



ANNUAL REPORT
APRIL 2022 - MARCH 2023

Approved at a meeting of Council on Monday 12 June 2023

FOREWORD BY THE CHAIRMAN

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. This year's Annual Report sets out a precis of activities undertaken.

Cllr S Addis, Chairman

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL At the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2022 Cllr Addis was re-elected as Chairman with Cllr Graydon re-elected as Vice-Chairman. Cllrs Brice, Collins, Harvey & Prebble were elected as members of the Planning Committee. Offices for various roles including: Internal Financial Control, Internal Audit, Maintenance checks, Property checks, Allotment checks, Highways, Speed Indicator Device (SID) stats, Speedwatch, Training, Environment and GDPR were filled by Councillors. Representatives for village organisations were agreed as were resident volunteer roles.

Throughout the year, members of the Council furthered the interests of the Wingham community at meetings of the Dover District Towns and Parishes, KCC Highways, the Kent Association of Local Councils, the A257 Traffic Group and other local organisations. Conferences and training were also attended by Councillors and the clerk. Cllr Brice represented the council on the Village Hall Management Committee and was the GDPR rep. Cllr Collins chaired the Planning Committee. Cllr Graydon carried out property checks and defibrillator maintenance and was the Highways Rep. Cllr Harvey carried out his role of Internal Finance Control Officer and became responsible for Play Area checks in November. Cllr Peckham was the Training Rep and responsible for Allotment checks. Cllr Prebble carried out Play Area Maintenance checks until his resignation in October. Cllr Smith was the Environment rep and represented the Council on the Recreation Ground Management Committee. Cllr Young was responsible for Speedwatch and SID statistics and Internal Audit.

VOLUNTEERS: Our Tree Warden, Chris Pike, maintained the Inventory and accompanied the arboriculturist during the Annual Tree Health & Safety Inspection, but stood down in October and Martin Smith took over; Andy Cook helped with SID maintenance; Bryan Curtis, A257 Group representative, continued to chair A257 meetings and as Flag Warden, changed flags as required throughout the year; the Wingham Footpath Group acted collectively as the Footpath Warden and walked the 30 footpaths crossing our Parish; and various residents helped tidy parish garden areas.

MEETINGS Parish Council meetings were held every month, except for August. A public session was held at each meeting to enable questions from residents. In addition, a public budget meeting was incorporated into the November Council meeting. The Annual Parish Assembly was held on 20 April 2022. Following the Chairman's annual report, our District and County Councillors highlighted issues and successes over the year and accepted questions. All Councillor and village organisation annual reports were supplied in a report pack and made available on the council's website. The Community Awards were presented to the Wingham Fire Station (Jack Jolly Award) and the retiring Village Hall Management Committee (KALC Community Award). This was followed by the election of village representatives to the Recreation Ground Management Committee and then three presentations followed: "Saving St Mary's" by Steve Sheath; "Speedwatch" by Cllr Pat Young; and "The Wingham Charities" by Bryan Curtis and Helen Farbrace.

ACHIEVEMENTS There were no major projects during 2022/23. However, steps towards a potential Parish Council office at the Village Hall were made following initial discussions with an architect and the Village Hall Committee.

LAND, CAPITAL AND PROPERTY In addition to Elgars Field and the Recreation Ground, both owned by the Parish Council, the Council continued to arrange for the grass to be cut at Wingham Green and the Wingham Remembrance Garden. Red Lion corner garden, the Perennial Garden, the Remembrance Garden, High Street roses and the Commemorative Planter were tidied by volunteers with plants, both donated and purchased, added to garden areas. Wildflowers were planted at Elgars Field and perennial tulip bulbs planted at Wingham Green. Tree, hedge and shrub maintenance was carried out at the Play Area and Elgars Field. An annual tree inspection of all Wingham PC-owned trees was carried out. Young trees at the Recreation Ground were re-mulched and two new hornbeams planted to replace dead saplings. During the year maintenance for the WCs in St Mary's Meadow was paid to DDC and an enhanced access portable toilet was hired for use by visitors to the Recreation Ground. Maintenance of street furniture was carried out as required and the batteries for the defibrillator replaced. The MUGA backboards were repainted and Play Area gate springs replaced. Metal bollards were installed at Elgars Field to replace the rotten wooden ones and water supplied for the allotment holders. A new radar unit was fitted to a SID and new batteries purchased for both SIDs. A Coronation flag was purchased for use during the King's coronation and a new 4-compartment recycling bin for the High Street was purchased and will be installed later this year. Compostable bags for the dog waste bag dispensing stations were purchased and monthly line rental and maintenance for the CCTV at the Recreation Ground paid. The annual inspection of the Play Area, MUGA and outdoor gym was carried out by Playdale Playgrounds. IT support was maintained by HIBITs; Zoom membership renewed to carry out virtual meetings; and the Scribe Accounts Package used for 2022/23.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES Members of the Parish Council took part in the Remembrance Day Parade and Service on 13 November, during which the Chairman laid a wreath at the war memorial. The brass accompaniment for the Christmas Community Carols in the High Street on 15 December was supplied by members of the Sawl family. Children from Wingham Primary School took part in the Welcome to Wingham poster competition.

FINANCE Councillors responsible for Internal Audit, our clerk and the Independent Internal Auditor all helped to ensure that the official external Annual Audit found our accounts to be in accordance with proper practice. Community grants and small capital grants were awarded to various village organisations, including: The Recreation Ground Committee, See-Saw Pre-School, Village Hall Management Committee, Parochial Church Council for maintenance of the burial ground, Scouts, Tennis Club and Wingham Community News. A donation was made to the RBL Poppy Appeal for the Remembrance Wreath.

All Members of the Council declined to take the Councillors' Basic Allowance.

The Independent Internal Auditor of Accounts report for the 2022/23 Annual Return carried out in June 2023 stated that the Finance and Accounts for the year ending March 2023 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."

The public budget meeting incorporated into the November 2022 meeting failed to attract any attendees.

THANK YOU: The Parish Council has limited resources both financially and in terms of workforce. We would not be able to achieve as much as we do without the support and work of the residents and businesses of Wingham. Working together means we have a vibrant community. Thank you to all those who have given their time, knowledge, and resources to contribute to this.

SUMMARY OF PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS 2022/2023

RECEIPTS	£
Balance in hand at 1 April 2022 including earmarked funds at 31.3.22	81805
Precept	53678
Interest on savings account	80
VAT Refund 2021-22	3673
Allotment Rents	242
Recreation Ground Rent	1
Grants	0
Miscellaneous (Donations/refund/errors)	5330
TOTAL	144809

Administration (detail)	£
Clerk's salary, pension, NI, tax & WFH allowance	15441
Annual subscriptions	1022
Insurance	2728
Audit	460
Office supplies + IT costs	1486
Post and telephone	516
Hire of Village Hall	337
Water for allotments	190
ICO Registration	40
Reference books	132
TOTAL	22352

EXPENDITURE	£
Administration (as detailed above)	22352
Grants to village organisations	8200
Land maintenance	3171
Property maintenance (inc WCs)	10350
Councillor's allowances	0
Chairman's allowance	50
Training and conferences	282
Trees and verges	1608
Capital expenditure	2070
Contingencies & Section 137	273
Miscellaneous & Projects	6074
NB. These totals include £2203 VAT to be reclaimed	
TOTAL	54430

Earmarked Funds at 31.3.23	£
Community Event Fund	1500
Election Fund	2480
Health & Wellbeing Fund	10000
IT Fund	2203
Partnership Funding	8668
Play Area	17769
Reserves	33741
Village Organisations	100
New Office Fund	10000
TOTAL	86461

END OF YEAR BALANCE	£	90379
(total receipts minus total expenditure)		

NB. This total includes the earmarked funds noted above