



ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 2024 - MARCH 2025

Approved at a meeting of Council on Monday 9 June 2025

FOREWORD BY THE CHAIRMAN

I have had the privilege and pleasure of being the Chairman of Wingham Parish Council for six 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 2024 Cllr Addis was re-elected as Chairman with Cllr Graydon re-elected as Vice-Chairman. Cllrs Brice, Collins, Graydon & Harvey 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. Workshops and some training were also attended by Councillors and the clerk. Cllr Baker was the Training representative and responsible for Allotment checks. Cllr Brice represented the council on the Village Hall Management Committee and was responsible for GDPR. Cllr Collins chaired the Planning Committee Meetings. Cllr Cook was responsible for SID maintenance. Cllr Graydon carried out property checks and defibrillator maintenance, represented the council at A257 meetings and was responsible for Highway matters. Cllr Harvey carried out his role of Internal Finance Control Officer and was responsible for Play Area, MUGA and Outdoor Gym checks. Cllr Smith was responsible for the Environment & Sustainability and represented the Council on the Recreation Ground Management Committee. Cllr Young was responsible for Speedwatch, SID statistics and Internal Audit.

VOLUNTEERS: Our Tree Warden, Martin Smith, kept a watchful eye on all parish trees; 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 several 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, an extraordinary meeting was held on 1 April to discuss a planning application, and a public budget meeting was incorporated into the November Council meeting. The Annual Parish Assembly was held on 17 April 2024. 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 Bettina Braun (Jack Jolly Award) and Gareth Winters (KALC Community Award). This was followed by the election of village representatives to the Recreation Ground Management Committee and a presentation from PC Bowler, our Neighbourhood Beat Officer from the Dover Community Safety Unit.

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 verges, and the Commemorative Planter were tidied by volunteers with bulbs and plants, both donated and purchased, added to garden areas and at Wingham Green.

Tree guards and posts at the Recreation Ground were checked with further tree guards purchased to be used as needed. Tree maintenance, felling and pruning were carried out at Elgars Field and the Recreation Ground. During the year maintenance of a High Street Recycling bin and for the WCs in St Mary's Meadow was paid to Dover District Council 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 industrial cleaning wipes purchased, along with a new electrical box for the Christmas Tree lights. The High Street defibrillator was checked monthly with new paediatric pads purchased. A new tap was purchased and water supplied at the allotments. Speed Indicator Device batteries and a power meter plug monitor were purchased. A new plaque for Elgars Field was purchased to replace the damaged one. Further architect drawings for the proposed extension to The Miles room were commissioned. Parish Council newsletter inserts were included with the Wingham Community Newsletter. 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 and maintenance of the slide, Rota Bounce and play area gates carried out. IT support was maintained by HIBITs.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES Members of the Parish Council took part with village groups and residents in the Wingham Remembrance Day Parade and Service on 10 November, during which the Vice-Chairman laid a wreath at the war memorial.

The musical accompaniment for the High Street Christmas Community Carols on 19 December was supplied by a band of local melodion, accordion and fiddle players.

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 Management Committee, Pre-School, Village Hall Management Committee, Parochial Church Council for maintenance of the burial ground, Scouts, Football 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 2024/25 Annual Return carried out in May 2025 stated that the Finance and Accounts for the year ending March 2025 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 2024 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 resident volunteers 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 2024/2025

RECEIPTS	£
Balance in hand at 1 April 2024 including earmarked funds at 31.3.24	90874
Precept	58415
Interest on savings account	905
VAT Refund 2023-24	2442
Allotment Rents	190
Recreation Ground Rent	1
Grants	0
Miscellaneous (Donation/refund/stopped chqs)	809
TOTAL	153636

Administration (detail)	£
Clerk salary, pension, NI, tax & WFH allowance	17247
Annual subscriptions	902
Insurance	3029
Audit	478
Office supplies + IT costs	1646
Post and telephone	577
Hire of Village Hall	270
Water for allotments	203
ICO Registration	40
Election costs	0
Publishing (newsletter insert)	276
Reference books	0
TOTAL	24668

EXPENDITURE	£
Administration (as detailed above)	24668
Grants to village organisations	9647
Land maintenance	3402
Property maintenance (inc WCs)	13278
Councillor's allowances	0
Chairman's allowance	50
Training and conferences	48
Trees and verges	1799
Capital expenditure	5074
Contingencies & Section 137	206
Miscellaneous & Projects (new office)	942
NB. These totals include £2883 VAT to be reclaimed	
TOTAL	59114

Earmarked Funds at 31.3.25	£
Community Health & Wellbeing Fund	11500
Election Fund	2293
New Office Fund	17819
Partnership Funding	9068
Play Area/MUGA/Gym Fund	14791
Reserves Fund	33741
TOTAL	89212

END OF YEAR BALANCE	£ 94522
(total receipts minus total expenditure)	

NB. This total includes the earmarked funds noted above