

COLLINGHAM *Parish Council*

ANNUAL REPORT – 2018/19

Introduction

The annual report of Collingham Parish Council covers the civic year, which starts in May at the Annual Parish Council Meeting when the Chairman of the Council is elected by fellow Councillors. The report also covers the financial year, being 1st April to 31st March and gives an overview of past and potential expenditure by the Parish Council.

This report is divided into sections, each outlines relevant information and details the work the Parish Council has been doing during the Civic year May 2018 to May 2019. We hope that you find this report of interest as it is intended to be a communication and information tool to keep you, the electorate, informed of the activities of your local Council. Much of this information is included on the website and is updated on a regular basis, this report simply collates the information on an annual basis.

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Introduction to Collingham Parish Council and Councillors

Historically North Collingham Parish Council and South Collingham Parish Council managed the affairs of the two separate parishes. In 1970 the 2 Parish Councils merged to form Collingham Parish Council. Parish Councils are now seen as an important tier in the government structure and are able to take on and manage local areas. With the introduction of the Localism Act in 2011, this has given the opportunity for more powers to be developed to the local Councils in respect of the management of local services.

The Parish Council is proactive in ensuring that the views of its electorate are heard at District and County Council level, with the Parish Clerk in regular contact with both District and County Councils to ensure requests made by residents are dealt with.

The Parish Council is therefore proactive with all aspects of Planning within the Parish and will also respond to planning consultations in adjacent Parishes/Districts if it is felt that the application will have an impact on Collingham residents. Any planning policy changes at either local or national level are considered and responses sent when appropriate to the decision makers to ensure that these are fit for purpose. The Parish Council responses to all applications are greatly assisted when comments are received from parishioners and enable the response to truly reflect the local feeling on any proposed development, whatever the size.

It is extremely important to the Council that no additional financial burden is placed on its residents. It is important to the Council that its annual precept request is not unduly increased and grants of all

sizes are continually being sought to supplement the annual budget. Without the additional grant income, the Parish Council would be unable to continue to improve the facilities and therefore lives of its parishioners. For example the wonderful facilities enjoyed by every one at the Community Park would not have been possible without significant funding from external sources.

The Parish Council is extremely proactive in trying to represent as much of the Parish as is possible. With this in mind, informal links have been established and are regularly reviewed with over 40 groups within the Parish. Often this is Councillors/the Parish Clerk acting as a conduit for the groups of which they are already members, but also includes them regularly contacting other groups/organisations which they may not ordinarily do.

The Parish Clerk (Caron Ballantyne) can be contacted by the following methods:

In person: Mondays 2-5 pm in the library (during library opening hours)

Telephone: 01636 893342

e-mail – ParishClerk@Collingham-Notts.org.uk

Local Council Contact Details:

Nottinghamshire County Council
County Hall
West Bridgford
Nottingham
NG2 7QP

Telephone: 0300 500 80 80

e-mail: enquiries@nottscc.gov.uk

Newark and Sherwood District Council
Castle House
Great North Road
Newark
NG24 1BY

Telephone: 01636 650000

e-mail: customerservices@nsdc.info

Collingham Parish Councillors

COUNCILLOR	TELEPHONE NO	E-MAIL
Chris Allen (Vice-Chair)	01636 892092	Chris.Allen@Collingham-Notts.org.uk
Jim Barrie	01636 892985	Jim.Barrie@Collingham-Notts.org.uk
Jean Davies	01636 892911	Jean.Davies@Collingham-Notts.org.uk
Michael Davies (Chair)	01636 892911	Michael.Davies@Collingham-Notts.org.uk
Rosemary Fabian	01636 893295	Rosemary.Fabian@Collingham-Notts.org.uk
Gillian French	01636 892193	Gillian.French@Collingham-Notts.org.uk
Rick Hatton	01636 892865	Rick.Hatton@Collingham-Notts.org.uk
Mike Lloyd	01636 892583	Mike.Lloyd@Collingham-Notts.org.uk
Derek MacKenzie	01636 892051	Derek.MacKenzie@Collingham-Notts.org.uk
Tim Musson (Vice-Chair)	01636 892312	Tim.Musson@Collingham-Notts.org.uk

Achievements during the year

The Parish Council works in the background on many issues and services within and affecting the Parish. These range from day to day issues such as dog bin emptying to more sensitive issues relating to the cemeteries.

The Council also work closely with the District and County Councils and closely liaises with them to ensure matters affecting local residents, falling within their remit are addressed.

No matter what the query, all matters brought to the attention of the Parish Council, either through its Councillors or direct to the Parish Clerk are taken up on behalf of the community.

Throughout the year the Council has reported potholes; broken street lights; damaged or missing road signs; blocked gullies/road drains; managed the maintenance of grass, verges along the highway and council land; managed the maintenance of trees on council land; received audit reports; managed and maintained notice boards; managed burial and memorial requests in its cemetery; managed the provision of a Christmas tree and erection of the lights for the village centre.

The Parish Council continues to consider the health and wellbeing of residents and therefore continues to pursue the development of the Community Park with the addition of more trees, which will in future years provide some shade. The new skate park has been completed with significant funding from external sources, particular thanks go to WREN for their support of this project, without whom, this project would not have been realised. Two areas have been converted from grass to wildflower meadow (with mixed success) which should provide calm areas in which to sit.

The Parish Council is continuing to pursue the Local Council Award Scheme Quality Level. This award shows not only that we meet a set of minimum standards to deliver effectively for the community, but we are striving to offer more to our residents. To meet this award the council has had to demonstrate that it has the required documentation and information in place for operating lawfully and according to standard practice, but also produces this annual report, which was gratefully received in the Summer of 2018, when it was first published.

For the WWI centenary and women's suffrage commemorations in November 2019, the Parish Council co-ordinated activities across all organisations, including securing the necessary funding from external sources for all the activities. The Parish Council is currently working on developing the website further, with the addition of all the information captured during the events to provide a permanent memorial.

The Parish Clerk obtained the Certificate in Local Council Administration in 2018. This qualification for the Clerk combined with the high Percentage of Parish Councillors elected, enabled the Parish Council to declare its General Power of Competence. The Parish Council declared its General Power of Competence again again following the elections in May at the meeting of 9th May 2019.

Finance: 2018/19 year

The Parish Council is in a favourable financial position and has delivered all objectives and priorities for the 2018/19 period within its agreed budget. The Parish Council has, when setting the budget for 2019/20, recognised the need to plan for future service delivery & development.

An internal audit has been undertaken with the auditor report being submitted to full council. The Annual Governance and Accountability Return report to the council was duly signed on 25th May and associated paperwork has been submitted to the appointed external auditor.

The Parish Council have published their accounts, and once received from the external auditor this will be updated to include their report.

Savings are made directly into earmarked reserves which include setting aside amounts each year for future projects/ expenses such as election costs and asset maintenance.

Full details of expenditure and budgets can be obtained by written request and the audited accounts can be inspected by appointment with the Parish Clerk in accordance with the Notice of Public Rights published on 31st May 2019.

The Parish Council continue to seek grant funding each year where applicable to assist with funding of improvement and new schemes for the benefit of all facilities.

Attendance Record

Cllr Name	Possible Attendance	Actual Attendance	%
Chris Allen	60	58	97%
Jim Barrie	60	34	57%
Jean Davies (from March 2017)	33	32	97%
Michael Davies	60	59	99%
Jane Guest (from Jan 2016)	51	39	79%
Rick Hatton	60	54	90%
Lee Marshall	60	34	57%
Tim Musson	60	50	84%
Rosie Scott	60	54	90%
Val Wright	60	37	62%

Possible attendance is for the current term of Office from May 2015 election to May 2019

4 Councillors stepped down in May 2019 and 2 new people put themselves forward for nomination, therefore 8 Councillors were duly elected in May 2019. The Parish Council was therefore seeking two people who would like to be considered for co-option, to fill the vacancies. These vacancies have now been filled by Gillian French and Mike Lloyd

2019/20 Timetable of Meetings

23 rd May 2019	Parish Council	7:15pm
27 th June 2019	Parish Council	7:15pm
25 th July 2019	Parish Council	7:15pm
22 nd August 2019 – if required	Parish Council	7:15pm
26 th September 2019	Parish Council	7:15pm
24 th October 2019	Parish Council	7:15pm
28 th November 2019	Parish Council	7:15pm
12 th December 2019	Parish Council	7:15pm
23 rd January 2020	Parish Council	7:15pm
27 th February 2020	Parish Council	7:15pm
26 th March 2020	Parish Council	7:15pm
9 th April 2020	Annual Parish Meeting	7:30pm
23 rd April 2020	Parish Council	7:15pm
14 th May 2020	Annual Parish Council	7:15pm
28 rd May 2020	Parish Council	7:15pm

All meetings of the Parish Council will start with a public forum commencing at 7:15pm

Closing remarks

The Parish Council has continued to work hard to ensure “best value” and to make improvements throughout the parish for the benefit of all residents.

The Council will continue to serve you, its community as a “Corporate Body” to the best of its ability during the next 12 months and looks forward to the challenges that 2019/20 may present.