

Wingerworth Parish Council annual report

2004-2005

A message from the Council

Another year in the term of this current Parish Council has gone by. In that year various projects have got under way or have been achieved.

The boardwalk around the Wall Pond has now been finished and also the tidying of the pond itself. The boardwalk looks well, as well as being functional. There have been mixed responses to this but on the whole I think it has been a successful completion of work with the Environment Agency, who funded the majority of the work.

The Youth Project has got under way this year with the interest from a group of young people in a youth shelter. There has been growing concern from them that there is nowhere for them to be when there is no youth club. Under the auspices of the Parish Council, the group is planning fund-raising activities as well as funding bids to purchase a shelter which could include a basketball board and litter bin. Future liaison with the Parish Council and commitment from this group of young people will, hopefully, lead to a better awareness of their needs within the community. Encouraging them in this can only be good for the future of Wingerworth.

The Parish Council has addressed new Government legislation with the Disability Discrimination Act in two areas within the village. Firstly the ramped access to the side toilet at the cricket pavilion which will also have internal alterations to accept wheelchairs. Secondly the car park entrance to the Parish Hall has also had step and ramp access to comply with the DDA.

All these fit into the Council's ongoing work and commitment to the community and environment.

This commitment also includes

- extra litter and dog waste bins,
- safety on all the Council's playparks,
- awareness of the increase in dumping of rubbish,
- and vandalism in certain areas.

These and other concerns the Council addresses wherever possible.

The Council's facilities are well supported by the ongoing use by the Tennis and Bowls Clubs and by the Allotments Association. The Parish Hall and cricket pavilion are well maintained and accessible. This is due to the caretaking and cleaning staff and the bookings clerk. On behalf of the Council, I thank them very much for their hard work and diligence.

Thanks and appreciation must also go to our new Clerk, Mike Taylor. A worthwhile successor to Mike Goodwin, Mike has shown not only competence in the post but also a strong interest in the Council's work in Wingerworth. He seems to be settling in very well.

Last but not least I would like to thank the members of the Council for their work and commitment in serving the residents of Wingerworth and helping to protect in whatever way the beautiful place in which we live.

We must always remember in Wingerworth that the good and pleasant far outweigh the bad.

Ann Sainty, Chairman

Working for you

The allotments

The Council's allotments at Watson Lane continue to be managed by the Wingerworth Allotment Holders' Association for the benefit of many parishioners. Roofing sheets on the main storage shed were replaced by the Society during the year with financial support from the Council.

Planning Issues

The Council regularly monitors planning applications submitted from the parish even though it is not a planning authority. The planning authorities for Wingerworth are North East Derbyshire District Council and Derbyshire County Council. However both planning authorities consult the Parish Council and take account of all submissions and representations made by the Parish Council based on the local knowledge and awareness of Councillors.

The Council is keen to ensure that new planning applications do not detract from the established character of the parish. Planning issues feature on the agenda of every meeting of the Parish Council and include all planning applications and decisions as well as the outcome of planning appeals.

Crime and disorder

The Council liaises closely with Derbyshire Police on a range of issues. PC Mick Anderson provides a report on crimes and incidents in Wingerworth to the Council at most of the monthly meetings and the Council regularly alerts the Police to problems and concerns in the Parish.

Although official statistics suggest that Wingerworth has one of the lowest crime rates in the area, crimes are committed in the Parish as well as incidents of vandalism. These have affected the Council's facilities with damage to the fencing at the tennis courts and break-ins to the cricket score hut alongside the Deer park Pavilion.

Parish Councillors meet with representatives of Derbyshire Police when there are particular concerns. A recent meeting considered ways of lessening the problems associated with unruly behaviour, underage drinking and the use of motorised vehicles off-road on the land around the Allendale Road shops and the Wingerworth Centre. Action is being taken to try and improve the situation.

Planting the village

Efforts continue to improve the appearance of the village by planting bulbs and the results can be clearly seen when the daffodils come out in spring. The Council also provides street lamp flower baskets which are an attractive sight at the entrances to the village, and flower tubs around the Parish Hall.



Special events

The Council organises two important annual events in the parish, the first of which is the Remembrance Day Service in November. At the eleventh hour of the eleventh day there is an opportunity for a time of silence to remember all of those people who gave so much for their country. This moment of silence is contained within a moving service involving the Church and the Royal British Legion as well as both of the primary schools in the parish and many local residents.

The second of the special events is the switching on of the lights on the Christmas tree at the Parish Hall in early December. After a short service including the dedication of the tree and carols, everyone attending the service is invited into the Main Hall for mince pies and hot drinks in a social occasion open to the whole of the parish.



Leisure facilities

The Council continues to provide a range of leisure facilities for the parish. These include the bowling green and the tennis courts as well as playing fields and play areas. North East Derbyshire District Council is contracted to maintain these facilities to a good standard to provide safe and suitable surfaces and equipment for users.

Working for you

The Parish Hall

The various rooms in the Parish Hall continue to be used regularly by many community organisations as well as for private functions. The Council's Lettings Secretary, Mrs Jan Hutchings, provides an efficient service throughout the year offering advice as well as taking bookings and payments. Some of the regular activities in the Parish Hall include the County Council's Library and the New Road Nursery's provision for child care.

During the past year extensive improvements have taken place to make sure that the facilities comply fully with the latest fire regulations. The old uneven and pitted surface at the entrance to the Parish Hall from the rear car park has been replaced. The new entrance comprises a paved area that provides steps and a ramped entrance with support railings which conforms with the new disability discrimination legislation. Members of the Council's staff, Neil Allen and Tracey Watts, maintain the premises to a high standard which is appreciated by the many users.



The Deer Park pavilion

The Pavilion is used throughout the year with cricket in summer and football for much of the rest of the time. The Council maintains the Deer Park Pavilion in a good state of repair and Mrs Audrey Holland works hard to keep the facility clean and tidy. The recent addition of ramped access means that the facility now complies with recent disability discrimination legislation.

The Churchyard



The Council continues to help maintain the churchyard at All Saints' Church. Five Councillors sit with members of the Parochial Church Council on the Churchyard Committee which oversees the maintenance programme. The Lawn Ranger is contracted by the Council and does an excellent job in cutting and strimming the grass in the churchyard as well as trimming hedges.

The Wall Pond



The Council has overseen the construction of the new boardwalk at the Wall Pond during the past year. Financial support and advice from the Environment Agency has enabled the Council to add fishing pegs to the car park side of the pond. Other work undertaken by the Council includes the removal of reeds, the treatment of fringe water lily and the maintenance of the banks. Alec Lenthall continues to keep an eye on the pond and collects fees from anglers on behalf of the Wingerworth Angling Club.

Working for you

Environment issues

The Council helps to keep the parish in a clean and tidy state by regularly cleaning litter on its own complex in the Allendale Road area and by paying for the erection and emptying of litter bins and dog waste bins at various points in the parish.

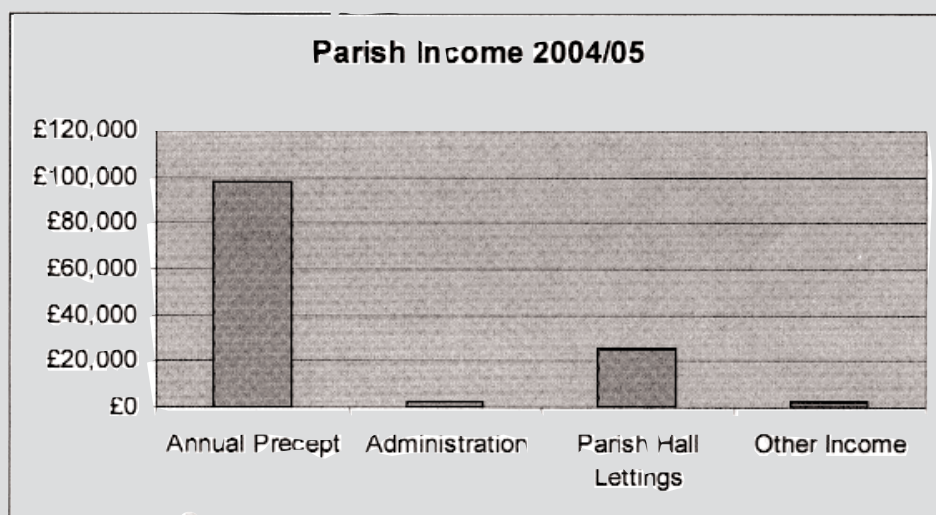
It arranges for the care and maintenance of a number of important areas in the parish including the Jubilee Gardens, the sheepwash and the island at Pond Head. The annual floral display that brightens up the parish for the summer is organised and funded by the Council.

In addition the Council lobbies the responsible authorities about the state of roads and pavements, the state of footpaths, illegal fly-tipping and anything that is viewed as detrimental to the local environment. The Council also lobbies local authorities about road safety in the parish including problems associated with speeding traffic and the careless parking of vehicles.

It is all part of the Council's attempt to make Wingerworth a safer, securer and more attractive parish for residents and visitors.

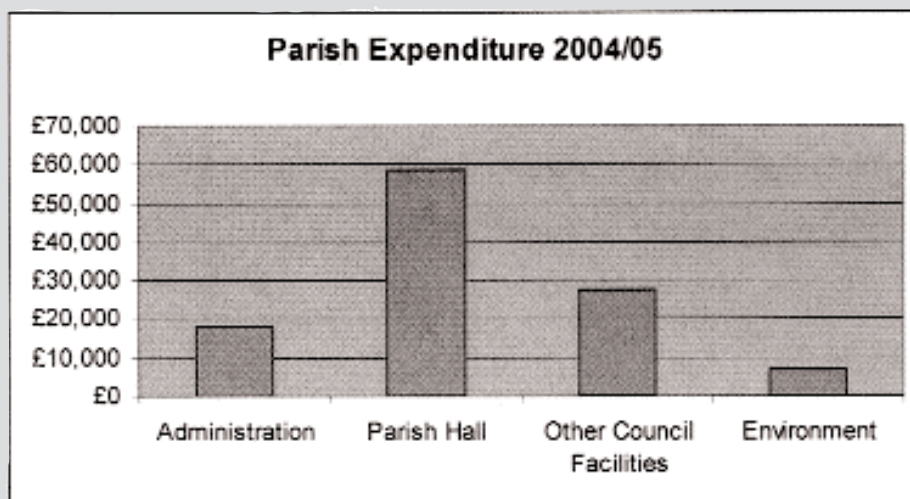


The Parish Council's financial results for 2004/2005



The total income for the Parish Council for the last financial year was £127,903 compared with a total expenditure of £111,351 for the same period. These results leave the Council with a surplus of £16,552 for the twelve month period although there will be minor adjustments for prepayments and accruals in the final externally audited accounts.

The main categories of income and expenditure are summarised in the two charts, left.



The results of the Audit Commission's external audit of the Council's financial accounts will be posted on the main Parish Hall notice board in the autumn.

The Council remains committed to a tight control of expenditure and strives to achieve value for money in all of its activities. As a result of this disciplined approach to the management of its finances the increase in the annual precept for 2005/06 has been held to the prevailing rate of inflation.

Mike Taylor, Clerk to the Council.