

## Notes of Welbourn Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday 13th of May 2026

Meeting Room, Welbourn Village Hall, Beck Street, Welbourn

### Present:

<b>Parish Councillors</b> Robert Cross - Chairman Steve Spedding Clare Rowbotham	Louise Troy Mark Crosby Stephen Short
Mr Daniel Bancroft – Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) District Councillor Lucille Hagues	Mr Jim Fieldhouse – Parish Clerk 6 Residents

1. The Chairman of Welbourn Parish Council, Councillor Robert Cross took the Chair for the meeting and welcomed everyone.

**2. Apologies** were received from Cllr Michael Bighi.

3. Cllr. Stephen Short proposed that the notes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 14th of May 2025 be accepted as minutes. This was seconded by Cllr. Mark Crosby.

**3.1 Resolved:** These notes be approved as minutes. The Chairman signed these minutes.

### 4. Public Forum

Resident RS thanked the Parish Council members for their work throughout the year. Resident AB thanked the Parish Clerk for the articles submitted to 3 Villages and a Hamlet magazine.

### 5. Chairman's Review

Cllr. Cross, Chairman, thanked the Parish Councillors and the Officers for their input throughout the year. He explained that much of the work was routine such as arranging repairs and maintenance, and paying bills etc. He gave a rundown of the notable events that had happened in 2025-26 as follows:

**April** – Non-slip decking strips are fitted to the steps leading up to the railway embankment following a report of a resident slipping on these steps.

The rotten roofing lathes on Welbourn Forge are replaced.

The Wellers Law Group are instructed to update the 1922 Trust Deed relating to the village hall and its management.

**May** - the Parish Council resolves to submit comments to the Examining Authority opposing the proposed Springwell Solar Farm and the proposed Battery Energy Storage System at Navenby.

The Parish Council resolves to accept £2000 sponsorship from Fen Bay Services for the refurbishment of the tennis court. On behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to thank Fen Bay Services for this generous sponsorship.

**June** - The Parish Council appoints an ecologist to report on the condition of the village pond (The Beck).

The Safeguarding, Sickness and Absence, and Volunteer Policies are reviewed.

**July** - £250 funding is received from British Sugar to fund a competition at the primary school and to purchase paint for the painting of the frog playground equipment. On behalf of the Parish Council I would like to thank British Sugar for this grant money.

The Parish Council adopts a Prevention of Sexual Harassment Policy.

**September** - The Parish Council contributes £850 towards the refurbishment of the tennis court adding to the amount already made by Fen Bay Services.

The Parish Council considers the ecologist's report on the condition of the village pond (The Beck) and accepts the recommendations.

The Chair and the Parish Clerk meet with representatives from Anglian Water following a disruption in the water supply to the village on 22nd June 2025.

Parish Council adopts an IT policy following the Government's strengthening of the Annual Governance and Accounting Review (AGAR).

**October** - The Parish Council receives £1601.71 in respect of the Community Infrastructure Levy for the development on Moat Lane.

The Parish Council gives approval to the signing of The Deed of Amendment and Declaration of Trust and The Management Agreement in respect of the village hall and the playing field and the management there of.

The Parish Council resolves to submit a statement to the Planning Inspectorate opposing the proposed Fosse Green Energy development.

**November** - The Chair and the Parish Clerk meet with representatives of Resource Resolutions regarding the development of solar farms. This report is on the Parish Council's website.

Samuel Barrell Agricultural Services complete the removal of excess vegetation from The Beck as recommended by the ecologist in her report.

Lincolnshire County Council fells the diseased horse chestnut tree on The Green following reports made by the Parish Council.

**January** - The Chair thanks Councillors Stark and Huntsman for their longstanding service following their resignation as Parish Councillors.

The Parish Council agrees a precept of £31,706.86 from North Kesteven District Council for the 2026-27 financial year.

**February** - The Parish Clerk reports that £1934.61 plus VAT has been spent on repairing the air source heat pump at the village hall.

3 telemetric devices are installed by Lincolnshire County Council in water courses entering the village to give an early warning of imminent flood danger.

Health and Safety and risk assessments for Welbourn Forge are approved by the Parish Council.

**March** - Councillor Claire Rowbotham is voted on to the Parish Council.

Two new replacement defibrillators for the village are installed with help with grant help funding from NKDC.

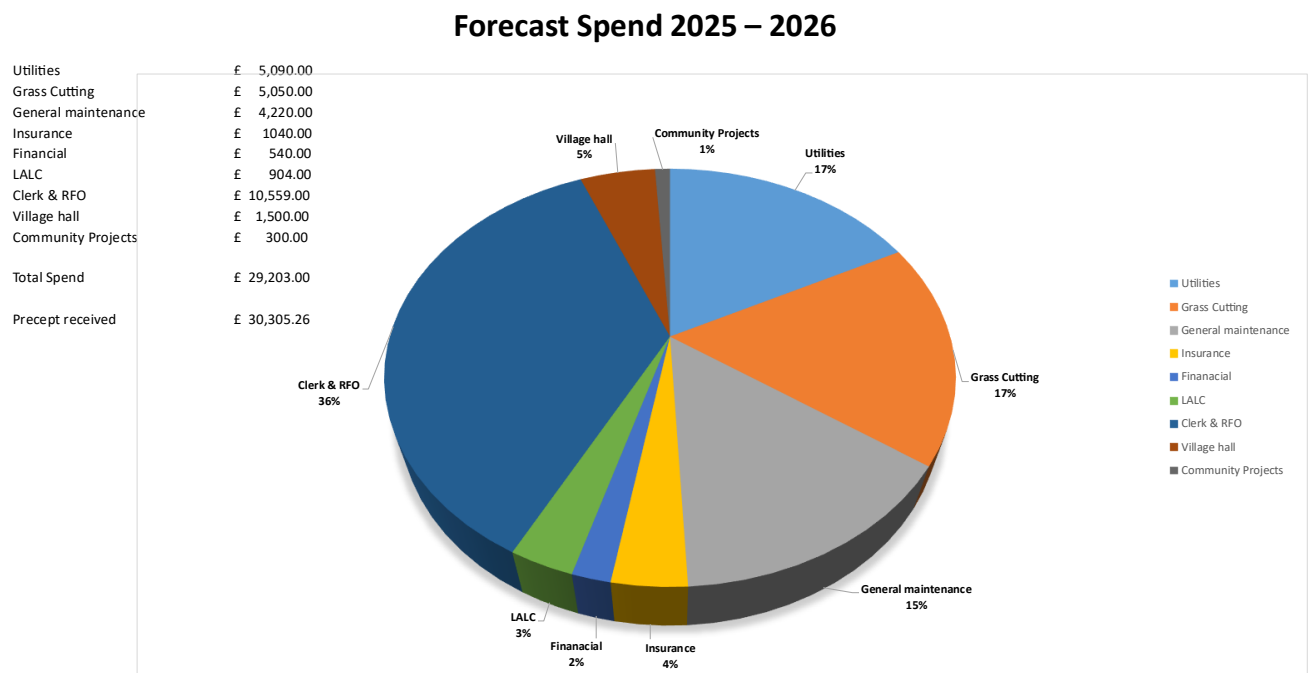
The Parish Council arranged two IT courses run by a resident to help with everyday IT issues.

**Other Matters** - The Parish Council has arranged 1 litter pick in the last financial year. Thank you to all the individuals who have performed their own litter picks throughout the year.

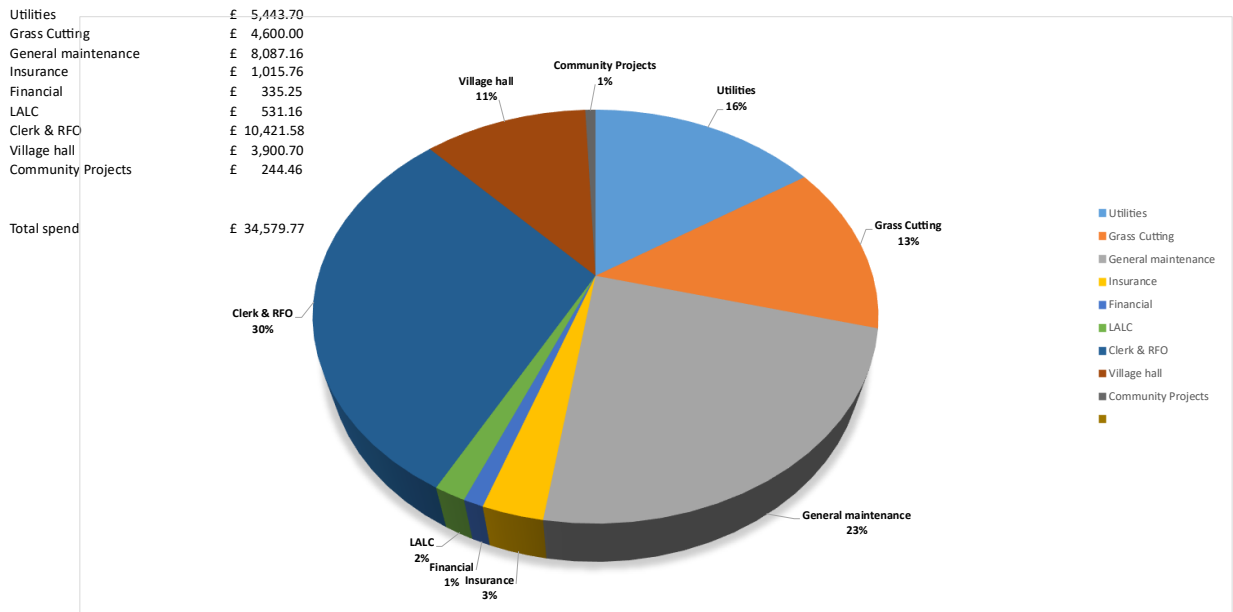
The Parish Clerk has reported at least 46 issues concerning road problems and flooding problems to County Council.

## 6. Review of the Finance Committee for 2025 -26

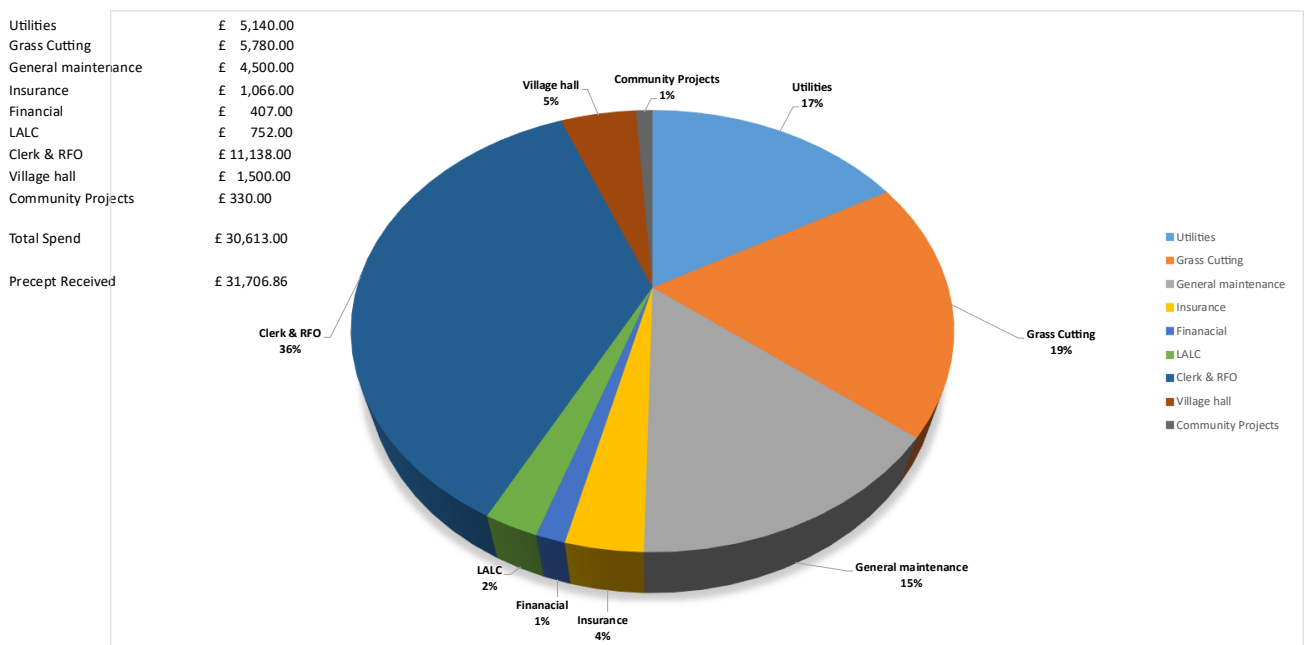
Daniel Bancroft, Responsible Finance Officer delivered a report based on the following pie charts:



### Actual Spend breakdown 2025 - 2026



### Forecast Spend 2026 – 2027



## 7. Review of the Personnel Committee 2025-26

Cllr. Stephen Short delivered the following report:

The purpose of the Personnel Committee is to oversee staffing and recruitment matters.

The Parish Council has two employees: the Parish Clerk and the Responsible Finance Officer.

The Parish Clerk, Jim, has been employed since June 2022. He receives a monthly salary based on an average 20 hour month. The hourly rate of pay is set within the National Joint Council for Local Government Service (NJC) guidance.

The Responsible Finance Officer, Daniel, has been employed since March 2022. He receives a monthly salary based on an average 20 hour month. The hourly rate of pay is set within the National Joint Council for Local Government Service (NJC) guidance.

The Personnel Committee conducted annual appraisals on 11 March 2026.

The committee was entirely satisfied with each officer's performance therefore it was agreed that both officers would move up to the next step on the pay scale to LC2 27.

The pay scales are reviewed annually every April by the National Joint Council for Local Government Service (NJC). It normally takes a few months for the pay scales to be confirmed therefore back pay is normally due. It was agreed that back pay would be calculated from April 2025 at the new LC2 27 pay rate. This was reported in the March 2026 minutes of the Welbourn Parish Council meeting.

The next appraisals are due in September 2026. The next salary review is due in October 2026.

The Chairman acknowledged the work of the Parish Clerk and the Responsible Finance Officer, expressed his confidence in them, and thanked them for their work.

## **8. Review from The Vice Chairman – Cllr. Stephen Short (Planning & Village Hall)**

### **Planning**

The Parish Council has continued to consider and comment on planning applications. There were 20 in the year ending March 2026 including new dwellings, property extensions, enlargement of the churchyard burial ground, alterations to Listed Buildings, a new warehouse and various tree work within the Conservation Area all as reported in the published minutes.

Following an announcement from the Secretary of State for Education is understood that the project to rebuild the Sir William Robertson Academy is to commence during the coming year.

Proposed Solar Farms including one from Leoda (extending west from Welbourn to Brant Broughton and south to Leadenham an area of 2,400 acres which would result in the loss of large areas of productive agricultural and its impact on the local environment are a matter of significant concern. The Leoda project has however

recently been paused and withdrawn from the Government's N'S'I'P' programme but it has not been cancelled and accordingly there is continuing significant uncertainty.

The proposed Springwell site just across the heath to the east straddles the A15 and extends to just under 5,000 acres was approved by the Secretary of State on 8 April 2026. North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council have subsequently initiated a judicial review.

The Fosse Green energy proposal to the west straddles the A46 and extends to 2,478 acres and is currently undergoing examination.

In addition there are applications for a new substation and connection to the National Grid and a battery storage site at Navenby extending to approximately 32 acres where imminent decisions are expected from NKDC.

### **Village Hall**

Significant expenditure has been incurred by the Parish Council during the past year in maintaining the heating system, investigation of water leaks and repairs to the back hall floor. The Village Hall and Playing Field Committee wish to record their thanks to the Parish Council for their ongoing support.

The monthly Coffee Shop has continued to be a great success and is the main source of ongoing fund raising. The annual accounts have been completed. Expenditure by the Village Hall and Playing Field Committee includes a memorial bench, replacement washbasin taps, replacement water heater, new window blinds and curtains, repairs to some of the older play equipment and renewal of the safety surfacing beneath both sets of swings. The Village Hall AGM will be held on Monday 18 May.

### **9. The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 7.24 pm**

**Signed .....**Chair

**Date.....**