



Working with the community

ANNUAL REPORT
APRIL 2017 - MARCH 2018

Approved at a meeting of Council on Monday 11 June 2018

FOREWORD BY THE CHAIRMAN

This Annual Report gives the Council a chance to inform our community of the things we have achieved over the past year. The problems we have do not get any easier year by year, but we try and get the best we can for the village. We were so pleased to receive the Fields in Trust 'Best Play Initiative' award at the 2017 FIT Awards night in London in November 2017, especially as we beat a large London town in that category. We are also really looking forward to unveiling our new village sign at Red Lion Corner later this year.

Cllr B Curtis, Chairman

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL At the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2017 Cllr Curtis was re-elected as Chairman and Cllr Addis re-elected as Vice-Chair. Cllrs Addis, Baker, Catt and Prebble were elected as members of the Planning Committee. Offices for various roles including: Internal Financial Control, Internal Audit, Maintenance checks, Property checks, Allotment checks, Speed Indicator Device (SID) Stats & Maintenance, Speedwatch and Emergency Plan were filled by Councillors and representatives for village organisations were agreed.

Throughout the year, members of the Council furthered the interests of the Wingham community at meetings of the Dover District Towns and Parishes, KCC Highways Seminar, the Kent Association of Local Councils, the A257 Traffic Group and other local organisations. Conferences and training were also attended by Councillors and the Clerk. Cllr Addis represented the council on the KALC Dover Area Committee, in emergency planning, and training. Cllr Baker chaired the Planning Committee and represented the council on the Recreation Ground committee. Cllr Brice represented the council on the Dover area KALC committee, the Village Hall Management Committee and emergency planning. Cllr Catt carried out his role of Internal Financial Control Officer and undertook allotment checks. Cllr Graydon was involved in many projects through the year and maintained the defibrillator kiosk. Cllr Prebble carried out weekly checks of the Play Area and monthly repositioning of the SID. Cllr Redfearn was responsible for Speedwatch along with Cllr Young who also oversaw Internal Audit, helped with emergency planning and provided analysis reports from SID statistics.

MEETINGS Parish Council meetings were held every month, except for August. A public session was held at each meeting to enable questions from residents. In addition, a public budget meeting was incorporated into the November Council meeting.

The Annual Parish Assembly was held on 24 April 2017. Following the Chairman's annual report, presentation of Community Awards and questions regarding displayed reports, Cllr Curtis introduced Alan Watson, Community Speedwatch Manager, who gave a presentation explaining the role of Speedwatch, how it works in practice and how to get involved. Though there were concerns, the feeling of many present, and certainly the message from Alan and Cllr Curtis, was that we must start somewhere and Speedwatch will help provide evidence of the issues so we can start to address these.

ACHIEVEMENTS Our major project from 2016/17 was our new Play Area & MUGA at the Recreation Ground and the remaining 'snags' were addressed during 2017/18 with further ecosurfacing laid to ease maintenance. Working with the Primary School, our 'Welcome to Wingham' poster competition was held again, and the successful entry was printed and displayed on the commemorative wooden planter. The speed limit on the A257 Roman Road past Wingham Wildlife Park was reduced to 50mph after sustained pressure from the Parish Council and joint working with Staple PC and KCC Highways. The design for a new Wingham Village Sign to be placed on Red Lion Corner has been agreed, the deposit paid plus two donations secured from local businesses. The A257 traffic group, chaired by Cllr Curtis, continued to meet regularly and will shortly be publishing 'The A257 Plan', a working document detailing the 'hot spots' on this road.

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 the Garden of Remembrance in the High Street. During the year maintenance for the WCs in St Mary's Meadow was paid to DDC; a new defibrillator was fitted into the ex-BT kiosk; the History Panel and BT kiosk repainted; Red Lion corner tidied up; High Street roses pruned, mulched and new plants added; tree & shrub maintenance carried out at the Play Area and Elgars Field; a new post acquired for the SID on Preston Hill; through joint funding with KCC, Kent Police and ourselves, a mobile SID for Speedwatch was purchased; a bench, donated by Alan Brinkman, was installed opposite the Railway Station Farm shop with a plaque added by the Council; new Christmas Tree decorations and lights purchased; and new signs put up at Elgars Field regarding its name, ownership, and access to the allotments.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES The new Play Area Grand Opening took place in September and members of the Parish Council took part in the Remembrance Day Parade and Service in November. During the service the Chairman laid a wreath at the war memorial. The Christmas Community Carols in the High Street were supported by members of Wingham Singers and brass accompaniment from residents.

FINANCE Due to the diligence of Councillors who carry out Internal Audit, our Independent Internal Auditor, and the Clerk, the official Annual Audit was carried out and approved. Annual Parish Council Community Grants were awarded to the Scouts, Recreation ground, Pre-school, Parochial Church Council for maintenance of the burial ground, Village Hall, and Wingham Community News and small capital grants awarded to Scouts, Tiny Tots & Messy Friday, See-Saw Pre-School and the Lawn Tennis Club. Donations were made to the RBL Poppy Appeal for the Remembrance Wreath and to the Kent Tree Wardens.

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 Independent Internal Auditor of Accounts report for the 2016/17 Annual Return carried out in May 2017 stated, "The check of the framework of general controls reveals that robust procedures are in place and actions are clearly taken to manage risks. These were particularly important to observe during the 2016/2017 financial year given the high expenditure associated with the children's play area." The 2017/18 Annual Audit Review of Effectiveness of Internal Audit was carried out and the report approved in April 2018.

The public budget meeting incorporated into the November meeting failed to attract any attendees.

SUMMARY OF PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS 2017/2018

RECEIPTS	£
Balance in hand at 1 April 2017 <i>including earmarked funds at 31.3.17</i>	24921
Precept <i>(incl. £452 DDC Grant)</i>	58842
Interest on savings account	201
VAT Refund 2016-17	25935
Allotment Rents	293
Recreation Ground Rent	1
Miscellaneous <i>(Donations, projector hire)</i>	560
Precept 2018/19 (paid early by DDC)	58087
TOTAL	168840

Administration (detail)	£
Clerk's salary, pension & heat/ lighting expenses	7653
Annual subscriptions	862
Insurance	1672
Audit	480
Office supplies	201
Post and telephone	524
Hire of Village Hall	198
Water allotments	78
Tax Payments	0
Election costs	0
Reference books	0
TOTAL	11668

EXPENDITURE	£
Administration <i>(as detailed above)</i>	11668
Grants to village organisations	6851
Land maintenance	3906
Property maintenance <i>(inc. WC maint, bench installation, history panel)</i>	9236
Councillor's allowances	0
Chairman's allowance	53
Training and conferences	180
Trees and verges	209
Capital expenditure <i>(inc. mobile SID, play area ecosurface/final payment, Village sign, SID pole&brackets)</i>	15311
Contingencies & Section 137	698
Miscellaneous	0
<i>NB. These totals include £3727 VAT to be reclaimed</i>	
TOTAL	48112

Earmarked Funds at 31.3.18	£
Reserve for contingencies	10250
Health & Wellbeing Fund	5000
Partnership Funding	7661
Village Organisations	0
Election Fund	2637
Play Area	10755
IT Fund	4350
TOTAL	40653

END OF YEAR BALANCE (total receipts minus total expenditure)	£ 120728
--	-----------------

NB. This total includes the earmarked funds noted above
PLUS 2018/19 precept paid early by DDC