

We started off 2017 knowing that the grass cutting on the verges was going to be cut by LCC, however, after discussion it was hoped that residents would take 'ownership' of their own frontage and keep grass cut. We decided to monitor this before putting in any measures of our own.

Residents complaints led us to asking Merton college to trim and cut back the trees on Caudwells corner, during the course of the year this was eventually done. We entered the BKV competition and for the first time even progressed beyond the first round, we hope to go even further this year.

The football pavilion has been taken over by the new football team sponsored by the White Horse.

Two members of the public exercised their right to inspect our books during our audit and raised some issues with us (not the auditors) that we felt we needed further guidance on. To this end we paid a visit to the Monitoring Officer at ELDC who reassured us that everything was in order and suggested a couple of minor amendments to our Standing Orders.

In September we proudly flew the Red Ensign in Mr Jacksons garden, one of our past Chairs and the Scouts attended this ceremony as well as villagers.

The Rospa report flagged up a few items that needed attention on the play area and after contact was made by a resident it was decided to put a cradle seat on the swings for the younger members of the village.

The school has seen a number of changes this year with Y5 and Y6 going to Grainthorpe, we were consulted about further plans, which we understand are now finalised and Marshchapel School will remain part of the Fenland Federation but will educate Nursery to Y2 children only, whilst the Key Stage 2 children, Y3 – Y6 will be educated at Grainthorpe, the partner school. A new Exec Head will be in post across the two schools from September, 2018.

We are now, officially the owners of the BT phone box and although this is not in a good state at present, it is hoped to get it painted and looking more 'loved' this year. We are still deciding what use it can be put to. Any suggestions?

We monitored the amendments to the Consultation Plan and feel that Marshchapel is well represented in this and we also found time to put up the speed brackets so that the speed advisory sign can be accommodated in our village. We look forward to its first visit this summer.

We have monitored various planning applications around the village this year and tried to represent the views of the village in our comments back to ELDC, when we have been contacted we have acted on issues raised.

Cllr McNally representing LCC and ELDC and Cllr Palmer representing ELDC have attended the majority of our meetings over the year and have kept us up to date on such matters as the Louth Cattle Market, local plan, street lights, coastal improvements and budget changes. We are very grateful for their help and

representation. At the present we are trying to get upgrades to the road near the church and to the corner of Mill Lane, with Cllr McNallys assistance.

The Police have attended some of our meetings, although not as many as we would like and we do get reports on police activity in the village.

All our Cllrs have attended the majority of meetings this year, sometimes work and family commitments put restraints on attendance but Marshchapel is well represented by a dedicated team.

I'd like to thank my fellow Councillor's and the Clerk for the work they continue to put in, without their support and input the Parish Council would not be able to function in the manner it does. We are a Pro Active Council who engage with members of the village and wish to continue in this manner.

Paul Rickett – Chairman of Marshchapel Parish Council
1st May, 2018