

2007-2008

Wingerworth Parish Council

# Annual report

## A message from the Chair

THE past year was the start of a new term for the Parish Council and also some new Members. It was soon marred, however, by the death in July of Cllr Terry Fisher who had been a Member of the Parish Council for over 10 years and a District Councillor.

Terry was well-liked and respected by all Members and also many parishioners, who he helped in many ways. He had a wealth of knowledge and experience which he brought to the Council particularly with planning and environmental issues, an example of which being the in-vessel composting site to be placed on Derby Road. This experience and watchfulness is still sorely missed in Council business. A memorial tribute is planned in the future.

In August Wingerworth saw its first-ever Well Dressing Ceremony; organised fully by Nick Knyhynckj and John Plummer, with a large group of volunteer workers and supported by the Parish Council. This will continue annually as part of a new custom for the village.

September saw the resignation of a Member of the Council, Ron Lewin, which incurred two vacancies for Parish Councillors. After many months two new Members were co-opted on this year. These were Diana Ruff and Carole Nelson. This brought the Council to full membership again. They seem to be settling in very well.

A few weeks later we had the disturbing news that the Bowling Club pavilion had been burnt to the ground. This was very distressing for members of the Club particularly as the pavilion housed all that was needed to run the Club, including some pairs of woods, and was the temporary home for a memorial bench. It's going to be a long road for them to look for funding to replace the pavilion even though certain types of accommodation have been offered to them. The committee and members are



working together with the ongoing procedures and the Council will be as supportive as they can be. One young man went to court over it. He received certain conditions of punishment but in my opinion unfortunately none that reflected the severity of the crime. The police, particularly CSPO Janis Naylor, put in a lot of hard work to bring this to court.

New initiatives have been brought to the Council, one of these being the Safer Neighbourhood Team. This included the areas of Wingerworth, Grassmoor, Tupton and North Wingfield and has opened up a stronger liaison with the local police and other agencies. The first part of the meeting involves a public forum for raising concerns from local residents and afterwards the working profile for the police is set for the coming weeks. The meetings are held bi-monthly in each area on a rota basis.

The other is the Community Partnership, which was formerly the Neighbourhood

Partnership. This is very similar to the above with links into various agencies such as schools, PCT and Social Services but is co-led by the District and Parish Councils. With only one meeting under its belt, it needs to be given a chance but there does seem a possibility of duplication with these partnerships.

The Parish Plan for Wingerworth had its inaugural meeting in early March, when residents were invited to the Parish Rooms to look to submitting a local plan for the area. This would be on the basis of the residents, not the Parish Council, working on what they would like to see in the coming years for the village. Over 30 attended of varying age groups and, once the realisation dawned that it was for them to take the rein not the Parish Council, they soon entered into the spirit of the idea. Matters such as health, schools, transport, environment and youth facilities were amongst the most common themes running through the afternoon. Eventually a small working group was formed of volunteers. These would take the initial views and work on them with the help of the Parish Clerk and support of a few Councillors. Hopefully more residents will become involved after some promoting of this Plan. It is left to the residents to make this happen. If it fails then we can only say, as a Council, we tried.

There is still some consternation about the derelict Youth and Community Centre and its future. Hopefully this will be resolved in the near future with the PCT, the two local surgeries and the County Council looking towards a new build on the site. Unfortunately this still leaves Wingerworth young people with nowhere to meet and engage in activities. The Parish Council continues to look at ways to address some of this but it is difficult when there is no actual building available.

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# Working for you

## Providing for the community



### *The largest financial commitment is the Parish Hall*

The Council's single largest area of expenditure is its commitment to providing the facilities at the Parish Hall which support a wide range of sporting activities as well as providing a regular meeting place for various community groups. The Parish Hall also provides accommodation for a pre-school nursery and an after-school club and houses the County Council's Branch Library and Resource Centre.

Other ways in which the Council provides for the community include facilities for cricket and two football pitches as well as a bowling green and three tennis courts. The Council also provides children's play equipment, maintains a number of open spaces in the Parish and cares for the Wall Pond and the Sheepwash.

## Caring for the Local Environment

The Council continues to care for the local environment by keeping its own land and facilities in good order and by maintaining the Churchyard. It provides litter bins and dog bin at various locations across the Parish and supplies grit to combat wintry conditions on local roads ensuring that the grit is safely stored in containers that meet current environmental standards.

## Supporting Community Events

The Council helps to stage two important annual events, both of which take place at the Parish Hall. One is the annual Service of Remembrance in November and the other is the Christmas Service with a brass band, carols and the switching on of the lights on the Parish Christmas tree.

The Council supports the well-dressing ceremony and the annual bonfire and firework display through financial donations to the organising groups. In addition, it provides limited financial support for activities for young people and for various organisations whose work benefits Wingerworth residents.

## Towards a Safer Community

The Council is a founder member of the area's Safer Neighbourhood Team which covers four parishes. There is a strong Police presence and support as part of this Team which meets regularly, rotating around the four parishes. The focus of the group's work is to make local communities safer and one of the tasks is to establish policing priorities in each of the communities and to review progress towards the achievement of safer communities with less crime and less antisocial and nuisance behaviour.

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It is frustrating as we discovered when looking at areas for young people to create a bike park. The only suitable area the belonged to the Council was Chartwell Park but this proved problematic as the access to bring in building materials was not wide enough. Also there could well be problems with poor drainage at the lower part of the site. We will endeavour to address this through the Youth Forum and Police initiatives.

I feel that the Council this year seems to be having some setbacks but we can make strides with our commitment to our work in Wingerworth. Stay focussed and positive. The village comes into its own at this time of year and we are enjoying the troughs and baskets as we have recently enjoyed the daffodils. The sports fields and ponds are looking very well thanks to the District Council maintenance and the allotments as impressive as ever thanks to the Allotments Association.

As always I wish to thank the Caretaking and cleaning staff, Neil, Tracy, Audrey and Eric for their continued hard work and being good representatives of the Council; to Jan Hutchings, the booking clerk, but more importantly to our Clerk, Mike Taylor. I know we are a good example of how a Parish Council runs and this is largely due to Mike. With his hard work, enthusiasm and commitment to the Council, we could not wish for any one better. I can only say, on behalf of my fellow councillors and employees, how much we appreciate this. My thanks go as well to my Vice-Chairman, Tom Snowdon, for his help and support during the past year. It has been a pleasure working with you.

Now we have a full complement of councillors, I hope we can settle to working for the benefit of the people of Wingerworth whom we represent. This is what we are here for at the end of the day and that we do this to our utmost ability is all that is asked of us.

*Ann Sainty*

Chairperson of the Parish Council

# Working for you



## Promoting road safety in the Community

Although road safety matters are invariably the responsibility of either the Highways Agency or the Police, the Council does make representations to these bodies on a range of issues effecting the Parish, many of which are raised by Wingerworth residents. To this end, the Council has a Road Safety Committee which tries to promote and improve safety for road users and pedestrians in the Parish.

## Shaping the future of the Parish

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.

The Council is also encouraging a group of local residents who are consulting on views and attitudes about the future of Wingerworth as a precursor to the production of a Plan for Wingerworth.

## Membership of the Council and attendance records

A combination of eleven monthly meetings, a Budget Meeting and two extraordinary meetings made for a total of fourteen full meetings of the Council during 2007/2008.

The average attendance at these meetings was 79% which was particularly creditable given some unavailability due to illness, business commitments and holidays and the relatively short notice given for the two extraordinary meetings.



*The council maintains busy sports pitches*

## Members at Year End and attendance records for the year

Cllr Ann Sainty	14	out of	14
Cllr Tom Snowdon	12	out of	14
Cllr Stuart Ellis	12	out of	14
Cllr Chris Hutchings	8	out of	14
Cllr Anne Knyhynyckyj	8	out of	14
Cllr Kevin Moore	12	out of	14
Cllr John Ollis	10	out of	14
Cllr Peter O'Neill	12	out of	14
Cllr Margaret Parker	9	out of	14
Cllr Bill Pickford	14	out of	14
Cllr Michael Prout	12	out of	14
Cllr Jan Robinson	9	out of	14
Cllr Carole Nelson	2	out of	2
Cllr Diana Ruff	2	out of	2

# Working for you

## The Parish Council's financial results for 2007/2008

The recurrent income for the Parish Council for the last financial year was £149,103 which was an increase in income of over £10,000 against the budgeted figure of £138,898. The main reasons for the improved income position were an increase in lettings revenues at the Parish Hall and extra interest earned on deposits.

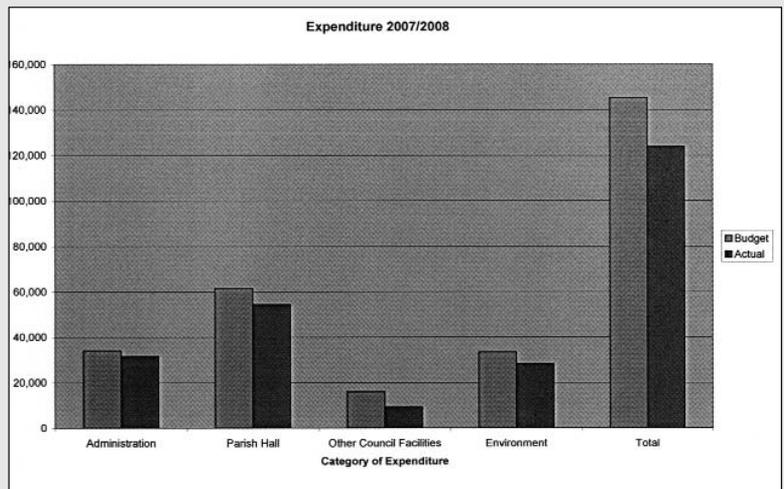
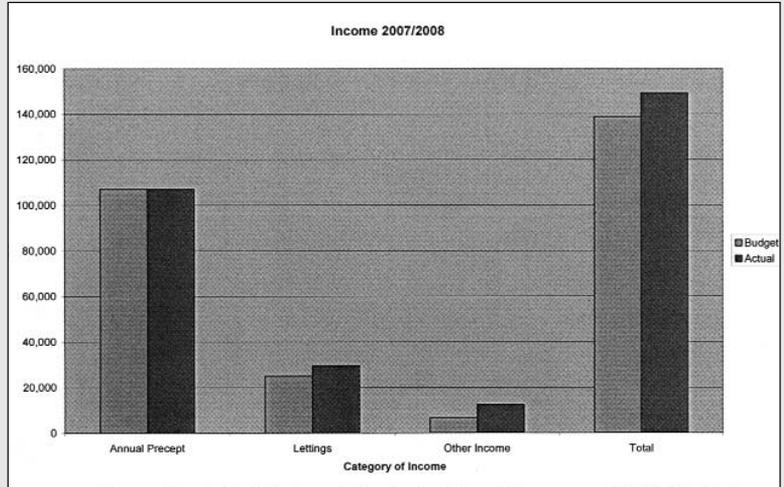
The recurrent expenditure for the same period was £123,831 which showed a saving of over £21,000 against the budgeted figure of £145,328. Savings were achieved in all the four main areas of Council expenditure.

In addition to the recurrent expenditure the Council committed a total of £25,267 to capital expenditure and projects which are highlighted elsewhere in this report. The net result for the year was a surplus of £5 – in effect, a break even position for overall expenditure set against income.

A report on the Council's financial results for 2007/2008 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.

Mike Taylor  
Clerk to the Council



*Creating a safe environment for all residents*