

Wrington Parish Council

Report to Parish Meeting – 1 May 2013

This is a short report on the Parish Council's activities for the year 2012/13 together with an indication of our main programme for the coming year. You might have noticed that a newsletter hasn't been circulated on this occasion, or at least not in advance of the meeting. This reflects a fundamental issue in that the Council has much work to do but with what are now quite limited resources. We would urge anyone with a potential interest in contributing to the local community to consider the possibility of joining us. It would help us to do more.

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors and our staff, Fiona and Judith, for their help and support during the year, as well as all the residents who have organised the various community events, for example the Diamond Jubilee street party, the Wrington Fair, Fete and Dickensian Fayre, along with the many other events and activities in Wrington, Redhill and elsewhere in the parish. The considerable time and effort provided voluntarily by residents for the benefit of the community really is appreciated.

The Council is supported by the Planning Committee, which considers planning applications and related issues such as consultations, and by three Working Groups. These are Finance, Highways and Environment, with their interests and activities self-evident. The Hall & Recreation Field Committee considers related management and maintenance issues, with a membership of Councillors and user group representatives.

All significant Council activities are included in the list below, although the range of work undertaken by Councillors and staff is far wider. Please let us know if you'd like more information on anything mentioned here and feel free to ask any questions at the meeting.

David Glynn
Chairman

Some of the Parish Council's activities during the year:

- Flooding & flood prevention – working with NSC on flooding & flood relief issues
- Rec drainage – scheme to improve drainage to allow for year round use
- Emergency Plan – review of needs alongside NSC's Community Resilience proposals
- Surgery development & WVMP issues – range of issues including access & services
- Transfer of Broad Street toilets – negotiated & agreed the transfer from NSC
- New play equipment for Church Walk – new locally made equipment installed
- Glebe Field/play area lease renewal – new 20 year lease negotiated & agreed
- NSC raised kerb bus stop project – working with NSC to resolve issues
- Highways & road maintenance issues – liaison with NSC on potholes, drainage, etc.
- Community Speedwatch – support for the local Speedwatch team
- Building maintenance & repair – Hall rewiring, painting & other building works

- QE II Diamond Jubilee – support for the Wrington street party & beacon
- Staff recruitment – new Parish Orderly, Caretaker & other reviews
- Survey of wall & pole mounted street lights – ref possible repair or replacement
- Dog control orders – review of dog exclusion & dogs on lead controls
- Bristol Airport liaison – meetings with BA management to discuss issues
- Website – ongoing work on a dedicated Council website

Planning:

During the course of the year the Planning Committee has considered 70 planning applications, 10 of which were Conservation Area or TPO tree works applications. In contrast to some suggestions, it's unusual for the Council to object to an application. In fact we submitted a formal objection on only 15 of the applications considered, with these mainly relating to the potential neighbour impacts. It's worth highlighting the point that the Council has no decision making powers on planning applications. However, as a statutory consultee, the Council's comments, especially 'objections', have to be considered by the planning authority (NSC) and a reasoned explanation provided if a decision is made contrary to the Council's recommendation. The Council also responded to several relevant consultations, in particular the Travel Plan for WVMP's new Pudding Pie Lane surgery, and NSC consultations on a Residential Design Guide (guidance for minimal impact house extensions) and the Sites & Policies Plan, which sets out proposed land use and planning policy in association with what is known as the Core Strategy.

Finance Report:

The Council's summary financial report and accounts for the year are available separately. We want to comment here on the increased Precept request for the year 2013/14. The Precept for 2012/13 was £80,860, with this increased by £5,756 to £86,616 (+7.11%) to cover the projected operating costs for the Broad Street toilets. In fact NSC estimated this cost at £6,641, which the Council has reduced, with the objective being a lower overall expenditure. This should be considered alongside the asset transfer charge of £1 and a grant for refurbishment of £14,724 which has already been received. The toilet site is now Council property and with no conditions attached to its use, other than that we would need to pay 20% of the proceeds to NSC if it's sold within fifteen years. We are always mindful of the risks attached to property ownership as the Council has potential liabilities related to the Memorial Hall, the John Locke Building (office & billiard room) and the John Locke House (Caretaker's house), all of which are old buildings. It's for this reason that the Council's reserves are maintained at a level which should allow us to meet unexpected demands.

Future plans - 2013/14:

The Council's programme for the coming year includes work on the following;

- Refurbishment of the Broad Street toilets (grant funded)
- New library & parish information centre in the old computer room (grant funded)
- Wrington surgery/WVMP liaison & ongoing service provision issues
- Support for NSC's flood relief scheme
- Recreation Field drainage improvement plan (grant funded)
- Emergency Plan/Community Resilience project

- Solar panel installation (grant funded)
- New Hall kitchen (grant funded)
- Defibrillator installations (part grant funded)
- Review of village & parish speed limits
- Parish footpaths/Rights of Way survey
- Play equipment replacement (grant funded)
- Council website

Let us know if you'd like further information on these.

Get involved:

We would welcome enquiries from residents who are interested in helping us with these projects, although you would need to be co-opted to the Council. As we suggested last year, we would particularly welcome those who live outside Wrington, especially one or two Redhill residents.

Council Meetings:

The Council usually meets at 7.30pm on the third Wednesday each month and the Planning Committee at 6.00pm every three weeks on a Tuesday evening. Meeting dates are posted on notice boards and on the Wrington website. These are all public meetings, unlike the Hall Committee meetings, but please contact the Committee Secretary/ Treasurer (the Clerk) for further information.

Your Councillors:

Georgie Bigg	- Environment Working Group	01934 863070
David Glynn	- Chair	01934 862344
Lucie Howells	- Sports & Social Club	01934 862850
Pat Ledbury	- Highways Working Group	01934 863832
John Rawlins	- Finance Working Group	01934 862432
Paul Robinson	- WVMP	01934 862773
Barrie Taylor	- Allotments Association	01934 862080
Deborah Yamanaka	- District Councillor	01934 862109

You can contact the Council through:

Fiona Burke, Clerk
 Judith Bishop, Assistant Clerk

The Council office is open to the public for enquiries on Tuesday and Friday mornings, 10.00 - 12.00. Alternatively, you can leave a message or send an email.

Phone: 01934 863984
 Email: clerk_wrington@hotmail.com

.....