

Willington Parish Council

ANNUAL REPORT

Year to

31 March 2018

Welcome to Willington Parish Council's Annual Report for 2017/18. 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 three years of operation under its belt, and we are indeed grateful to be able to continue to hold our meetings 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 putting meeting agendas on our notice board, agendas and minutes of meetings on our website, deliver four newsletters per year, and regularly update our website with various data. You can also communicate with us on Facebook. We have applied for, and should achieve the Foundation Award, which is the first step in the Local Council Award Scheme.

Our Borough Councillor John Leather regularly attends our meetings and keeps us up to date with developments at CWaC.

The Council is supportive of the Neighbours of Willington (NoW) who have organised a number of events during the year. The picnic and treasure hunt on 'The Green' on 9th July was particularly well attended. We thank Donna Okell for coordinating these activities for our community. More support would be welcome though.

You will be pleased to know that the Parish Council has not increased the precept for 2018/19 that you pay as part of CWaC council tax

Planning

There have been four planning applications to consider. All relatively small extensions and barn conversions. Enforcement action continues with regard to the Storage Shed on Willington Rd. 15/01783/FUL.

Part two of the Local Plan was available for consultation by midsummer, and proposed 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.

Main Achievements

- A salt/grit bin will be located on Roughlow for residents to spread
- Agreed that a picnic bench will be located on The Green
- Wooden finger post erected on Gooseberry Lane, We do not like the galvanised metal poles!
- An Action Plan has been produced, and is reviewed monthly -out for consultation

Projects Highways and PRW Department

- Gooseberry Lane sign. Installed at last.
- Parish Boundary signage. Positions agreed awaiting installation
- Road repairs and blocked drains – reported upon.

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, with the exception of Gooseberry Lane.

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 absentee landowners to cut their hedges remains a challenge. We are in discussion with Highways re the hedge between Pebble Cottage and The Hob, Willington Rd.

- Himalayan Balsam remains a problem in Boothsdale and is now spreading to the adjacent wood land. The new owner of Boothsdale Farm is making some progress in eradicating this pernicious weed.
- Local footpaths are regularly walked and reported on to PRW officers.
- Road defects, flooding and fly tipping are reported to CWaC and checked upon.
- Speed checks on Chapel Lane. Surprisingly only one car was 'speeding'. Further checks have been requested!
- Your Council has decided not to enter The Best Kept Village competition this year until all building works on Chapel Lane are completed.

Village Design Statement

The Council has agreed that we should develop a Village Design Statement (VDS). Cllr Lowthion is the Council representative on the steering group. Ian Dingwall and Simon Walker both from Gooseberry Lane have agreed to be members.

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 2017 £	Year to 31st March 2018	See Note No
Balances brought forward	4,170	5,667	1
Plus Annual Precept	4,314	4,400	2
Plus Other Receipts	1,851	110	3
Less Staff Costs	2,552	2,258	4
Less Other Payments	2,116	1,543	5
Balances carried forward	5,667	6,376	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.
Last year it comprised 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.
This year £108.40 received was VAT refunded covering the previous years purchases and £1.91 bank interest
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.
Last year included 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.
This year the main items have been Insurance £280.00, finger post on Gooseberry Lane £195.01, training £129.98, newsletter, annual report and other printing £129.80, website maintenance £125.00, subscriptions £109.90, new printer and ink £94.89, general maintenance £94.81, Audit Fee £87.50, payroll software £69.20.
6. Balances carried forward means cash in the bank accounts. Parish Council Policy for the first four 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 £6,376 in the accounts at 31st March 2018 £1,500 is restricted for the Parish Signage, £100 (from the Willington/Utkinton Fete) has been designated to a Community Fund, £337 is New

Homes Bonus, and £410 is for a new picnic table. The most recent precept amounted to £4,400. Council consider that general reserves of £4,029 are on the high side but 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 of January, March, May, July, September and November, 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,

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