

Willington Parish Council

ANNUAL REPORT

Year to

31 March 2017

Welcome to Willington Parish Council's Annual Report for 2016/17. The following pages contain details of the Council's activities throughout the year, financial statements, and other relevant Council information.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

(by the Chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor John Grimshaw)

Your Parish Council has now two years of operation under its belt, and we are indeed grateful to be able to continue to hold our meetings here at Willington Hall.

With the most able assistance of our Clerk and all Councillors, we fully comply with all statutory requirements, and communicate our activities by posting agendas of meetings on our notice board, deliver four newsletters per year, and regularly update our website.

To encourage our younger residents to 'get involved' you can now make your feelings known via facebook.

Our Borough Councillors John Leather and Hugo Deynem regularly attend our meetings and keep us up to date with developments at CWaC. We are particularly grateful for the £1,500 they have provided from their Members Budgets for the new notice board and village signage (yet to be erected as there are issues with the Highways Dept.). Sadly the £10,000 that each Council Member had to give last year, has been reduced to £5,000 for the coming year.

We are encouraged by the number of local residents who have undertaken training to use the Defibrillator that is housed in the old telephone kiosk at Willington Corner and are grateful to Andrew Nicholas for continuing to manage this item.

The Council was pleased that the NoW (Neighbours of Willington) group, a group completely independent of the Council, was formed in November 2016 with the aim of bringing the local community together.

Planning

There have been nine planning applications to consider. All relatively small extensions, garages, porches etc, with the exception of a replacement dwelling at

Rockside, Roughlow. This design is certainly a vast improvement on the previously approved plan by CWaC.

Part two of the Local Plan will be available for consultation by midsummer, and will propose where development should be allowed across the Borough. Not in Willington I hasten to add, as the Local Plan Part 1 defines Willington as Open Countryside. The fact that the Kelsall and Willington neighbourhood Development Plan has now been 'made', is a further safeguard that Willington will remain a separate entity.

CWaC now has a seven year plus housing land supply and therefore policies can be strictly adhered to, and not overridden by Central Government.

Main Achievements

- New larger Notice Board for the Green
- Visibility at the Chapel Lane/Willington Rd junction improved.
- At long last we have an updated map of the parish
- Working parties on the Green
- Additional AED training
- An Action Plan has been produced, and reviewed monthly

Projects awaiting action by Highways and PRW Department

- Gooseberry Lane sign. Ordered last May!
- Parish Boundary signage. Awaiting agreed positions
- White line marking on numerous sharp bends. Roughlow, Willington Lane etc
- Finger post cost for direction to Boothsdale and 'Little Switzerland'
- Road repairs on Willington Lane by Willington Hall, and Roughlow above the 'German wall'.

Litter - Litter is collected regularly, and we thank those who give of their time for this.

Dog fouling - Many notices posted bringing dog owners attention to this nuisance. The situation is now much improved.

Environment-

With regard to the condition of our footways, and we only have one along Willington Road between Willington Corner and South View, keeping the footway clear of debris and getting adjacent property owners to cut their hedges remains a challenge. Himalayan Balsam remains unchecked in Boothsdale and is now spreading to the adjacent wood land. The new owner of Boothsdale Farm has been approached and is aware that this pernicious weed 'must not be allowed to grow'. We will again offer to help eradicate this nuisance if necessary. Last year our offer was not taken up. Our request for a Grit bin on Roughlow has been refused-twice! Local footpaths are regularly walked and reported on to PRW officers.

Community Engagement-

The first attempt at a combined Willington and Utkinton Fete was not very well supported by the residents of Willington, and will therefore not be repeated, even though they did extremely well from the raffle prizes!

Arising from the above, I am pleased to say that the NoW group have organised three social events to date, which have been most enjoyable.

The Council has agreed that we should develop a Village Design Statement (VDS). Cllr Lowthion will be the Council representative on the steering group. Ian Dingwall and Simon Walker both from Gooseberry Lane have agreed to be members, and we hope other residents will come forward to join this interesting development.

Finally, I would like to thank all Councillors for their sound common sense and enthusiasm which has made my job as chairman relatively easy.

PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Planning Committee – All Councillors.

GENERAL MATTERS

Financial Matters

How We Spend Your Money – The Statement of Accounts

	Year to 31st March 2016 £	Year to 31st March 2017	See Note No
Balances brought forward	0	4,170	1
Plus Annual Precept	4,255	4,314	2
Plus Other Receipts	4,486	1,851	3
Less Staff Costs	2,031	2,552	4
Less Other Payments	2,540	2,116	5
Balances carried forward	4,170	5,667	6

Notes

1. Balances brought forward means Cash in the Bank Account.
2. Precept is the money the Parish Council receives from the Council Tax to carry out its duties.
3. Other Receipts covers all other income received by the Council. It comprises of two grants, one of £1,000 and one of £500, VAT refunded by H M Customs and Excise of £249.12 covering purchases made during the previous financial year, a donation of £100.00 from the proceeds of the Willington/Utkinton Fete, and Bank Interest of £2.21. The grants were both from our Borough Councillors Members Grants Scheme, the £500 was towards the new Notice Board and the £1,000 towards the Parish Signage yet to be installed by Highways.
4. Staff Costs are the total costs of employing one employee of the Council. (NB The Councillors are all volunteers and do not receive payment for their work)
5. Other Payments cover all other expenditure incurred by the Council. This includes the cost of the notice board, insurance, website maintenance, training, printing, and general maintenance within the Parish. The largest items being notice board £875, Insurance £273, website £125, training £120.
6. Balances carried forward means cash in the bank accounts. Parish Council Policy for the first three years of the newly created Council is to aim to hold between a minimum of six and a maximum of twelve months of the most recent precept plus

an estimate of any known likely fluctuations. The six and twelve month figures will be reviewed annually to ensure that Council does not build up an unnecessary high bank balance or allow funds to fall below an acceptable level. The restricted funds held in the bank account are not part of reserves. Of the £5,667 in the accounts at 31st March 2017 £1,000 is restricted for the Parish Signage, £100 (from the Willington/Utkinton Fete) has been designated to a Community Fund, £337 is New Homes Bonus. The most recent precept amounted to £4,314. Council consider that general reserves of £4,230 are adequate and acceptable at the present time and in line with the approved policy.

Parish Council Meetings

- All Parish Council meetings are open meetings and members of the public are most welcome to attend and listen to the debates.
- If you want to come along to a meeting but don't want to stay until the end that is not a problem. Come and join us and then leave when you wish to do so. All we ask is that you come and go quietly.
- Meetings are normally held on the 4th Tuesday evening each month, apart from August and December, at Willington Hall.
- The first 15 minutes of each meeting is a public forum where anyone can have his or her say on any local matter. The allocated time may be increased under certain circumstances
- An agenda for each meeting is placed on the Council's noticeboard.
- All approved minutes can be found on the Parish Council website

Website - Our website address is www.willington.org.uk

Facebook – Our facebook address is Willington Parish Cheshire

Parish Councillors and their Contact Details

Willington Parish Council is comprised of the following 5 Councillors – their contact telephone numbers, all dial code 01829, are in brackets

Cllr John Grimshaw – Chairman (752177),

Cllr Pat Tyson-Jones – Vice Chairman (751757)

Cllr Jane Lowthion (751454)

Cllr Andrew Nicholas (752029)

Cllr Roy Penk (751866)

Our Cheshire West and Chester Councillors and their Contact Details

Cllr Hugo Deynem (01829 751830) Cllr John Leather (01829 752558)

To contact the Parish Council:

Write to: Mike Hassall,

Clerk to Willington Parish Council,

Roy Cottage,

Townfield Lane,

Tarvin

Chester CH3 8EG

E-mail ClerkWillington@aol.com Telephone 01829 741075

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