



Working with the community

ANNUAL REPORT
APRIL 2015 - MARCH 2016

Approved at a meeting of Council on Monday 13 June 2016

FOREWORD BY THE CHAIRMAN

Over the past 4-5 years I've tried to highlight how local government is changing. At the recent Annual Parish Assembly we listened to a presentation from the Chief Executive of the Kent Association of Local Councils on devolution, which gave us all a better understanding of the changes that are about to start to take place, how important Town and Parish Councils are going to become, and how we are can become much more in control of village life.

Cllr B Curtis, Chairman

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL At the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2015 Cllr Curtis was re-elected as Chairman and Cllr Addis elected as Vice-Chair. Cllrs Baker, M Brice, Catt and Prebble were elected as members of the Planning Committee. The office of Internal Financial Control was filled by Cllr Catt and the office of Maintenance Checks & Inspections for the Play Area, Council property and Allotments was filled by Cllr Prebble. Parish Council representatives for other village organisations were also agreed.

Following the resignations of Cllr M Brice and Cllr Hudson, and a vacancy arising from the May elections, these vacancies were filled through the year by the co-option of Daniel Issitt (13.7.15), Pat Young (9.11.15) and Russell Graydon (14.12.15). Cllr Addis joined the Planning Committee, filling the vacancy left by Cllr M Brice.

Throughout the year, members of the Council were able to further the interests of the Wingham community at meetings of the Dover District Towns and Parishes, the Kent Association of Local Councils, the Police Parish Forum, the A257 traffic group and other local organisations. Conferences and training were also attended by Councillors and the Clerk in order to keep abreast of changing legislation. Cllr Prebble made regular safety inspections of the Recreation Ground children's play area as well as property maintenance and allotment checks. Cllr Baker chaired the Planning Committee and represented the council on the Recreation Ground committee. Cllr E Brice represented the council on the Dover area KALC committee, the Village Hall Management Committee and emergency planning. Cllr Catt also represented the council on the Dover Area KALC Committee, and carried out audit checks in his role of Internal Financial Control Officer. Cllr Addis represented the council in emergency planning and reported on Speed Indicator Devices and Pension Schemes. Prior to his resignation, Cllr M Brice oversaw the MUGA project.

MEETINGS Parish Council meetings were held every month, with the exception of August. A public session was held at each meeting to enable questions from members of the public. In addition, an EGM was held on 7 September to discuss the Aylesham Village Expansion and a public budget meeting was convened on 7 December.

The Annual Parish Assembly was held on 27 April 2015. Following the Annual Report given by the Chairman, presentation of Community Awards and questions regarding displayed reports, Cllr Curtis introduced the topic for discussion: We are Wingham! Being part of your community. Residents were taken on a virtual walk through the village by way of a photo presentation depicting the various views, buildings, businesses, street furniture, trees, flowers and verges, giving residents the opportunity to reflect on what we have in Wingham. Cllr Addis went through the village assets, highlighting the number of businesses we have and the number of children and adults involved with our Scout group and how these assets need to be maintained in the future. Cllr Addis added the need for residents to become involved, particularly with setting up a village emergency plan.

ACHIEVEMENTS Working with the Primary School, our 'Welcome to Wingham' poster competition was held again, and the successful entry has been printed and displayed on the commemorative wooden planter. The A257 traffic group continued to meet regularly and is proof of successful working in partnership. The council's proposal to Government under the Sustainable Communities Act that town and parish councils should be made statutory consultees in the application process for Vehicle Operator Licence Applications

and Renewals is still to be reviewed. A Centenary Day was held in Elgar's Field in September 2015 to commemorate its successful dedication through Fields in Trust as a Centenary Field. The Council secured a six month trial with KCC of the Speed Indicator Device (SID) in the village which flashes the speed motorists are driving through the village and records statistics which the council download on a monthly basis when the device is moved to a new position. The village was once again recognised in the 2015 Kent Men of the Trees Village Competition and awarded a tree to the value of £25.

LAND, CAPITAL AND PROPERTY In addition to Elgar's Field and the Recreation Ground, both of which are owned by the Parish Council, the Council continued to arrange for the grass to be cut at Wingham Green and Garden of Remembrance in the High Street.

Following the Annual Safety inspection and Risk Assessment of the equipment in the play area in March 2016, several non-urgent works were suggested, but due to plans for refurbishment, these will be monitored at the weekly inspections. Repairs were made to the play area fence as required, swing seats replaced and some wasp nests treated.

During the year, the youth shelter and glass bus shelter were cleaned; toilet maintenance paid; bench at The Paddock repaired; maintenance of High Street rose plants carried out; commemorative planter painted; verge repairs carried out and geraniums purchased for pedestrian crossing. A WW2 Commemorative bench, plinth and plaque were purchased for Elgar's Field to mark its dedication as a Centenary field; the BT High Street Kiosk was adopted and purchased; Wingham Parish Council Hi-Visibility vests were purchased for parades and roadside activities; and the set-up cost for the forthcoming village website paid.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES A Centenary Day to mark the dedication of Elgar's Field as a Centenary Field through Fields in Trust was held in September. Members of the Parish Council took part in the Remembrance Day Parade and Service in November. During the service the Chairman of the Council, on behalf of the village, laid a wreath at the war memorial. The Christmas Community Carols in the High Street were supported by members of The Salvation Army band.

FINANCE The Precept for 2015/16 showed an increase of just over £4,000 from the previous year and expenditure was within the amount budgeted for the year. The budget included money for earmarked funds for future projects: the Youth Development Fund for provision of a MUGA at the Recreation Ground; the Partnership Fund; and to the Election fund to cover election costs in May 2015. During the year financial support towards running costs was given to the Recreation Ground, the Village Hall, Wingham Scouts, See-Saw Pre-School and Wingham Parochial Church Council for Spire Lights. A grant was also given to St Mary's Church for the upkeep of the burial ground. Small capital grants were given to the Wingham Scout Group, See-Saw Pre-School, and Wingham Primary PTFA.

All Members of the Council declined to take the Councillors' Basic Allowance. The Chairman's Allowance to defray the expenses of office was used to purchase a wreath for Remembrance Day and public event refreshments. The Clerk Pension Scheme was set up and payments started from 1 February 2016.

The Internal Auditor of Accounts report stated, "There is a robust framework of controls and appropriate actions are taken to manage risks within all areas reviewed. Controls are applied consistently and I found no significant risks to the achievement of parish council objectives." The Annual Audit Review of Effectiveness of Internal Audit was carried out and the report approved in February 2016.

The public budget meeting convened on 7 December 2015 was adjourned as no residents attended.

SUMMARY OF PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS 2015/2016

RECEIPTS	£
Balance in hand at 1 April 2015 <i>including earmarked funds at 31.3.15</i>	122792
Precept <i>(incl. £1114 DDC Grant)</i>	57417
Interest on savings account	1005
VAT Refund 2014-15	1533
Allotment Rents	215
Recreation Ground Rent	1
Miscellaneous <i>(Centenary Day, Grass verge Insurance, Donation)</i>	342
TOTAL	183305

Administration (detail)	£
Clerk's salary & expenses	8080
Annual subscriptions	785
Insurance	1193
Audit	360
Office supplies	205
Post and telephone	364
Hire of Village Hall	203
Water allotments	79
Tax Payments	0
Election costs	134
Reference books	2
TOTAL	11405

EXPENDITURE	£
Administration <i>(as detailed above)</i>	11405
Grants to village organisations	8720
Land maintenance	2984
Property maintenance <i>(inc. shelter cleaning, WC maintenance, benches, play area maint.)</i>	9259
Councillor's allowances	70
Chairman's allowance	88
Training and conferences	452
Trees and verges	0
Capital expenditure <i>(inc. WW2 bench, Elgar's Field plinth, BT kiosk (£1))</i>	1417
Contingencies & Section 137	997
Miscellaneous <i>(centenary day costs)</i>	496
<i>NB. These totals include £1248 VAT - to be reclaimed</i>	
TOTAL	35888

Earmarked Funds at 31.3.16	£
Reserve for contingencies	20583
Pension Fund	3275
Partnership Funding	12663
Youth Development <i>(Multi-Use Games Area to be built at Recreation Ground)</i>	73159
Village Organisations	10
Election Fund	2637
Play Area	26505
IT Fund	4350
TOTAL	143182

END OF YEAR BALANCE <i>(total receipts minus total expenditure)</i>	£ 147417
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NB. This total includes the earmarked funds noted above