



ANNUAL REPORT
APRIL 2025 - MARCH 2026

Approved at a meeting of Council on Monday 8 June 2026

FOREWORD BY THE CHAIRMAN

I would like to thank Sharon Addis for her dedication to the Parish Council during her seven years as Chairman. This year, under her leadership, the Council remained actively engaged with the community. The Annual Report provides a summary of the activities undertaken.

Cllr M Smith, Chairman

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL At the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2025 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 with Dover District Council, KCC Highways, the Kent Association of Local Councils, the A257 Traffic Group and other local organisations. Workshops and training were attended by Councillors and the clerk. Cllr Brice represented the council on the Village Hall Management Committee and was responsible for Internal Audit and GDPR. Cllr Collins chaired the Planning Committee Meetings and was the training representative. Cllr Cook was responsible for Allotment checks and SID maintenance. Cllr Graydon carried out property checks, represented the council at A257 Traffic meetings and was responsible for Highways. Cllr Harvey carried out his Internal Finance Control role and was responsible for Play Area, MUGA and Outdoor Gym checks. Cllr Smith was the Environment & Sustainability representative and Recreation Ground Management Committee representative. Cllrs Baker and Young resigned in May and June respectively, and the two vacancies were filled by Cllr Duke and Cllr Parry in July 2025.

VOLUNTEERS: Our Tree Warden, Martin Smith, kept a watchful eye on all parish trees; Bryan Curtis, A257 Traffic 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. The Parish Council are grateful to all those who volunteer within Wingham parish.

MEETINGS Parish Council meetings were held every month, except for August. A public session was held at each meeting to facilitate questions from residents. In addition, a public budget meeting was incorporated into the November Council meeting. At the Annual Parish Assembly on 23 April 2025 all Councillor and village organisation annual reports were supplied in a report pack and made available on the council's website. A presentation from Dandara on Fortuna Fields covered the project background, an update on progress, and information on street names. The Community Awards were presented to Matt Andrews (Jack Jolly Award) with Di and Barry French's KALC Community Award being presented in a separate ceremony later in the year. The award presentation was followed by the election of village representatives to the Recreation Ground Management Committee and then general questions.

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 plants, both donated and purchased, added to garden areas.

Tree guards and posts were installed at the Recreation Ground and tree maintenance at Elgars Field and the Recreation Ground carried out by contractors. A replacement plaque was purchased for a tree in Elgars Field dedicated to a previous Tree warden. 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. Due to vandalism, two extra cleans of the portable WC were required and it was subsequently removed in February 2026. Maintenance of street furniture was carried out as required and the High Street defibrillator checked monthly. Dog waste bags were purchased and used to replenish the three dispensers. Water was supplied at the allotments. The two Speed Indicator Devices were serviced with new batteries and chargers purchased. A new 5-bar wooden gate for Elgars Field was purchased and monthly line rental and maintenance for the CCTV at the Recreation Ground paid. Parish Council newsletter inserts were included with the Wingham Community Newsletter. The annual inspection of the Play Area, MUGA and outdoor gym was carried out by Playdale Playgrounds and maintenance of gates, aerial runway and other fixtures and fittings 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 9 November, during which the Chairman laid a wreath at the war memorial. The musical accompaniment for the Christmas Community Carols on 18 December was supplied by the Snowdown Colliery Band. Children from Wingham Primary School took part in the Welcome to Wingham poster competition. A week-long Litter Campaign with support from DDC took place in September 2025, culminating in a village litter pick on 13 September and a further community litter pick took place on 14 March 2026.

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. The summary of Parish Council accounts on page four gives further detail of the Council's expenses through the year.

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

The Independent Internal Auditor of Accounts report for the 2025/26 Annual Return carried out in May 2026 stated that the Finance and Accounts for the year ending March 2026 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 2025 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 2025/2026

RECEIPTS	£
Balance in hand at 1 April 2025 including earmarked funds at 31.3.25	94522
Precept	56929
Interest on savings accounts	2475
VAT Refund 2024-25	2759
Allotment Rents	253
Recreation Ground Rent	1
Grants	0
Miscellaneous (Donation/refund/corrections)	252
TOTAL	157191

Administration (detail)	£
Clerk salary, pension, NI, tax & WFH allowance	18903
Annual subs & Registrations	1082
Insurance	3075
Audit	478
Office supplies + IT costs	2325
Post and telephone	554
Hire of Village Hall	312
Water for allotments	219
Bank Fees (incl CHAPS transfers)	80
Election costs	0
Publishing (newsletter insert)	340
Reference books	180
TOTAL	27548

PAYMENTS	£
Administration (as detailed above)	27548
Grants to village organisations	9800
Land maintenance	3507
Property maintenance (inc WCs)	10546
Councillor's allowances	23
Chairman's allowance	64
Training and conferences	204
Trees and verges	1349
Capital expenditure	4506
Contingencies & Section 137	365
Miscellaneous/Fund expenditure	5001
<i>NB. These totals include £2659 VAT to be reclaimed</i>	
TOTAL	62913

Earmarked Funds at 31.3.26	£
Community Health & Wellbeing Fund	11500
Election Fund	2293
New Office Fund	24794
Partnership Funding	5569
Play Area/MUGA/Gym Fund	13540
Reserves Fund	33741
TOTAL	91437

END OF YEAR BALANCE	£ 94278
(total receipts minus total expenditure)	

NB. This total includes the earmarked funds noted above