

Chairman's Annual Report (April 2025 – March 2026)

This report summarises the work and key developments of Edith Weston Parish Council over the past municipal year.

The year began with the Annual Parish Meeting and Council meeting in April 2025, where the Council continued its focus on representing residents' interests and maintaining effective local governance. Throughout the year, regular monthly meetings were held in the Village Hall, providing an open forum for discussion and decision-making on matters affecting the parish.

Governance and Membership

At the Annual Meeting in May 2025, the existing Chair and Vice Chair were re-elected, although both indicated their intention to step down in due course.

During the year, the Council experienced changes in leadership, including the resignation of the Chair towards the end of the municipal year. An interim Chair was appointed while arrangements were made to recruit a successor which were confirmed at the February meeting.

The Council also faced challenges in recruiting a Parish Clerk, following the resignation of Sara Glover. Sara kindly agreed to continue in the role of Clerk until the point that a successor was appointed. Joseph Preston was appointed and took up the role in March.

The Council would like to thank Sara for her professionalism and diligence throughout her tenure as Clerk.

Planning and Development

Planning matters remained a significant area of activity. The Council considered a range of applications and continued to engage with wider strategic developments, including:

- Ongoing discussions regarding large-scale housing proposals, including land east of Normanton Road
- Monitoring of Rutland's Local Plan and changes to housing targets
- Consideration of individual planning applications and tree works, typically with no objections where appropriate

The adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan following the February 2025 referendum provided an important framework for guiding local development.

Finance and Administration

The Council maintained sound financial management throughout the year. Budgets were approved, expenditure monitored, and all financial reports and payments were properly reviewed and authorised.

An internal auditor was reappointed for 2025/26, ensuring continued compliance with governance and accountability requirements.

Community and Local Issues

The Council continued to address a range of parish matters, including:

- Engagement with Rutland County Council on housing, devolution proposals, and local services
- Website improvements and communications with residents
- Consideration of environmental matters (with no major issues reported during the year)
- Exploration of funding opportunities, though no Community Action Fund applications were submitted
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Public participation remained an important part of meetings, although attendance varied.

Looking Ahead

As the Council moves into the next year, priorities include:

- Filling councillor vacancies that exist on the Council
- Continuing to monitor and respond to planning developments
- Supporting the implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan
- Maintaining strong financial oversight and community engagement

Conclusion

Despite some challenges in staffing and leadership, the Parish Council has continued to operate effectively, maintaining its commitment to serving the residents of Edith Weston and ensuring the parish remains a well-managed and vibrant community.

Chris Malyon

Chairman of the Parish Council