow, the Old Quarry and Green Lane. Thanks to the volunteers who are making improvements in these areas. This is particularly noticeable in the Vicar's Wood where the removal of ivy gave more space for the snowdrops and now the bluebells.

The old fort in Bill Bailey's had become unsafe so it was replaced with a new **Play Tower**. The Minster Community Group has liaised with Taylor Lindsey so that the residents of Minster Fields now have a Play Area. The Parish Council donated £15K to Minster Field to enable them to have more equipment. This was officially opened on April 7, 2025.

The Parish Council provided new metal fencing and gates around the tennis courts and the MUGA and support the new metal fencing proposed and provided by Nettleham Football Club around the football ground.

Some key moments in the year:

- The adoption of the Review of the 2016 Plan adopted as the **Nettleham Neighbourhood Plan in November 2024**
- **Ray Sellars Community Award to Allison Faulkner in December 2024**
- **The Christmas Walk on December 29, 2024**
- **The Freedom of the Parish given to Pearl Wheatley on February 28, 2025**

The Parish Council is in the legal process of receiving the **allotment land** from Truelove Developments which was part of the section 106 agreement as part of the approval for the Cricketers' Walk Estate. There is already a brick shed in place and we hope that this will be available later this year.

The residents of the **Burrows**, with the support of District Councillors John Barrett and Fraser Brown and the Parish Council have raised money in order to place a bench on the Ridge and Furrow besides Baker Drive. This should soon be in place.

Following his recent death, the Parish Council remembered **David Dubut** who served as Clerk to the Council from July 1979 to July 2008 with a minute's silence before the December 17, 2024 meeting of the Parish Council.

The Parish Council agreed to a 1% increase in the precept in order to provide for rising costs and inflation. However, we now have some CIL payments and will be discussing recommendations for how to use it for future community facilities.

We have advertised for a Facilities Manager following the retirement of Jane Ashby after 7 years here; first as a Facilities Assistant and then for the last four years as Facilities Manager. We will miss her.

Finally, particular thanks to our Clerk and all our Councillors.

As we have been three short for some time we have relied on their application and hard work. Councillor Jess McGuire has now resigned as she is moving from Nettleham, so we are now short of four Councillors.

We would like to add to their number, so please contact us for further details on how you can be co-opted.

Angela M White

Chair of Nettleham Parish Council