

## Ecology in the Parish

Looking forward to 2023-24 we are hoping to undertake some ecology works in both the Cemetery and Pond areas.

We have started some of the clearance work in the Cemetery and a big thank you to Cllr. Blades and her son Owen for giving up a day to remove some of the excess tree growth and dead trees.

In the pond area we

are looking at improving the pond and the marginal planting, and creating more access to the pond itself.

Non of these projects can come to fruition without the help of the Community.

Even if you can only spend a few hours helping out, or come along to make teas and offer

encouragement your input would be most



welcome.

If you have experience of project management we would love to hear from you.

Please see the Parish Council contact details on page 2.

## Parish Assembly

Our Parish Assembly will be held on Tuesday 16th May 2023 starting 7.00pm in Corringham Village Hall

Refreshments will be served

Come and meet YOUR Parish Council

It's an open meeting and a great opportunity to see what we do and how we do it, ask questions & let us know YOUR point of view

Our Policies, Governance Documents and Accounts will be available to view

Reports from outside agencies within the Parish

The Chairman will present a personal review of the past year and the Parish Council's plans for 2023.

**We hope to see you there.**

Corringham  
Parish Council &  
Burial Authority

Lincolnshire

## Around Corringham & Aisby

Spring 2023



### Chairman's Welcome

What an interesting and diverse year 2022 was. From the war in Ukraine, the celebration of Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee in June through to her sad passing in September, together with the upheaval in central Government.

It certainly was a year of highs and lows.

Closer to home the Parish Council had their own ups and downs in 2022, with Councillors resigning and the loss of two Clerks.

On speaking to other councils and LALC (Our advice and training umbrella

organisation) it seems Corringham is not a isolated case. Coming out of Covid many Councillors found that they wanted to spend more time with loved ones, and were no longer able to dedicate time to the commitment of being a Parish Councillor. Many Clerks have also re-evaluated their priorities and there is now a shortage of experienced Clerks across the UK.

The recording of the, now famous, Handsworth meeting also had an adverse effect on the recruitment of new Councillors and Clerks.

Corringham now find themselves in the position of having just three Parish Councillors; which makes us only just quorate and also in need of a Clerk.

However we are not to be browbeaten and we have some exciting initiatives in the pipeline.

Please read on to see what we are spending your money on and how you can get involved.

*Diane Semley*



## We need YOU

As our Chairman said in her introduction, we currently have just three Parish Councillors in place. As we need a minimum of three to be able to run meetings this means that should only two of us be able to attend a meeting the business of the Parish will grind to a halt. We will simply not be able to make any decisions, but more importantly we will be unable to approve any payments for goods and services.

We urgently need new Councillors to join us to help in the running of the Parish.

You do not have to have any experience of being a Parish Councillor, just a willingness to learn, an open mind, and plenty of enthusiasm for your Community.

There is training available for those who want to take it further. It's not compulsory but it does help you understand the processes that Parish Councils go through.

If you don't feel like you can make a full time commitment to being a Parish Councillor but want to help out in any way we would still like to hear from you. We have some exciting projects we would like to get underway but are currently limited by the low number of Councillors and the workload involved.

Why not drop in to the Annual Parish Assembly on the 16th May, meet the Council and see if and how **You** can get involved in **Your** Community.

## The Parish Council

The Parish Council can be contacted via email at:

[clerkcorringhampc@gmail.com](mailto:clerkcorringhampc@gmail.com)

All our meeting dates, policies, agendas, documents, minutes of meetings and reports, together with some useful links can be viewed on our website:

[corringham.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk](http://corringham.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk)

## In Memory of:

We have decided to use the monies from the Jubilee raffle to pay for the new noticeboard in the cemetery and dedicate it to the memory of our late Queen.

So a big thank you to all who donated prizes and to those who bought tickets.

## Spending Your Money!

Did you know that the Parish Council gets money from your Council Tax payments for the upkeep of the Parish? This is called the Precept.

Each year the Parish Council prepares a budget which informs the amount of precept that we will seek from WLDC. The Parish Council then uses this money to pay for services such as the grass cutting and pond maintenance, special projects such as the Jubilee Celebrations, as well as to pay for a professional Clerk.

In 2022-23 the Parish Council received a precept of £11,000. £4,480 of this went to pay for the grass cutting in the Parish with a further £1,277 going to pay for a new noticeboard for the Cemetery and new pond safety equipment (look out for these being installed soon).

Although we allocated £5,000 in the budget to underwrite the Jubilee Celebrations the overall cost to the Parish was just £554 in the end. This was in the main thanks

to some very generous sponsors and some very generous people donating some stunning raffle prizes.

We had some unexpected and unbudgeted costs in 2022 which amounted to some £424. The Parish Council has enjoyed free banking and free use of the Village Hall for many years however this all came to an end last year, and was a cost that had not been originally budgeted.

Around a further £2,000 was spent on subscriptions (including training), Business rates for the Cemetery, Clerks final salary, GDRP & Insurance, auditors fees and allotment rents.

The total spend for the year being £14,087.

As well as the income from the precept and Jubilee we also had some income in the form of a grant which paid for our Ecology Report, and also income from burial fees which we had increased to bring us in line with other local authorities.

Savings were made with us not having to pay a

Clerk the year as Cllr. Semley has been undertaking this role free of charge. We thank her for all the sterling work she has done in the past year to make sure we are fully compliant with our legal obligations. And also her dogged determination to bring the Council fully up to date.

Some of the more eagle eyed of you may have noticed on your 2023 Council tax bills that we have increased our precept request this year by 19% to 13,090.

Unfortunately the Parish Council has also been a victim of the 'cost of living crisis' and, in order to meet our obligations, we had to implement this increase. Although this percentage looks high it equates to just 70p per household per month over the year.

On the plus side we have reclaimed over £1,000 of VAT and, thanks to the work of Cllr. Semley, we have managed to have our Business Rates for the Cemetery zero rated, and claim a refund of over £1,000 for seven years of Business rates.