

WINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Chairman's Annual Report
April 2022 – March 2023

I have had the privilege and pleasure of being the Chairman of Wingham Parish Council for four years and I am pleased to report that the Council has continued to be very actively engaged with the community during the last year. I set out below a precis of activities undertaken.

Finance, Capital Expenditure and Audit

The accounts for 2022/23 balanced and the Independent Internal Auditor reported that the Financial Statements and Accounting Records for the year ending March 2022 showed "...a fair, reasonable and true representation. Wingham Parish Council has put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources". I'd like to thank our Parish Clerk, Kerry Coltham, for her excellent bookkeeping and the two councillors involved in the internal audit checks for their work.

No councillors took the Basic Allowance.

The Public Budget Meeting was incorporated with the Parish Council meeting in November 2022. After due consideration, a precept of £54,080.84 was set for 2023/24 which represents a 1.59% increase on last year and again with no grant from Dover District Council.

IT support continues with HIBITS with Office 365 provided for nine Councillors and the Clerk. Zoom membership was renewed to carry out virtual on-line meetings if required. The Scribe Accounts package was used during the year but will be discontinued for 2023/24.

The following purchases were made during the year:

- A 4-compartment recycling bin for the High Street which will be installed in April/May 2023.
- A Coronation flag to place on the Wingham Remembrance Garden flagpole.
- A Welcome to Wingham poster winning entry enlargement for the Commemorative planter.
- An enhanced access portable toilet at the Recreation Ground.
- The Local Council Administration 13th Edition reference book.
- Registration with the Information Commissioner's Office.
- A First Aid kit.
- Annual maintenance and monthly line rental for the CCTV at the Rec.
- Water for the allotments.
- Compostable bags for the EcoGreen dog bag dispensing stations.

Equipment Repairs, Maintenance and Inspections

Maintenance for the public toilets were carried out by Dover District Council at a cost of £6267.76. Ground maintenance for 2022/23 was carried out by Harmer & Sons on a three year contract and tree felling at the Rec, hedge maintenance for Elgars Field and the Play Area by Leaf Tree Services. Red Lion Corner Garden and the Perennial Garden at the High Street crossing was maintained by volunteers with new plants donated and purchased. Wildflower yellow rattle plugs were sown at Elgars Field and perennial tulip bulbs planted at Wingham Green. Mulch was purchased for trees at the Rec along with two replacement hornbeam trees. The annual Health & Safety inspections on village trees were carried out in April 2022. Batteries were changed in the defibrillator. Maintenance was carried out on the Speed Indicator Devices which included new batteries and a new radar unit for SID1. The annual inspection of the Play Area and the MUGA was carried out by Playdale Playgrounds. The MUGA backboards were repainted and new gate springs for the Play Area installed. Metal bollards were installed at Elgars Field to replace the rotten wooden ones. High Street furniture was maintained as required.

Grants, Donations and Projects

Community Grants were awarded to the Recreation Ground, the PCC for the burial ground, the Pre-school, the Village Hall, the Scouts and Wingham Community News. Small capital grants were awarded to the Tennis Club, Village Hall, Pre-school and the Scouts. A donation was made to the RBL Poppy Appeal for the Remembrance Wreath. The precept for 2023/24 once again includes funds for village organisation grants, plus a contribution to the Partnership and new WPC Office Funds. The precept also has amounts budgeted for WC maintenance, ground and property maintenance and capital funds for potential new projects.

Training, Conferences and Meetings

Martin Smith attended an Advanced Planning course, Dynamic Councillor course and a Climate Change conference. Louise Peckham also attended the Dynamic Councillor training. The Clerk trained on Data Protection.

Meetings attended by councillors and the Clerk include the A257 Traffic Group, the Village Hall Committee, the Recreation Ground Committee and KCC Highways meetings.

Village Activities

The Remembrance Service took place on 13th November 2022 and Community Carols on 15th December 2022. A community litter pick took place on 1st April 2023.

Parish Councillor and Volunteer Roles and Responsibilities

Cllr Sharon Addis	Chairman of the Parish Council
Cllr Enid Brice	Planning Committee, Wingham Village Hall representative & GDPR
Cllr Dan Collins	Planning Committee Chairman
Cllr Russell Graydon	Vice Chairman, Property Maintenance, AED Maintenance, Highways representative and Planning Committee (from Dec 22)
Cllr Bob Harvey	Flood Warden, Internal Finance Control, Planning Committee (from June 22) and Play Area checks (from November 22)
Cllr Peter Prebble	Play Area maintenance checks, Planning Committee (both until Oct 22)
Cllr Martin Smith	Environment/sustainability, Tree Warden (from October 22)
Cllr Pat Young	SID Stats, Speedwatch Co-ordinator, Internal Audit
Cllr Louise Peckham	Allotment checks, Training co-ordinator
Cllr Emma Baker	Co-opted to Council 13 March 23
Andy Cook (resident)	SID Maintenance and Moving
Chris Pike (resident)	Tree Warden (until Oct 22)
Bryan Curtis (resident)	A257 Group representative, Flag Warden
Wingham Foot Path Group	Footpath Warden

Thank You

The Parish Council has limited resources both financially and in terms of manpower. We would not be able to achieve as much as we do without the support and work of Wingham residents and businesses. Working together means we have a vibrant community. I set out below those who I know have contributed to this and apologise in advance if I have forgotten anyone who should be thanked.

- My fellow Parish Councillors, our District and County Councillors and especially our Parish Clerk, Kerry Coltham. I thank Peter Prebble who stood down earlier in the year after 8 years of service. We welcomed Louise Peckham and Emma Baker as new councillors.
- Our Independent Internal Auditor, Jess Young.
- All village volunteers and residents who have attended meetings, responded to consultations, taken part in village events and tidied our village.
- Gareth Winters, Wingham Community News Editor & Lynne Connolly and the distributors of the Wingham Community News.
- Village Committees, Groups and Organisations.
- The Footpath Warden – Wingham Footpath Group.
- Bryan Curtis, Flagpole Warden.
- Chris Pike, Tree Warden until October 22.
- All those involved with the Christmas Tree including Michelle Abbott, the Fire Brigade and the Dental Surgery.
- The village shops and businesses who have displayed posters for the Parish Council.
- Craig Mackinlay MP, Rosie Duffield MP and other Parish Councils that have participated in the A257 Group aimed at improving road safety in the village and surrounding areas.
- Our county association, KALC for its support and advice.
- The Speedwatch Team and Andy Cook for maintaining our Speed Indicator Device.
- PCSO Jacqui Brook.
- The Dog at Wingham for supporting the “Welcome to Wingham” poster competition.
- Wingham Primary School & children for participating in the poster competition.

This concludes my Annual Report

Cllr Sharon Addis
Wingham Parish Council, April 2023