

2006-2007  
Wingerworth Parish Council  
**annual report**



Footpath improvement at the Lavender

## A message from the Council

by Ann Sainty, Chair

**The past year has been primarily a time for the tying up of loose ends so that the new Council can start their business anew.**

A new working arrangement with the Bowls Club has been formalised and signed and hopefully, one with the Tennis Club will soon be agreed. Both these clubs are an asset to the Council's municipal facilities. The Allotment Holders' Association continues to thrive, working very well with the Parish Council. The Angling Club is at an hiatus at the moment with work on the Wall Pond wall due to start in the near future. This club along with the Bowls and Cricket will be sorely missing the presence of Alec Lenthall as bailiff.

One of the main concerns of the Council this year has been the abrupt closure of Wingerworth Centre. The closure was due but was exacerbated by a localised fire. This meant that a popular youth club and pre-school were made "homeless" along with some community daytime classes. The pre-school has found a temporary home in the Scout Hut with a possible future attached to the Hunloke Park School. Unfortunately, the youth club was not so lucky. Approximately 30 young people are unable to access any youth club activities unless they go out of the area and, alarmingly, unlikely to in the future. On a positive note – the young people's forum within the Council is working with a representative group of young men wishing to build a bike park. After a positive and enthusiastic start some months ago, it now appears to have hit a glitch, but I feel that this can be overcome. Hopefully the new Council will carry this forward and regain the young men's enthusiasm. The Footpaths Committee continues to go from strength to strength under the guidance of the Parish Clerk, Mike Taylor. The band of volunteers headed by Mike Sims continues the hard but fulfilling work of updating the footpaths in Wingerworth. I applaud them for this. They have had tremendous success with the help and co-operation of local farmers.

● Continued on the next page

# Working for you

## Promoting leisure activities

THE Council owns and maintains a range of sporting facilities in the Parish including two football pitches and a cricket ground. There are three tennis courts and a crown bowling green while the Lodge Pond provides a peaceful haven for fishing.

A children's play area is owned and maintained by the Council near Allendale Road and open land is available for general recreational use at Chartwell Fields and at Adlington Avenue.

Badminton, table tennis, ballroom dancing and martial arts all take place on a regular basis in the Parish Hall. The Council owns the village allotments which are administered by the Wingerworth Allotment Holders' Association.

A network of 40 footpaths across the Parish, largely maintained by volunteers and supported by the Council, offers a variety of wonderful walks and provides a route for an annual fell race – the five mile Wingerworth Wobble.



The Lodge Pond provides a peaceful fishing spot

## Listening to local residents

THE Council is always keen to listen to parishioners about any matters of interest and reserves a short period at each of the monthly meetings for members of the public to raise issues. Prior to each monthly meeting two Councillors attend the Parish Hall on a Saturday morning and are available to listen to comments from local residents.

The fourteen Councillors and the Clerk have their names and contact details published and residents are free to contact them at any reasonable hour. As an alternative, residents can post a message to the Council's website and normally expect a reply within 24 hours. Your Parish Council is a listening, caring and supportive body that serves the Parish and is helping to shape a good future for

## ● Continued from previous page

At this time of year with the freshness of Spring, we do realise and appreciate the beauty of the area and there will be the Council's hanging baskets and troughs on display to enjoy later. The Council staff continue to maintain the churchyard and litter pick throughout the year. On the downside, there is the ever-increasing problem in this and many other areas of fly-tipping. The Council will endeavour to act as promptly as possible to deal with this.

The two highlights of the Council's year have again been successful and appreciated by the local community. The Remembrance Day Service increases in support every year particularly with more young people attending. The Carol Concert – hosted with the Community Association – is a date on the Christmas calendar that is looked forward to by both young and old.

There is a continued commitment by the Parish Council to address any concerns of the community, whatever they may be. As elected representatives of Wingerworth we have done our utmost to fulfil this. Many people do not realise the hard work that is done behind the scenes and the time spent by Councillors dealing with issues and concerns.

On closing, I would like to give thanks on behalf of the Parish Council to our clerk, Mike Taylor, for his hard work and dependability. He is the Council's biggest asset.

To the caretaking and cleaning staff, namely Neil Allen, Tracey Watts, Audrey Holland and Eric Marriott and to Jan Hutchings, the bookings clerk, thanks for all their hard work and patience when dealing with the general public.

My personal thanks go to Roger Scothern for his support as vice-chair, friendship and help over the past years. To my fellow Councillors for their support and confidence in me as Chair to this Council. After that first meeting as Chair, four years ago, I never would have thought I would say this – but I have enjoyed working and being part of this team.

We have worked hard together for the good of the residents. It hasn't all been plain sailing but we have come through with the expertise, skills and experience that each councillor has brought to this Council. Last but not least, my thanks go to Mike for his unstinting help and support. Much of what he does is over and above his work remit.

# Working for you

## Supporting community events



The Council organises two community events each year with the Remembrance Day service on the eleventh day of the eleventh month, pictured above, and the switching on of the lights on the Parish Christmas Tree in early December.

A select number of other events are supported by the Council including the annual fireworks display run by the 3rd Wingerworth Scout Group and a Game Zone activities session for young people run in conjunction with the Police during the school summer holidays.

## Caring for the environment

THE Council cares for the local environment all through the year from providing well stocked grit bins in the winter to the floral displays in the summer. In an endeavour to provide a clean environment, the Council provides litter bins and dog bins and our staff regularly litter pick in designated areas.

The Council also maintains the good appearance of the grounds at the Parish Church by regularly cutting and strimming the grass and keeping the area tidy. We provide materials and equipment to support the work of the volunteers who work so hard in caring for the network of footpaths in the Parish.

Although the Council has limited powers of enforcement on environmental matters, it regularly raises areas of concern and the need for remedial action with the appropriate departments at the County Council, the District Council and other relevant authorities.



THE Council is consulted on all applications for planning consent in the Parish and intervenes with comments to the relevant planning authority when there are concerns of any kind about the application or its implications.

In the past the role has mainly been to resist applications or to request alterations or modifications before any approval is forthcoming. Objections have been raised to proposals to site mobile phone masts near to schools and dwellings, new residential developments that are considered

## Shaping the future

inappropriate and a range of other proposals that are felt likely to damage the local community in any way.

One example of the latter was the objections to the in-vessel composting plant proposed at Grassmoor at a site adjacent to our Parish, a proposal that was eventually refused by the County Council following the outstanding efforts of the local campaign group.

Although often successful in resisting

unwanted development, the Council has decided during the past year to take a more positive role in shaping the future of Wingerworth by engaging in a planning process.

The creation of an all inclusive plan for the Parish is already in progress and it will encompass the many areas in which the Council has responsibilities as well as other areas in which the Council has influence.

The intention is to make Wingerworth an even better place to live and enjoy life.

# Working for you

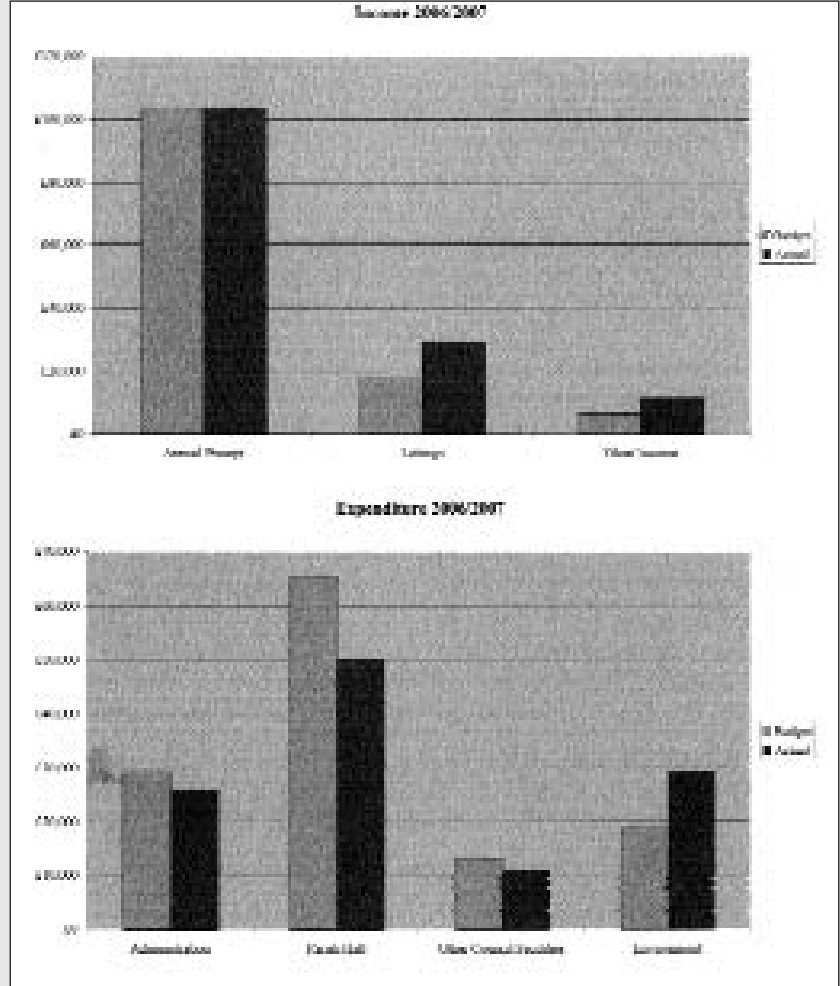
## The Parish Council's financial results for 2006/2007

THE recurrent income for the Parish Council for the last financial year was £144,508 which was an increase in income of over £16,000 against the budgeted figure of £128,079. The recurrent expenditure for the same period was £116,069 which showed a saving of over £11,000 against the budgeted figure of £127,786. The main categories of income and expenditure are illustrated in the two adjacent charts:

The main reasons for the improved income position were an increase in lettings revenues at the Parish Hall and extra interest earned on deposits. Savings on expenditure were evident in all areas other than an increase in expenditure on the environment of close to £10,000 which was largely due to a reassignment of staffing costs to better reflect the Council's continuing commitment to caring for the local environment.

The overall surplus on the recurrent budgets for the year amounted to just over £28,000 but this was reduced to about £22,000 when allowing for expenditure on projects including the new automated watering system at the bowling green, pictured below. The figures do not include a sum of £30,000 which was paid to the Council for easement rights to the Lodge Pond as this sum is being held to fund the restoration of the wall at the Lodge Pond and improvements to the road running alongside the old wall.

A report on the Council's financial results for 2006/2007 was presented



at the Annual Meeting of Electors and 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 a decision was taken during the year that the increase in the annual precept for 2007/2008 should be held to the prevailing rate of

