**Annual Parish Meeting 6th June 2023**

**Wistow Parish Council Chairman’s Report**

Allow me to introduce myself, Michael Hewan, Chairman of Wistow Parish Council, and to present this year’s report for 2022 to 2023.

First, we should give thanks to the Parish Councillors who have given their time freely during a year of many challenges.

Councillors Clark, Tindall, and McDonald gave up their Councillor roles; Councillor Binham likewise after a short period.

Councillors Richardson, Pownall, and Tyler joined the Parish Council.

Together with Councillors Golton, Kendall, Harrison, and myself, we are the current Parish Council with our Clerk Margaret Horton.

At this time our best wishes go to long serving Councillor Golton who is ill.

Details of Councillors may be found on our Parish Council website.

Parish Council work isn’t just done by Councillors and we thank the people of Wistow who have given their time on specific projects.

One of our challenges has been the prolonged sickness of our Clerk meaning that other Councillors have stepped in to perform essential work.

Another challenge is the funding required to do what we would like to do to serve and enhance Wistow. Our income comes from the Precept, a part of the Council Tax that we all pay, which has always been kept low for you.

On top of the above challenges are the rules and regulations that Parish Councils must adhere to. These are often frustrating and inhibit what we would like to do! They often change and there is a constant task to keep up-to-date. As an example of what I would like you to be aware of - at Parish Council meetings we are told that we can only decide on matters that have been notified in advance in the Agenda – including matters from you.

There are many day-to-day responsibilities that the Parish Council does such as grass cutting, considering planning applications etc that your can read about on our website.

Other work this past year has included enhancing the website, creating a facebook presence, introducing internet banking, initiating and planning work for the new Wistow Cemetery, responding to the Selby Local Plan, looking at the ‘20s Plenty’ campaign, tidying up overgrown hedging on the village green, as well as considering matters brought to our attention by you.

The recent Coronation community event was supported by the Parish Council with two Parish Councillors on its Committee.

We are currently discussing the state of the fence around the village green pond, and the development of the cemetery field, amongst other items.

I mentioned earlier about funding Parish Council activities. We started the financial year with £10k before Precept income, ended with only £8k. The largest expenditure items are Services that this year included the Cemetery work so far.

So to end my report, I will say that the Parish Council is here to serve you the people of Wistow, we need to know you thoughts. Coming to meetings lets you know what we are doing. Agendas and Minutes are posted on the village green notice board as well as available on our web-site.

Thank you.