

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

1. INTRODUCTION

Metheringham Parish Council received a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) appertaining to the following capital projects in the Council's authority;

C14 Market Cross, High Street, Metheringham
Public Toilets, Fen Road, Metheringham
Other Capital Projects

Together with two further FOIA requests as follows;

Request relating to information held regarding payments made in connection with the acts/entertainers at the 19 October 2024 Metheringham Fayre and Feast.

Request relating to information held regarding the differential in salaries paid to the two previous Parish Clerks as shown in the 2023/24 year end accounts cash register published on the Parish Council's Website.

Consequently, the Parish Council have been in correspondence with the Lincolnshire Association of Local Councils (LALC) and Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and have also made reference to the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR). From subsequent correspondence the Parish Council was left with no option but to carry out an internal review for all Parish Council Policies & Procedures relating to the issues raised. The Parish Council resolved to appoint an independant person to carry out the review.

I, being Michael Credland, was approached by Metheringham Parish Council Chairman and Temporary Clerk and agreed to be appointed as such a reviewer. I had been employed in local government for over thirty years (North Kesteven Rural District Council and North Kesteven District Council from 1974) and latterly with John Roberts Architects in Lincoln working on Listed Buildings and projects within Conservation Areas. I was also a former Clerk and Treasurer to Metheringham Parish Council for twenty-five years and awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) in the 2018 Queen Elizabeth II New Year's Honours List.

2. BACKGROUND

Metheringham Parish Council adopted STANDING ORDERS and FINANCIAL REGULATIONS, last reviewed on 28 June 2023.

The following are also adopted policies of the Parish Council;

Freedom of Information Policy - 29.01.2013
Privacy Notice - May 2019

Councillor Privacy Notice - September 2019
Hirers Privacy Notice - September 2019
Safeguarding Policy - October 2019
Data Breach Policy - January 2020
Health and Safety Policy - January 2020
Data Protection Policy - January 2020
CCTV Policy - October 2021

3. SUMMARY OF THE INITIAL FOIA

The following capital projects are to be addressed as follows;

1. VILLAGE C14 MARKET CROSS

1. History
2. Listed Status of the Market Cross
3. Building Work to the Market Cross
Pre-Contract
4. Building Work to the Market Cross
Post Contract
5. Conclusion

2. PUBLIC TOILETS FEN ROAD, METHERINGHAM

1. History
2. Building Work to the Public Toilets
Pre-Contract
3. Building Work to the Public Toilets
Post-Contract
4. Conclusion

3. OTHER CAPITAL PROJECTS

1. The Supply and Fitting of a replacement gas hot water boiler in the Pavilion.

Michael Credland BEM
14 February 2025