

**WINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Chairman's Annual Report**  
**April 2021 – March 2022**

This is my third annual report as Chairman of Wingham Parish Council but is the first that has been delivered to attendees at the Annual Parish Assembly due to the effect the COVID 19 pandemic had on public gatherings. I am pleased to report that the Parish Council has been meeting in person since last July and, with the ongoing invaluable support of the Clerk, has been very actively engaged with the community. I set out below a precis of activities undertaken.

**Finance, Capital Expenditure and Audit**

The accounts for 2021/22 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'd 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 2021. After due consideration, a precept of £53,678.28 was set for 2022/23 which is slightly higher (£278.80) than last year and again with no grant from Dover District Council.

The following capital purchases were made during the year:

- IT support continues with HIBITS with nine new Councillor email addresses set up; Zoom membership was renewed to carry out virtual on-line meetings as required; and a Scribe Accounts package set up.
- Following consultation with residents, a 20mph zone was installed through the village and a 40mph buffer zone put into the top of Preston Hill. This was paid for by the Parish Council.
- A Remembrance Garden plaque made by local stonemason, Neil Scrivener, was placed in the area formerly known as the RBL Garden on the corner of North Court.
- The Parish Council paid for CCTV cameras to be installed and monitored by Dover District Council at the Recreation Ground.
- A living roof bus shelter was placed opposite the Paddock in the High Street. Although the Parish Council contributed to the cost, the majority of the money came as a grant from Kent County Council which gave us more than it would have normally to recognise our commitment to wildlife and the environment.
- A Bodycam was purchased for Speedwatch volunteers.
- A Ukraine national flag in order for Wingham to demonstrate its support for that country following the Russian invasion.

**Equipment Repairs, Maintenance and Inspections**

Maintenance for the public toilets were carried out by Dover District Council. Ground maintenance for 2021/22 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 holly at Red Lion Corner was pruned by Dave Ivatt.

Red Lion Corner Garden and the Perennial Garden at the High Street crossing was maintained by volunteers with new plants added and two insect houses erected at Red Lion Corner. Wildflower seeds were sown at Elgars Field.

Tree work at the Recreation Ground was carried out by John Hall and trees were mulched. A new "Wingham Elm" tree was planted at Elgars Field as part of the Queen's Green Canopy.

Batteries were changed in the defibrillator and new pads (adult and paediatric) purchased.

Maintenance was carried out on the Speed Indicator Devices.

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

The Kent County Council owned High Street streetlamps were repainted by a KCC contractor but paid for by the Parish Council.

**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 and the Scouts.

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

The precept for 2022/23 once again includes funds for village organisation grants, a contribution to the Health & Wellbeing, Partnership, new WPC Office and Reserve funds. The precept also has amounts budgeted for WC maintenance, property maintenance and capital funds for potential new projects.

### Training, Conferences and Meetings

Most training during the year continued to be carried out virtually due to the ongoing pandemic restrictions. Cllr Collins attended a planning conference and Cllr Young a data protection course. The Clerk attended a Freedom of Information workshop, a climate change conference, a GDPR health check workshop and training on the new Scribe accounts system.

Meetings attended by councillors and the Clerk include the A257 Group, the Village Hall Committee, the Recreation Ground Committee, the Jubilee Committee and KCC Highways meetings.

### Village Activities

The Remembrance Service took place on 14 November and Community Carols on 16 December 2021

### Parish Councillor and Volunteer Roles and Responsibilities

Cllr Sharon Addis	Chairman of the Parish Council (joined Planning Cmte March 22)
Cllr Enid Brice	Planning Cmte, KALC rep, Wingham Village Hall rep
Cllr Bob Catt	Planning Cmte, Internal Finance Control, Allotment Maint (Til Feb 22)
Cllr Dan Collins	Planning Committee Chairman
Cllr Heather Colthart	KALC representative, HR Coordinator (until Feb 22)
Cllr Russell Graydon	Vice Chairman, Property+AED Maint, Rec.Ground Cmte, Highways rep
Cllr Bob Harvey	Flood Warden (+ Internal Finance Control from March 22)
Cllr Peter Prebble	Play Area maintenance checks, Planning Committee
Cllr Martin Smith	Co-opted March 2022
Cllr Pat Young	SID Stats, Speedwatch Co-ordinator, Internal Audit, GDPR
Andy Cook (resident)	Volunteer SID Maintenance and Moving
Chris Pike (resident)	Tree Warden
Bryan Curtis (resident)	A257 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 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. I thank Bob Catt who stood down earlier in the year after 20+ years of service and Heather Colthart who could no longer remain a councillor due to time constraints. We welcomed Martin Smith (March 2022) and Louise Peckham (April 2022) as new councillors;
- 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 distributors of the Wingham Community News;
- Village Committees, Groups and Organisations;
- Wardens: WFPG-Footpath Warden; Bryan Curtis-Flagpole Warden; Chris Pike-Tree Warden
- All those involved with the Christmas Tree including Michelle Abbott, Peter Prebble, the 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 and other Parish Councils that have participated in the A257 Group aimed at improving road safety in the village and surrounding areas;
- Our county association, KALC for its support and advice;
- The Speedwatch Team and Andy Cook for maintaining our Speed Indicator Device;
- PCSO Eva Winter;
- Wingham & Aylesham Surgery for supporting the "Welcome to Wingham poster competition;
- Wingham Primary School & children for participating in the poster competition.

**This concludes my Annual Report**

Cllr Sharon Addis  
Wingham Parish Council April 2022