

West Halton & Coleby Parish Council Annual Report

Chairman's report 2025/26

Councillors and Clerk

This year there have been several changes to the councillors. Janet Van Der Westhuizen and Ian Williams have resigned. As a result of these changes, there are currently 3 vacancies on the council that have been advertised.

The Clerk unfortunately resigned in November and ceased employment February 2026. We would like to thank her for all her hard work during her employment with the council. Council is actively seeking a replacement clerk, but this is proving to be challenging.

All the councillors continue to make a full and active contribution to the council and I would like to thank all of them for their continued service.

Finance

The council has increased the precept for the current year to reflect the increased costs that everyone is experiencing and to allow us to carry out more work around the villages. The main expenses continue to be field grass cutting, insurance and maintenance of village assets.

The council took on the maintenance of the public rights of way during 2020/21 and this arrangement is continuing this financial year, however the grant offered to West Halton and Coleby Parish Council still does not cover the NLC 9 required cuts. Thanks to Cllr Duck and Cllr Davey for attending an NLC meeting on this subject.

Planning

Several planning applications were received during the year 25/26. These were in the main residents applying for extensions to properties. No objections were raised by council to any of these applications.

Highways

Highways continue to be a major part of the council's work, with a number of issues being raised at each meeting. The main issue being the state of Coleby Road through West Halton. It is in an appalling state and poses a real danger to motorists and especially cyclists. With this route being part of a National Cycleway, Council are extremely concerned that there could be a serious accident in the not-too-distant future. Council and residents are pushing NLC for a speedy resolution to the highway

Village Field

The condition of the wall around the field remains a cause for concern. The section of wall along Short Lane and the North part of Church Side have been repaired. Major funding is required to proceed with any further repair work.

Cemetery

All rules and regulations have now been updated. There is still the on going issue with NLC over the Land Registry documentation. Council need to reach a conclusion to this issue during the year 26/27

Allotments

The mains water is now all connected ready for allotment holders to use. The mains water will be available during the months May – October only. As this is the first year for this service, regular meter readings will take place to keep track of water use. Rental money has been ear marked to pay for all water charges

General

I would like to thank all my colleagues on the council for their support. Having been the Chair and involved with the council for the past 15 years, I feel that it is now time for someone else to take on the Chair Role, however I will continue in this role for the next few months until a new chair is fully trained. A always thanks go to Ralph, Helen and Elaine who have supported the parish council on several matters over the last year.