

WINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman's Annual Report **April 2020 – March 2021**

This is my second annual report as Chairman of Wingham Parish Council and is written following the most extraordinary year that most of us have ever experienced. The Parish Council has not met face to face due to Covid 19 restrictions; however as soon as legislation was changed to allow councils to meet virtually, the Council has successfully held all its meeting via Zoom since last May.

Despite the restrictions, I am amazed at the amount the Parish Council has achieved and assisted with despite our limited resources. I set out the highlights of these below.

Finance, Capital Expenditure and Audit

The accounts for 2020/21 balanced and the Independent Internal Auditor reported that the Financial Statements and Accounting Records for the year ending 2021 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 would like to thank our Parish Clerk, Kerry Coltham, for her excellent bookkeeping and the two councillors involved in the quarterly and annual 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 2020. After due consideration, a precept of £53,399.48 was set for 2021/22 which is slightly lower than last year and again with no grant from Dover District Council.

The following capital purchases were made during the year:

- A new sewn Union Flag;
- A new website was set up in order to comply with accessibility legislation and IT support was contracted to HIBITS. Zoom membership was taken out to allow virtual council meetings;
- New Christmas tree lights and star topper. All the tree related equipment was also PAT tested;
- An outdoor gym and surfacing were purchased for the Recreation Ground and a table tennis table purchased for Elgars Field. These are part of the Council's Health and Wellbeing initiative.

Equipment Repairs, Maintenance and Inspections

Maintenance for the public toilets was carried out by Dover District Council. Ground maintenance for 2020/21 was carried out by Harmer & Sons on a three year contract; and hedge maintenance for Elgars Field and the Play Area by Leaf Tree Services. The street furniture maintenance contract is held by DI Services.

Batteries were changed in the defibrillator and new batteries purchased for the Speed Indicator Devices.

The Red Lion Corner garden was dug, weeded, pruned and tidied, when possible, by volunteers.

The annual inspection of the Play Area and the MUGA was carried out by Playdale Playgrounds.

The annual tree inspection of all Wingham PC-owned trees was carried out by Invicta Arboriculture. John Hall carried out tree work at Elgars Field. Mulch and six new saplings were purchased for the Recreation Ground.

A type 1 stone was purchased to repair the entrance of Elgars Field and a brass plaque bought to replace the missing one on the bench outside St Mary's Church.

Three new A3 signs were purchased and erected in the village car park.

Grants, Donations and Projects

Community Grants were awarded to the Recreation Ground, Wingham Scouts, the PCC for the burial ground, the Village Hall and Wingham Community News. Small capital grants were awarded to the PCC Tiny Tots/Messy Friday, the Cricket Club, the Pre-school and Wingham Scouts.

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

The precept for 2021/22 once again includes funds for village organisation grants and a contribution to the following funds: Health & Wellbeing, new WPC Office and Reserves. There are also amounts budgeted for WC maintenance, property maintenance and capital funds for potential new projects.

Training, Conferences and Meetings

All training, conferences and meetings were held via on-line methods during the year. Cllr Harvey attended Flood Warden training in October 2020 and Cllr Addis a training session on chairing virtual meetings organised by KALC in December 2020.

Meetings attended include the A257 Traffic Group, KALC Dover Area Committee, the Village Hall Committee, the Recreation Ground Committee and KCC Highways meetings.

Village Activities There were no Parish Council organised village activities this year due to the pandemic.

Parish Councillor and Volunteer Roles and Responsibilities

Cllr Sharon Addis	Chairman of the Parish Council
Cllr Enid Brice	Planning Committee, KALC Rep, Wingham Village Hall Rep
Cllr Bob Catt	Planning Committee, Internal Finance Control, Allotments
Cllr Dan Collins	Planning Committee Chairman
Cllr Heather Colthart	KALC Rep, HR Coordinator
Cllr Russell Graydon	Vice Chairman, Property & AED Maint., Rec. Ground Committee Rep
Cllr Bob Harvey	Flood Warden
Cllr Peter Prebble	Play Area Maintenance checks, Planning Committee
Cllr Pat Young	SID Stats, Speedwatch Co-ordinator, Internal Audit, GDPR
Andy Cook (resident)	Volunteer SID Maintenance and Moving
Chris Pike (resident)	Wingham Tree Warden
Wingham Foot Path Group	Wingham Footpath Warden

Thank You

As I stated in my opening remarks, 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 the residents and businesses of Wingham. Working together means we have a vibrant community. I set out below those who I know have contributed to this. I 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 Young;
- All village volunteers and residents who have attended meetings, responded to consultations, taken part in village events and tidied our village;
- Gareth Winters, WCN Editor; Lynne Connolly and the distributors of the Community Newsletter;
- Village Committees, Groups and Organisations;
- Parish Wardens: WFPG-Footpaths; Bryan Curtis-Flagpole; Chris Pike-Trees;
- All those involved with the Christmas Tree including Michelle Abbott, Peter Prebble, Wingham 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, County/District Cllrs and local Parish Councils who have participated in the A257 Traffic Group, improving road safety in the village and surrounding areas;
- Our County Association, KALC, for its support and advice;
- Village Volunteers: The Speedwatch Team; Andy Cook; Gardeners;
- PCSO Jacqui Brook and PCSO Eva Winter.

This concludes my Annual Report

Cllr Sharon Addis
April 2021