

Clerk's Notes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at Sedgebrook Social Club at 7.00 pm on Thursday 15 May 2025

Present: Chair Gill Mahoney of Sedgebrook Parish Council together with County Councillor Richard Litchfield, Mrs J Bratton (Parish Clerk) and 13 members of the public.

1 Chair's Welcome – I would like to welcome you all to The Sedgebrook Parish Meeting. The meeting is for the residents. Myself and Councillor Warby were officially elected as Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively at the Annual Parish Council Meeting on Thursday 16th May 2024. There will be the annual election next Thursday 22nd May at the Annual Parish Council Meeting. I'd like to introduce Mrs Jane Bratton, Sedgebrook Parish Council's superb Parish Clerk, as I said last year, we would be unable to function without her. Councillor Clive Wood, responsible for planning, highways and flooding, Councillor Jane Denton financial and planters on The Green, Councillor Chris Warby, footpaths and resources. Unfortunately, Councillor Warby can't be here tonight as she had an urgent family commitment. Myself, recreation field and flooding. The Parish Council is also very pleased to welcome Rachael Yates, who has put her name forward to join the Parish Council. Also I'm pleased that Alec McNulty has likewise put his name forward to join the Parish Council. They are both of the younger generation which will reduce the average age of the Parish Council. No bad thing. We could always do with more Parish Councillors and if you know anyone who would like to put their name forward, they would be very welcome.

We also welcome our new Lincolnshire County Councillor. Richard Litchfield. I was going to welcome District Councillors Pamela Bosworth and Robert Leadenham, but unfortunately they couldn't make tonight and have sent their apologies.

We have been very unlucky with our speakers too. Richard Fenwick Head of Highways and Asset and Local Management was going to speak, but is now on a course. He has kindly sent a report, which will be read out later under item 6. Maybe Lincolnshire County Councillor Richard Litchfield would like to introduce himself to you all and say a few words when we get to Item 7.

2 Apologies: Apologies were received from Councillor Chris Warby, Sue Ashby (Twinning Assn), District Councillor Robert Leadenham, District Councillor Pamela Bosworth, Victoria Hammond and Lizzy McCaig-Last (Allington with Sedgebrook Primary School), Jenny Stuart (St Lawrence Church), Amanda Longdon (Social Club) and Sam Wade (Sedgebrook Jubilee)

3 To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 9 May 2024 - The minutes were approved and signed.

4 Any Matters Arising from those minutes - none.

5 Chair's Full Report – I would like to thank Jenny and Alan for storing the Flood Sax in the Church. Also to Nick and Sam Wade for their continued support and storing the sand and sandbags at their farm. Thanks go to Stephen, our Community Cleaner, who keeps the village litter free. Paul Hempstead and his team who continue to keep the village tidy with their fortnightly grass cutting.

We have a great community. In an emergency everyone is hands on to help where possible. It doesn't even have to be an emergency, does it? The community supports, when it can, anyone who needs help for whatever reason. Fortunately, we haven't succumbed to flooding this year and although, the Allington Road bridge is still flooding, it appears to clear quicker now. Some

residents have taken steps to minimise further flooding of their properties. One major dyke has been excavated, and National Highways has cleared the gully under Village Street adjacent to the A52. There are still some matters which remain outstanding, and we will update our new County Councillor in due course.

A52 safety is still a priority for the village. Myself, Councillor Denton and Councillor Warby attended a meeting at Barrowby Memorial Hall. We met with Phil Shaw, who is Route Manager for National Highways. It was very informative but matters remain outstanding.

Finally, we managed to get the picnic benches and picnic table installed at the playing field.

We are looking forward to hearing reports from you all who support the village in various forms.

6 Report from Richard Fenwick, Head of Highways Asset and Local Management Services, Lincolnshire County Council - Firstly, please accept my apologies for not attending the meeting in person. I had to be out of the County for work and the Local Highways Manager is currently off work at short notice. I will ensure an officer attends the next meeting and explains the structure and roles of LCC highways in general as well as covering any detailed questions.

Here is an update on known issues in the Parish:

School Lane and Village Street - Recent Jetting Works carried out on job number 5746891 on 08/04/2025, all assets cleared and flowing along School Lane & Village Street.

We were unable to get to 2 gullies unable to get to due to parked cars, and the crew were unable to get hold of vehicle owners to move them.

Ditches along A52 - As per email from Rowan Smith, the only section of dyke which is in public ownership will be the section on the A52, which belongs to National Highways.

Responsibility sits with them under S265 of The Highways Act 1980.

None of the ditches on Village Street are documented anywhere stating that they are under the ownership of, or dedicated to, LCC, and we have not acquired them for any road schemes within our maintainable area.

We welcome any local evidence to the contrary but we have none ourselves.

Allington Road (under railway bridge) - This may be a capacity issue as jetting works under job 5797134 was completed and all assets reported running. Feedback has been that there is still standing in heavy rain water however it clears much quicker than before.

The highways system connects into a system owned and maintained by Network Rail (running west), although they had confirmed it was due to be cleaned very shortly (if it has not already been done). It will need annual maintenance which we will chase, to make sure it runs at the highest capacity it can.

Allington Road (further north in Allington Parish) - Works to the riparian watercourse running from Fox's Cottage towards the sewage works are due to be completed in the next month. Works to the culvert under Peach Lane will follow shortly after.

Richard Fenwick will arrange for his successor to attend our July Parish Council's meeting. Richard Litchfield will send over the details to the Clerk when these are available.

7 Short Report from the County Councillor – Richard Litchfield is the new County Councillor covering 9500 residents from Grantham, Barrowby, Woolsthorpe by Belvoir, Allington, Sedgebrook and to the border of Foston. This is his second week in office - he will be treating the position as a full-time role. He has already met Richard Fenwick. There will be an effective hand-over with Mark Whittington. He saw District Councillor Rob Leadenham yesterday and have agreed to work together. Richard will attend as many meetings as possible. Clerk Action:

to send Richard details of the Annual Parish Council Meeting on the 22 May 2025 and all future meetings.

Following a discussion on proposed double white lines on the A52, which could save accidents, due to Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directives, Chapter 7, the decision is based on visibility and speed and it has to fit into the criteria. Every road will have been surveyed and, unless regulations change, they cannot justify putting double white lines in additional areas.

Police enforcement is needed to change the driver's character in order to get the message across. The Chair stated the speed limit is being reduced from Barrowby on the A52 – we are already 50 mph. There is a speed camera but there are no police seen on the A52. The County Councillor agreed to investigate it.

The A52 is not a dangerous road, it is the drivers themselves who are the danger – we are now back to pre-pandemic traffic. The Chair stated the Woolsthorpe Crossroads junction is rated as 100th on the danger scale; there must be a death before anything can be done. The situation could only get worse if the proposed building at Allington goes ahead which could be the leverage to do something.

The County Councillor will shortly have his portfolio allocated.

8 Short reports from District Councillors – none.

9 Short reports from village organisations

9a i **St Lawrence Church** – Alan Cook, Churchwarden read the report - See Appendix B for the Churchwarden and PCC Reports in full.

9a ii **Markham Museum and Heritage Group** – Elisabeth Carnell read her report – The Heritage Group now meets every two months, with three meetings held in the Museum and three in the Social Club. The displays in the Museum usually relate to the talks given at the Heritage Group, sometimes just one panel and other times multiple panels on one topic.

Topics of talks given, and displays created, were:

- Connections we'd rather remain hidden - Sedgebrook links to the slave trade.
- A trip to Australia - following the journey of a felon arrested in Sedgebrook and transported to Australia.
- Henry VII and the powerful women around him – a talk given by guest speaker, Bernadette Wray
- Private Bascombe's war – the experiences of Bert Bascombe 1942-1948, with a special focus on the D-Day landings as part of the 80th anniversary. His widow Betty used to live in Sedgebrook and his daughter remains a resident.
- The Bee family of Chestnut Farm – this talk was a result of a visit to Sedgebrook by John Bee's descendants researching their family history.
- Private Brown's war – based on the wartime letters of Vin Brown who was fatally wounded during WW1. His nephew was a resident of Sedgebrook and his great-niece remains a resident.
- The mineral railway – a talk following the line of the mineral railway from Bottesford to Woolsthorpe and beyond, which runs along Sedgebrook's western parish border.

Special displays were done for the D-Day landings 80th anniversary; for the Heritage Open Day event on the theme of Connections; and for Remembrance Day. Additional material was added to evidence gathered for the talks outlined above.

9b Whitehouse Farm Nursery – the report Nicky Spencer sent was read out - We have had good year at the nursery, we continue to manage a long waiting list. The government scheme to give parents 30 hours free childcare per week has seen an increase in parents wanting places and, unfortunately, we have been unable to accommodate the demand. The new outdoor area, Willow cottage has been well used and the children love spending time there. They have a workshop for building and making wooden items, learning how to use tools safely, they have lots of trees to climb and sticks to play with. The next step for this area is to set up a more permanent fire pit area so we can start cooking out meals. We continue to rent a woodland space at Manor Farm taking groups of children there for Forest school sessions in our minibus.

Over the Christmas period we used the social club for some stay and play Xmas sessions and the church for our nativity, big thanks again to Alan and Jenny for their help and support, always appreciated.

We have had some struggles this year recruiting qualified staff so have 3 ladies who have just completed an apprenticeship with us and are now qualified. As with all businesses it's a constant juggling act but we are very lucky to have such a strong team.

9c Community Speed Watch – See Appendix A for the full report which David Mahoney gave to the meeting.

9d Social Club – Wendy Fowler, gave a report - there are 120 members. Some improvements have been made including refurbishment of the Gents, new fire doors and planters. Thanks were given to Alan and John who are no longer on the Committee. The Club is being used every day of the week. The bar is open Fridays and Sundays. There will be a “happy hour” to thank all members on Friday 6 June.

9e Allington with Sedgebrook Primary School – the Clerk read the report (see below) - 93 children on roll (following the meeting it was confirmed that 6 pupils were from Sedgebrook and 15 pupils from Allington – nobody is on the PTA or Board of Governors from Sedgebrook)

Churches - It was wonderful to be able to do our Easter and Christmas Services at St Lawrence's Church. Each class also contributed to a beautiful display in Sedgebrook, which was very well received by those attending the Remembrance Service on Sunday 10 November. We are also happy to be working again with our closest church in Allington, with our youngest children in Class 1 visiting next week (20 May) to look around the new facilities, do a quiz and enjoy a snack. We thank Marian Hubbard and Margaret Dicken for their regular visits to school to lead Collective Worship.

Sporting Achievements - We continue to take part in local sporting activities, through our partnerships with Inspire+ and School Games, run by Priory Ruskin. Since September, children have been on out of school to try cricket, cheerleading, tag rugby, cross country and football. Before they finish for the year, Years 3 and 4 will join in the Mini Olympics with 100s of local schoolchildren, and the Small Schools Athletics Competition will see our children in Years 3-6 compete with local schools of a similar size, in an exciting competition at the Meres. We have also had teams in the Rotary Swimathon and Small Schools Swimming Gala. At all events, organisers and other schools have commented on Allington's team spirit, which is always wonderful to hear.

Musical interlude - We have been delighted to welcome the Lincolnshire School of Music in the Autumn and Spring terms to do Whole Class Ensemble Teaching, once a week, to 2 classes in violin/cello and trumpet/trombone. These lessons were possible thanks to donations from our PTA, Friends of Allington with Sedgebrook Primary School (FASPS). Some children enjoyed their lessons so much that they have gone onto further tuition!

What have we done to make a difference? - Our school vision encourages us to work together to make a difference, and we carefully consider what we can do locally, nationally and worldwide for people less fortunate than ourselves.

Charity fundraising -

- Children in Need - £105
- Save the Children - £70 through the official Christmas Jumper Day.
- St Barnabas Hospice Grantham - All children took part in Rudy's Run on Tuesday 17 December. We raised £50 for the Hospice, and everyone had a great time looking for Santa's reindeer in the school grounds!
- The British Legion - Led by School Council, we raised £241.34 for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal - an outstanding amount according to the Fundraiser for this area.
- Comic Relief (£126)

Our newly formed Eco Council have shown a real interest in the environment around them, holding a Bird Box competition with some beautiful entries, which have been installed in 'Willow Way' at school. They also organised a non-uniform day with a blue/green theme and a 5p challenge, to raise funds for the Rotary Club Long Bennington, to go to the Busoga Trust, an organisation aiming to improve water hygiene in Uganda.

All in all, an incredibly busy school year so far!

9f **Sedgebrook Craft Club** – Jane Denton read out her report – This was the brainchild of Sandi, a Sedgebrook resident, and started in September 2022 in the Social Club. Held on a Tuesday afternoon between 2 and 4pm and very popular – we have a great core of regulars!

For a couple of pounds (to cover the Social Club fees) you can join with likeminded people to work on your own projects with a hot drink, biscuit (or homemade cake sometimes) and company.

A variety of crafts from knitting, crochet, mending, embroidery, sewing, felting, painting, colouring – whatever you are working on you are more than welcome to come along. There is nearly always someone on hand with advice if you need it. We are also really happy to learn new skills as well!

We made various Christmas decorations for a tree in St Lawrence Church.

We held our first Christmas Fair on Sunday 10th November 2024 in aid of Cancer Research. A lovely variety of stalls and refreshments were also available. We raised £560 which was paid into the Grantham shop – the largest donation the Grantham shop had ever received! Special thanks to Sandi, Derek and Jane for the time and effort they both put into the planning and on the day itself. Lots of people also helped on the day and not forgetting those that came to spend their money. It was a very successful event – thank you one and all!

So, if you have the time and are making something please come along! Everyone is welcome.

9g The Allington with Sedgebrook Twinning Association – the Clerk read out Susan Ashby's report – Not much has happened with the Twinning Association this year. Several times I have asked if anyone is interested in being involved but I have had no response. I have said that I can keep it ticking over for now i.e. sending copies of Allington News over to Tuffé and responding to any emails from the Twinning Association.

I have been in touch with the Secretary from the Tuffé Twinning Association, as they did mention a wish to visit this year, but they had to put it on hold. They say they would still like to visit, but that the bus hire is very expensive. So nothing as yet has been arranged.

10 Invitation to the public to raise any matters of interest

10a A parishioner asked the County Councillor if he could sort anything out about the flooding on his driveway on School Lane. Clerk Action: to scan the photographs and send to the County Councillor.

10b The parishioner was concerned about the wavy tarmac edges which need to be levelled on School Lane (near to the dog training field). The Chair will take photographs and send them off to FixMyStreet. The Parish Council will report back to the parishioner once we receive a reply.

The meeting closed with light refreshments served.

Sedgebrook Community Speed Watch - May 2025

History

The Sedgebrook Community Speed Watch Team is part of the Lincolnshire Community Speed Watch Scheme, which in turn is part of the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership. This Partnership was formed in 2000 and the Community Speed Watch Scheme in October 2018. The Sedgebrook Community Speed Watch started in March 2019. So we've now just started our 7th year.

Organisation

The main stakeholders in The Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership are:

Police and Crime Commissioner
Lincolnshire Police
Lincolnshire County Council
National Highways
Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue
East Midlands Ambulance Service

The Lincolnshire Community Speed Watch Scheme (CSW) is linked into the Partnership through the Lincolnshire Police. As of December 2024 the CSW has 288 members and they use one or more of the following as part of their motorist awareness campaigns.

Passive speed limit reminder signs
Vehicle Activated speed warning signs
Volunteer speed monitoring groups I.e Speed Watch Groups
 105 trained monitoring groups
 1382 trained volunteers
 500+ registered speed Watch locations across the county

Activity

The CSW has sent approximately 35,000 warning letters to motorists since the scheme started in October 2018.

More recently, the CSW issued 4,929 warning letters during the period January to September 2024 and of these, 185 warning letters were the result of Sedgebrook Community Speed Watch activity. The average number of Speed Watch groups with submissions in that period was 40, and the average number of warning letters by group was 123. As you can see, the number of warning letters from Sedgebrook Community Speed Watch Group was 42% above the average. We do not have the information to determine the reason for this deviation, but it is likely that our relatively high level of activity has had an impact.

During the period from January to September 2024, we had 21 sessions at various times and days. We had an additional 17 sessions between October 2024 and April 2025, with a further 106 warning letters being sent. We believe you have to be **active** to be **effective**.

Effectiveness

Sedgebrook Community Speed Watch is quite active as you can see.

Approximately 5,000 motorists pass our checkpoint each year, and so after 6 years some 30,000 motorists are aware of our activity. We hope that many of them have already got the message and the remainder will do so eventually. Recent data from the periods mentioned above gives us some encouragement. During the period from January to September 2024 warning letters were sent to 5.05% of the motorists passing our checkpoint, but for the period October 2024 to April 2025 this fell to 4.29%.

The message is simple: 'Don't speed in Sedgebrook!!'

APPENDIX B

Following our arrangement from 2023, we continued our services with Morning Prayer on the second Sunday, Lively Church on the fourth Sunday and have been attending Holy Communion at Allington Church on the the first Sunday of the month until September when our new priest in charge, Jonathan Spiers Davis, commenced his official duties with a Group Holy Communion at Sedgebrook. We continued holding the first Sunday Communion services for Allington Church here at Sedgebrook, as they commenced their improvement works and their church was unavailable. This continued until the end of the year and beyond and has proved to be a success for both churches.

The year started with an Epiphany service on the 14th January and we held a further 35 services throughout the year.

We were saddened at the death of The Hon James Ogilvy in early January and his funeral service was held on the 19th January attended by more than 280 people. Interment of his ashes in the original churchyard followed a couple of weeks later. A simple headstone has now been erected in his memory.

We had 2 further funerals in the remainder of the year. Chris Cartner and Jenny Adams. A headstone has been erected on the grave of Graham Wade and a revised inscription on the headstone of Pam and Geoff Wade.

Allington with Sedgebrook School held their annual Easter service on 28th March with a congregation of over 250. A special service to commemorate D Day was held on the 9th June. 2 Baptisms were held during the year, as well as our Patronal Festival, Harvest, a Pet service and Remembrance. We finished the year with our annual Christmas tree lighting and carol services. Proceeds from the Harvest Festival again went to Grantham Poverty Action.

Both White House Farm Nursery and Allington with Sedgebrook schools held their nativity services in December. The church was full to capacity on both occasions.

My swearing in this year took place in Lincoln and I was accompanied by members of the PCC.

Actions regarding the church fabric were also carried out, mainly more removal of Ivy growth, roof repairs, clearing of gutters and downspouts, but we still have a number of other works to do in accordance with the 2022 Quinquennial Survey, which is ongoing, funds permitting.

We had a heating survey carried out in March and obtained estimates for both new heating and a sound system. Both estimates were found to be too expensive and were put on hold. We really need a simple sound system and this has been discussed on a number of occasions. The alarm system has been a little inconsistent as the relay system to the central station dropped out on a number of occasions, despite being serviced twice in the year.

The graveyard plans which were drawn up to identify vacancies in the current graveyard initially showed 5 spare spaces. This is now down to 2 as we have had 2 faculty applications in 2024 and funeral is due in early 2025. The graveyard extension will prove to be needed sooner rather than later. The trees and hedging seem to be growing well, but there may be some which have not taken, which will need to be replaced. A contract to maintain the grass in the graveyard and extension was awarded to Messrs Hempsteads from Allington and they are doing a good job keeping it neat and tidy.

The church building remained open every day throughout the year from 10am until 4pm for visitors. Our book/jigsaw exchange was widely used, as was the children's corner.

Chris Hinds provided the annual tuning service for our Bryson organ.

Flowers were again provided throughout the year by Geraldine Statham.

PCC WENDY FLOWER WAS WELCOME TO THE COMMITTEE AS SECRETARY OFFICER
We have an enthusiastic team of bellringers, who are being coached by Paul Meredith. It is hoped we could renovate our bells in the future, so they can be rung rather than just chimed. Unfortunately one the bell clappers has become detached and is in need of repair.

The museum has provided another community asset and the Heritage Group continue to meet monthly. We have to thank Elisabeth Carnell for her diligence in providing this facility. Monthly afternoon coffee and cakes were well attended throughout the year and the nursery school and local children use the play area on a regular basis.

A big thank you to the PCC and all other willing helpers, the graveyard maintenance team, clock winders, cleaners, flower arrangers, book, produce and charity donors, not forgetting the refreshment providers and servers, who all enabled us to continue.

March 2025

Alan Cook Churchwarden

PCC Report

The PCC met 5 times in 2024/25 (April, June, August, October and February).

Business covered included getting outside contractors in to mow the cemetery and the new extension and the mounting of a plaque to mark the Garden of Remembrance. All allotments were now taken. We thank Alan Cook for arranging the contractors and Mike Hubbard and Andy Burgess for the Garden of Remembrance sign. Thanks also to Billy McNeish for his help with the cemetery hedge and tidying up around the churchyard. Blocked gutters and downpipes had been cleared with a generous contribution from Lady Caroline Ogilvy, and roof leaks had been repaired and the roof alarm improved.

Service sheets had been reprinted.

As well as the regular monthly services of Morning Prayer and Lively Church, the church had hosted Allington for their services of Holy Communion while extensive building work had been taking place at Holy Trinity. Special Services had taken place for Mothering Sunday, Easter Sunday, Commemoration of 80th Anniversary of D-Day, Heritage Open Day, Harvest Festival, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas Eve. Due to bad weather, the carols round the tree in December took place in the church.

We would like to thank all those who have supported St Lawrence Church in so many ways over the last year. Our PCC has worked tirelessly for the good of the community with particular thanks to Alan our churchwarden and Ian our treasurer without whose skills and dedication the church could not function and who have gone above and beyond the call of duty for St Lawrence church. We are also grateful to Geraldine for the Flowers and Linen and those who have baked and served refreshments and cleaned the church. Thanks also to the clock-winders and bellringers. We have been fortunate to have a great team around the church with those on the electoral roll contributing to the life of the church in many ways.

Although finances have been difficult and demands high, we are pleased to have paid our covenant in full. Our charitable giving has also continued with Marie Curie Cancer Care and Grantham Poverty Action.

The church has been open daily from 10am-4pm. Quite a few people visit and leave encouraging messages in the visitors' book. The community library and jigsaws remain popular along with the recycling of ink cartridges and aluminium cans. The nursery and visiting grandchildren enjoy the children's corner on a regular basis. We have loved having the church and nursery in church for services during Christmas and Easter and the church has attracted visitors from far and wide.

We are deeply appreciative of the support Elisabeth Carnell has given in heading up the Museum and Heritage Group, including updating the free church guide.

Fundraising events including Afternoon Teas, have helped the church operating expenses, and the 200 Club benefited the church in 2024.

We are delighted to have Revd Jon Speirs-Davies as our new incumbent and he and his family have proved popular and caring members of the community. We are also pleased to have Wendy Fowler onto the PCC as our Safeguarding Officer.

Jenny Stuart, continues to serve as Licensed Lay Minister (Reader) with Permission to Officiate and conduct Funerals. She has renewed her Safeguarding training for Leaders, and her Domestic Abuse Awareness Training is current until 2026.

Following the funerals for Hon Mr. James Ogilvy and Jenny Adams and baptisms for Aria Rigney, Leora Jackson and Romey Chantry, it has become apparent that some form of sound system is needed.

Diocesan Activities - The sale of Glebe Land at Sedgebrook had been proposed by the Diocese. No proceeds from the sale would accrue to St Lawrence, Sedgebrook. A consultation was proposed on membership of PCCs.

Looking Forward – despite the best efforts of the PCC, the regular monthly services have not been supported by the community. Following discussion with Revd. Jon, it was decided to trial operating as a Festival Church for 4 months, with the church and museum remaining open daily and the PCC concentrating on providing major services. The church would still be available for baptisms, weddings and funerals. We have also tried, without success, to encourage younger people to come forward to help run the church, which is a worry for the future.

Jenny Stuart - PCC Secretary