**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in her role of Clerk to the Council until her resignation in March to concentrate her attention of writing and has been replaced by Simone Bush.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