

Annual Report 2023/24



What is a Parish Council?

Established in 1894, Little Thetford Parish Council (LTPC) is the first tier of government for the Little Thetford community. Unlike principal authorities such as District and County Councils, LTPC does not have statutory duties to discharge, but it does have a wide range of discretionary statutory powers it may choose to use to provide services and amenities for residents.

Councillors

Little Thetford Parish Council has 7 councillors when all seats are taken. Currently there are two vacancies for the role of councillor. Councillors are elected for a term of four years. The last elections were held in May 2022. Anyone over the age of 18 who is a citizen of the UK, the EU or the Commonwealth can be a parish councillor if they:

- are an elector in; or work in; or live in; or live within three miles of the area of the local council.

Outside of elections councillors can be co-opted onto council if there are seats available.

Meetings

Councillors attend 11 full councils meeting every year (held the second Wednesday of each month apart from August) The Annual Parish meeting is an additional meeting held yearly between 1st March and 1st June, which is an informal meeting where the parish council reports its business of the previous 12 months to its electorate, often there will also be reports from District council and community groups.

Finance

The precept for 2023/24 increased slightly to £19365. Your precept is collected by East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) and included in your Council Tax payments. Precept is the money Little Thetford Parish Council (LTPC) requests to carry out their statutory duties and other responsibilities.

During the year we also received Community Infrastructure Levy money (CIL) of £9679.21 to be used towards 'infrastructure' projects within our village. CIL is a charge levied by Local Authorities (ECDC) on new developments in our village to help deliver and improve infrastructure needed to support the new houses. The amount of this levy received by the Parish Council is set by ECDC. In 2023 the Parish Council granted the Village Hall £7000 to pay towards the electrification project as well as using £1300 to refurbish the village sign.

More information

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Councillors for all their hard work and dedication throughout 2023.

LTPC welcomed back Cllr Kilby in 2023.

Cllr Hadley and Cllr Peacock both stepped down in 2023 leaving two vacant seats. If you are interested in this very rewarding role please contact the clerk.

Work carried out in 2023

What have we been doing? Where has your money been spent? How have we contributed to the parish of Little Thetford?

- The sports field, changing rooms and Multi use games area have always been owned by Little Thetford Parish Council but the lease has been with the sports and social club to manage these for the past few years. In 2023 this lease was surrendered and handed back to the parish council.
- Comments on (but does not decide) planning applications within the parish and neighbouring parishes where there may be an impact on the village. Over the year five planning applications have been considered at full council meetings.
- We maintain the play area on Cowslip Drive and various areas of Public Open Space for the benefit of the residents of the village.
- The cemetery gates have been re-furbished in 2023. The grounds within the cemetery have been levelled up and re-seeded .
- The Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) has been deep cleaned and now being used to play sport safely.
- The cemetery on The Wyches is managed and maintained by the Parish Council. Sadly there have been nine burials in the cemetery during the year.
- Maintain the verges on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council.
- Works with East Cambridgeshire District Council to provide dog bins and additional signage
- The village gardening and maintenance contract was renewed in 2023.
- The village sign was refurbished back to its former glory.
- Repairs were carried out on the culvert at Red Fen Road by CCC.
- The carpark has been repaired and re gravelled.
- A tree survey was completed in May 2023. Tree work has been happening throughout the year and will continue on 2024.
- The Parish Council successfully collaborated with the village organisations to put on a wonderful Christmas light switch on.

Future Work- *What are we working on going forward?*

- *The 'New Life on the Old West' project will be hosting an event about 'nature' on the sports field on 10th August.*
- *The telephone box will be removed in 2024 for a full refurbishment.*
- *The Feast committee will be holding its annual fete on the sports field on 10th June 2024.*
- *The MUGA lighting will be upgraded to LED lighting during the year.*
- *The council are looking to bring more football to the sports field, contracts are currently being signed for the next session.*
- *Grants will be explored to buy a new grass mower for the sports field.*
- *More repairs are needed on the culvert at Red Fen Road- This will be completed in 2024 by CCC.*

Summary of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31st March 2024

31 ^{MAR23}		31 ^{MAR24}
88894.91	Opening Balance	68267
	Income	
17509	Precept	19365
132.77	Bank Interest	525.22
1260	Burial Income	1572
41699.02	Grants/Donations	6109.66
6775.29	CIL Field Income	9679.21 120.00
2949.16	Other Income VAT return	72.98 10510.15
815	Rent	815
71140.24	Total Income	48769
	Expenditure	
10924.13	Admin, Salaries, Insurance, subscriptions, etc.	14234.08
0	Elections S137	250 1600
2340.14 2447.95	Cemetery Maintenance Cemetery Extension	3817.36
2407	Grass Cutting	3624.50
4531.54	Village Maintenance	7865.18
780	Conservation Area	121.06
47915.75	Playpark Maintenance Field Costs	211.89 405.27
2574.99 993.22	Grants Events	
6042	Other Expenses	9351.03
10811.12	VAT Projects using CIL	3396.36 13935.02
91767.60	Total Expenditure	58812
68267	Closing Balance	58224

Financial Summary

The majority of income to the Parish Council is in the form of Precept. This is collected by East Cambridgeshire District Council and is included in Council Tax Payments along with the receipt of CIL money for infrastructure projects in the village. "Other Income" includes a VAT refund payment of £10510.15

Administration costs include insurance, subscriptions, general office administration, staff costs, audit costs and legal fees. The increase comes this year from a new software package and a staff pay increase.

Cemetery maintenance includes the cost of the caretaker and any other expenses incurred.

Parish Councillor Contact Details

As at April 24

Little Thetford Parish Council consists of 7 Parish Councillors who are elected for 4 years and represent a population of approximately 794*

Cllr Charlotte Mitchell- Chairman-

charlotte.mitchell@littlethetford.org.uk

Cllr Olibhe Collins-Neat- Councillor-

Olibhe.collinsneat@littlethetford.org.uk

Cllr Ian Driver- Councillor-

ian.driver@littlethetford.org.uk

Cllr Tracey Durham

Tracey.durham@littlethetford.org.uk

Cllr Alison Kilby

Alison.kilby@littlethetford.org.uk

Vacant positions x2

Parish Council agendas and minutes are available to view on the website:

www.littlethetford.org.uk

Visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/littlethetfordpc/>

Parish Council email address: parish.clerk@littlethetford.org.uk

Postal address: Little Thetford Parish Council, c/o Little Thetford Village Hall, The Wyches,
Little Thetford, CB6 3HG

* 2018 population estimate from Office for National Statistics via Cambridgeshire Insight
<https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/parish-profile/?geographyId=7f94ea12b8914d3cb0c0c29bc9ad1767&featureId=E04001647>