

WINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Chairman's Annual Report
April 2024 – March 2025

Finance, Capital Expenditure and Audit

The accounts for 2024/25 balanced and the Independent Internal Auditor reported that the Financial Statements and Accounting Records for the year ending March 2024 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 2024. After due consideration, a precept of £56,929.16 was set for 2024/25 which represents a 3.13% decrease 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 along with website maintenance.

The following purchases were made during the year:

- A Welcome to Wingham poster winning entry enlargement for the Commemorative planter
- An enhanced access portable toilet at the Recreation Ground (rented)
- New Councillor name badge
- Speed Indicator Device Batteries x2
- Power meter plug monitor
- Replacement Elgars Field plaque as old one damaged by graffiti
- Architect drawings for proposed extension to The Miles Room
- Registration with the Information Commissioners office
- Insurance – including cyber insurance
- Hire of hall for meetings
- Membership renewals – KALC/NALC; SLCC
- Office stationery
- Wingham Parish Council newsletter inserts for the Wingham Community News printed by Dover District Council
- CCTV monthly line rental plus annual maintenance
- Water for the allotments and a new outdoor tap
- Payments were made to Dover District Council for the maintenance of the public toilets and the emptying of the High Street recycling bin
- An electrical box for the Christmas tree lights
- Cleaning wipes for street furniture

Equipment Repairs, Maintenance and Inspections

Ground maintenance was carried out by Harmer & Sons on a three year contract until 1 April 2027.

Hedge maintenance and pruning of a walnut tree at Elgars Field was carried out by Leaf Tree Services.

Tree surgery at Elgars Field and the Recreation Ground was undertaken by Mark Jones Tree Surgery.

Red Lion Corner Garden, Wingham Remembrance Garden and the Perennial Garden at the High Street crossing were maintained by volunteers with new plants donated and purchased. Bulbs were purchased and planted at Wingham Green.

Tree guards and posts were checked at the Recreation Ground with further tree guards purchased to be used as needed.

The annual Health & Safety inspection of village trees was carried out in July 2024.

The High Street defibrillator was checked monthly and new paediatric pads purchased.

Gardening equipment (hoe, brooms, half moon edger, bulb planter) was purchased for volunteer use.

The annual inspection of the Play Area, MUGA and Outdoor Gym was carried out by Playdale Playgrounds along with maintenance on the slide, Rota Bounce and gates.

Grants, Donations and Projects

Community Grants were awarded to the Recreation Ground, the PCC for the burial ground, the Pre-school, the Village Hall and Wingham Community News. Small capital grants were awarded to the Pre-school, Wingham Scouts and the football club.

A donation was made to the RBL Poppy Appeal for the Remembrance Wreath.

The precept for 2025/26 once again includes funds for village organisation grants, plus a contribution to the new WPC Office Funds, WC maintenance at St Mary's Meadow and the Recreation Ground and amounts budgeted for general maintenance.

Training, Conferences and Meetings

Cllr Brice attended a data protection course.

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 10th November and Community Carols on 19 December 2024. A community litter pick took place on 5th April 2025.

Parish Councillor and Volunteer Roles and Responsibilities

Cllr Sharon Addis	Chairman of the Parish Council
Cllr Emma Baker	Allotment checks, Training coordinator
Cllr Enid Brice	Planning Committee, Wingham Village Hall representative, GDPR
Cllr Dan Collins	Planning Committee Chairman
Cllr Andy Cook	SID Maintenance and moving
Cllr Russell Graydon	Vice Chairman, Property Maintenance, AED Maintenance, Highways representative, Planning Committee
Cllr Bob Harvey	Flood Warden, Internal Finance, Planning Committee, Play Area checks
Cllr Martin Smith	Environment/sustainability, Tree Warden
Cllr Pat Young	SID Stats, Speedwatch Co-ordinator, Internal Audit
Bryan Curtis (resident)	A257 Traffic 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. Once again, I am indebted to all those who support our activities. 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.
- Our Independent Internal Auditor, Jess Gibbins, of Young's Accountancy.
- 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, and the distributors of the Wingham Community News.
- Village Committees, Groups and Organisations.
- The village wardens: Footpath Warden – Wingham Footpath Group; Flagpole Warden – Bryan Curtis; and Tree Warden – Martin Smith.
- All those involved with the Christmas Tree including Michelle Abbott, Wingham Fire Brigade and the Dental Surgery.
- Village businesses who have displayed posters; Elgars Estate Agents for photocopying; The Dog at Wingham for supporting the "Welcome to Wingham" poster competition and community litter pick; Wilmshurst Bakery for supporting the community litter pick.
- Our local MPs, District/County and local Parish Councillors who have participated in the A257 Traffic Group aimed at improving road safety in the village and surrounding areas.
- Our county association, KALC, for its support and advice.
- The Speedwatch Team of volunteers.
- PC Jon Bowler, Neighbourhood Beat Officer, Dover Community Safety Unit.
- Wingham Primary School & children for participating in the poster competition.

This concludes my Annual Report

Cllr Sharon Addis, Wingham Parish Council, April 2025