

I would like to start by welcoming you all to this evening's Annual Town Meeting, an especially warm welcome to all the nominees of the Civic awards and their guests, here for the presentation later on. It's lovely to see so many people here tonight.

As I come to the end of my Mayoral tenure, I would like to reflect on the past two years and be proud of what Winterton Town Council has achieved working with our many partners and friends of the years. The uniform hub, that started as just an idea, has gone from strength to strength. A victim of its own success we moved it from our old office on West Street to here at the Pavilion. Every Thursday and Friday during the school summer holidays, this whole hall was busy with families and rails of school uniforms from nursery aged through to year 11. Thank you to everyone who helped make this the facility enabling families from our community to prepare their children for the new term, so that no child feels different and excluded.

Everyone here at Winterton TC knows with rising costs, how difficult it can be to entertain the family, which is why we try to make our annual Party at the Pavilion Family Event better every year. This year, the event will be on 1st August from 2pm – 9pm and will be a real extravaganza. We have a live band and local singer Clea Storrs along with Alwyn's Disco, keeping the music going all afternoon and evening. We have a stilt walker, balloon modelling, Light Up Winterton light parade and fire act finale. We have booked inflatables suitable from toddlers through to adults, as well as a licenced bar and food stalls. Everyone is very welcome to bring a picnic. Whilst we do encourage every to walk here where possible, there is Free Parking on site. All community groups have been invited to have a stall for free – enabling them to raise money for their groups.

I am pleased to have been involved in the evolving changes here at Winterton TC. Over a few years, we have all worked together to try to find ways of being a more cost efficient Council.

For many years the Council has either owned or been responsible for many assets that have drained financial resources. Money that we would rather be spending on the community. The lease we had on a lock up in the town to house our plant and machinery increased 3-fold in a year, along with the utilities and business rates. We firstly looked at how we could reduce these costs, and it was agreed that by selling the Ark on West Street, we would be able to build the garage here. The Ark was a very old building that needed a huge amount of money spending on it, to

make it a viable Council building. Initial quotes to make it warm and damp free were heading into the £20,000s. How could we justify spending this amount of money when we want to provide value for money for the community. Thanks to Keigar who provided us with two shipping containers in the car park here, for a year, at no cost for us to house our equipment until the build was completed. These will be moved very soon now the garage is complete.

The Old School Hall continues to be owned by The Town Council and managed by the OSH trustees and committee. The Council are doing all it can to continue to work in partnership with them and find the best and safest solution for access to the Playgroup, following advice from the Humberside Fire and Rescue Service and planning officers.

The next phase of development is installing the Town Council office here at the Pavilion, so we will be completely centralised. The joy of the modern age means that at the moment the clerk is working remotely but able to be completely contactable via emails, messenger and emails etc, and can arrange to meet anyone in person at short notice, and now we are in Spring and heading into early Summer, you will see our grounds team out an about in the town. On that note you may have seen our newer members of staff Jason – the newest member of our grounds maintenance team, and Jack and Alfie out an about litter picking at weekends and school holidays. They are all proving real asset to the team.

I would also like to take this time to publicly thank Peter Parker for his service to Winterton. Peter feels that this is the right time to retire, as he needs to prioritise his health and wellbeing, and we would all like to wish him well for a long and happy retirement, enjoying time with his wonderful grandchildren

We also want to install a clubhouse for the Dale Park Juniors FC, and we'll hopefully be working with the club to bring about this facility for them very soon, bringing them in line with other similar clubs across the area.

Now I move on to the thing that I am most proud of. The installation of the Pump Park has been a massive success. No-one thought it would have been as popular as it is. It is a delight to watch all ages, generations, girls and boys, all enjoying it together. We are so grateful to North Lincolnshire Council, especially Rob Waltham and our Ward Councillors Helen, Ralph and Elaine, who were instrumental in sourcing the funding for us. Whilst we had started to look at budgets and funding it ourselves, it would have taken years and years to gather the funds

necessary. The amazing Pump Park was funded by section 106 money paid by developers and UKSPF money that is administered by North Lincs Council. The availability of the funding meant that the park needed to be built at a time that was not perfect for heavy plant but we thank everyone for their patience and understanding with us, whilst the team return the grounds back to what they were.

The building of the pump park has also exposed some grounds at the rear of the park and shown its true potential for a Nature Park. Please do join us on Friday 17th 10am – 3pm for the community day. You will be invited to have a tour of the area and your comments and ideas invited. We are working with Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, who will also be here on Friday. We are also building a forest school that will be used by Happy Feet Pre-school penguins as well as the schools in our town. We have already had visits from the schools and their ideas for the area are amazing and very imaginative. Ones that we can build on.

We'll be providing drinks all day and there will be activities to keep you busy if you'd like to stay all day. Please do bring a picnic if you would like to stay all day and gardening / litter picking equipment if you can.

There have been times that have been more challenging than other but overall I think it has been a good two years, and there are many thank you's I'd like to make personally to individuals who have helped make my mayoral years enjoyable and I think successful, but for now I will say thank you to you all.