**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT 2016**

WIXFORD PARISH COUNCIL ? CHAIRMAN?S ANNUAL REPORT 2015 ? 2016

The Parish Council has had a busy year ? This report is a summary of the activities that the Council has undertaken over the last year, April 2015 to March 2016.

Membership
Your Councillors are Cllrs Jack Fryer, Colin Hales, Andrew Reekes, Jon Haworth and Dean Morris.
Jon Haworth and Dean Morris were appointed as rotating Chairmen in May 2015 and Colin Hales Vice Chairman. Karen Parnell continued in her role of Clerk to the Council until her resignation in March to concentrate her attention of writing and has been replaced by Simone Bush. We wish Karen all the best and thank her for her efforts over the years acting as our clerk. We welcome Simone and look forward to working with her over the coming years.

Meetings
The Council has continued to meet every other month, usually on the second Tuesday of the month (actual dates are posted on the notice board and website). Our meetings are well supported by District Councillors, Sue Adams and by County Councillor Mike Brain who attend regularly and impart knowledge and advice.

The council meetings are open to the public and provide an opportunity to ask questions on any issue relating to the village and generally to find out what is going on in the area. We look forward to more people from the village making use of this facility in the future.

What have we done?
Village maintenance has been assessed continuously and a number of projects are underway or have been completed. Highway maintenance issues are frequently assessed and the parish council has a good and communicative relationship with the district and county councils.

In response to concerns about the uneven surfaces of the footpaths they have received a new surface coating.

Traffic calming continues to be a priority issue for your Council. The Parish Council with the assistance of Mike Brain secured funding for a double sided flashing repeater sign by the phone box to warm motorists travelling in both directions that it is a designated 30 mph speed limit. The road through the village has also had the road markings renewed.
We have examined the feasibility of other physical traffic calming measures for the village including traffic lights on the bridge or ?speed bumps? but they have all proved to be extremely costly options and are unaffordable based on the finances available.

We have embarked upon a programme to upgrade the ?Wixford ?signs at the entrances to the village to ?gateway? type signs which more closely resemble those in other villages such as Arrow. The first sign has been in place for some time on the road approaching the village over the bridge, a second sign is on order and should be installed fairly soon.

The village hall is important to village life and we fully support the village hall committee in their efforts to upgrade the building and promote activities which utilize it more fully. A sub group of the Village Hall Committee has been formed to explore replacement options and funding sources. We understand that various architects have put forward their proposals which are currently under consideration.

We have continued to use the website, notice board and newsletter to communicate activities within the village and are exploring a complete revamp of the website which we plan to implement over the next year.
Planning
We have assessed and provided local input on a number of planning applications. Notably we have given input on the proposals for the Three Horseshoes Caravan site, Oversley Castle and the houses currently being built on the High Street between the Bungalow and the Three Horseshoes Public House. The pub has been taken on by a small chain and initial reports are encouraging. It is a welcomed addition to our village. The caravan park has been completed and arrival of the park homes are awaited. The houses are also nearing completion and despite the upheaval and mess, there is light at the end of the tunnel. It is hoped they will be complete over the next month providing both a barrier to shield the caravan park from public view and also to introduce a few more residents into the village.

Parish Plan

The Parish Plan was finally completed and distributed to all village residents. This Plan represents the views of all village residents and as such it will become a critical document in deciding future developments in the village.

Finance
For the year 2014-15 Wixford received an unqualified audit return from the external auditor
Karen Parnell was the Responsible Financial Officer to the Council.

The precept was set in November 2015 at £7000. The budget has been set for 2016 ? 2017.

The Council reviewed its Financial Regulations, Risk Assessment and Fixed Asset Register at the January 2016 meeting.

Statement of Accounts

31 March 2012
31 March 2013
31 March 2014
31 March 2015
Balances brought forward

10019

9982
10567
9102
Annual precept

5500
5500
6000
7000
Total other receipts

1826
5330
193
250
Staff costs

2325
2379
2375
2376
Loan interest / Capital repayments

NIL
NIL
NIL
NIL
Total other payments

5038
7866
5283
3023
Balances brought forwards

9982
10567
9102
10953
Total cash and investments

9982
10567
9102
10953
Total fixed assets and long term assets

2921

2921
2921
3171
Total borrowings

NIL
Nil
Nil
NIL

Communication with Parishioners

It is very important that the Parish Council communicates well with the Parish. Over the last year the Parish Council has done this in the following ways:

Public participation in meetings

Regularly updated information on the notice board and Website, including agendas for meetings: The website is the most up to date communication from the parish council and community forums and police newsletters are added as soon as the information becomes available, as are planning decisions.

Newsletters published at least four times a year. Shirley Talboys does an excellent job as Editor and the professional looking publication promotes many local activities and news stories. Input is sought from residents prior to publication.

The Clerk?s postal address, email address and telephone number are publicised on the noticeboard and on newsletters, as are the Councillor?s.

Councillors Details:
Telephone:
E Mail:
Cllr Colin Hales
01789 772343
n/a
Cllr Jack Fryer

jack@jackfryer.com
Cllr Andrew Reeks

aer@radley.org.uk
Cllr Dean Morris

Dean@morrislegal.co.uk
Cllr Jon Haworth
01789 772732
jonathanhaworth@btconnect.com
Clerks Details:

Simone Bush
07788 252262
wixfordpcclerk@gmail.com

Your Council and Clerk are here to help. Do not hesitate to contact us.

18th May, 2016