

Wrington Parish Council

Newsletter & Annual Report 2013-14

It has again been a busy year for the Parish Council, with much to do on limited resources. While this will be last year before a possible election and a new Council there is still a lot that we need to complete.

The Council currently has nine members and is supported by Fiona Burke, Clerk, and Judith Bishop, Assistant Clerk, both working part time. The Council meets on the third Wednesday each month, with these and Planning Committee meetings open to the public.

The brief reports below should give you an understanding of our activities both last year and of what's planned for 2014/15.

We were very pleased that NSC and the Environment Agency have agreed a flood relief scheme which should help to minimise the potential risk of future flooding in Wrington and we've obtained grant funding for several of our own projects. A particular success was an agreement with NSC that the raised kerb build-out in Broad Street should be removed and incorporated into a wider and more practical footway.

We are intending to improve communication with residents, with our new website now launched, and the Council's notice board will soon be replaced. At the Rec, Wrington Redhill FC is currently heading their division and is hoping for promotion. This will result in some changes and the Council has agreed that a barrier can be erected around the football pitch to meet the required standards.

Finally, we were very pleased to welcome George Lankester to the Council and we're sure that we will benefit from his knowledge and experience.



Finance Report

The Council's financial report and accounts for the year are available separately. Following last year's increase you should have found that the Parish Council's part of your council tax bill is unchanged for 2014/15, with the charge for a Band D property held at £76.37. While this was achieved by careful budgeting and control on expenditure, adequate reserves should be available in the event of the need for major expenditure on the Hall or other buildings. The total budgeted expenditure is £95,476, with the Precept set at £90,452.

Dog & Waste Bins

A major issue was a proposed increase in the charge for emptying dog bins from £2 to £6. As we have thirteen bins with these emptied weekly you can appreciate that the cost is significant. While the charge will now be kept at £2 for this year and the service reviewed by NSC, our impression is that residents much prefer that the dog bins are all retained. There are no similar charges for emptying NSC's litter bins.

**** Annual Parish Meeting ****
7 May, Memorial Hall, 7pm.

Bristol Airport

We are in regular contact with Bristol Airport, where growth has recently slowed. There were 65,299 aircraft movements in 2013, an increase of 6.7% on the previous year, and 6.125m air passengers, up by 3.6%. From a parish perspective, the point is that all these passengers need to travel to and from the airport. The most significant development issues are a new hanger on the south side for use by private aircraft and a 251-room hotel to be built on the north side of the Terminal.



Buses

We were very disappointed that there was no consultation when the 121 service to Weston was reduced to two-hourly, although we argued that the service was part of the Travel Plan for the new Langford surgery and needed to be maintained. Good news for those living along the A38 and Downside Road was the introduction of the new A2 rural link service.

Community Resilience/Emergency Plan

We are working on preparing an Emergency Plan for the parish which will link with other work on community resilience and plans which are already in place, including for Bristol Airport. Further details on community resilience are available on both the Council's and the NSC websites.

Defibrillators

The Council will shortly be installing a public access defibrillator at the Scout Hall, with thanks to the Scout Group who will monitor it. Note that this defibrillator has been funded and supplied by David James & Partners, for which we should all be grateful. We hope to install others, including in Redhill.

District Council

The Council works closely with Councillor Deborah Yamanaka, who is also a member of the Parish Council and provides us with a monthly report on relevant NSC activities. If you weren't aware, the Boundary Commission recently consulted on proposals for new electoral ward boundaries. We argued that Wrington should remain as a single member ward.

Flood Risk

There are two phases to the agreed flood relief scheme, a new culvert (underground pipe) between The Glebe and the open stream by Garstons Orchard and, crucially, a surface water storage/retention pond which is to be constructed on land to the east of the village. The culvert should be completed this year with the retention pond to follow next spring. The Chairman sits on the Project Board and reports back to the Council.

Highways

We understand your concerns about the condition of the local roads and what appear to be short term repairs to potholes, with these issues raised regularly with NSC. Something more positive is that we have obtained funding for a pedestrian crossing scheme on the A38 at Cowslip Green, which should help residents to access the A2 bus more safely. We also hope to obtain funding for a similar scheme close to Lye Hole Lane in Redhill.

Old Surgery Site – development proposal, trees, etc.

The future of the old surgery site remains unclear, with a planning application for four houses referred to the Planning Inspectorate, a Tree Preservation Order made for most of the trees surrounding the building and an application for a 'Byway Open to All Traffic' Right of Way designation refused, although a pedestrian RoW is still possible. If you weren't aware, the Council has a long-term lease for use of the Glebe Field, the land adjacent to the site and which is to be designated as a Local Green Space. We have recently commissioned a tree survey and will be undertaking work here later in the year.

Parish Orderly

We recently appointed Jeni Fulker as our new Parish Orderly. Jeni's priority will be to keep our public open spaces and footpaths litter and weed free. Let us know if you have concerns about anything in particular, although NSC has responsibility for litter alongside most roads and for fly tipping.

Planning

During the year the Planning Committee, chaired by Barrie Taylor, considered 86 planning applications of which 28 were Conservation Area or TPO tree works applications. We submitted a formal objection on only 17 of the applications for development. All our comments can be viewed on the NSC website. The Council also considered several NSC planning policy consultations, including on Affordable Housing, Renewable Energy Generation, Housing Requirements and a Residential Design Guide.

Play Equipment

While there is some refurbishment working outstanding and planned in the Church Walk play area and at the Rec, an order has been placed for a new adventure trail installation on the Recreation Field. This should be available for use before the summer.



Policing

We understand that some reorganisation of local policing is intended in the near future but with the parish continuing to be served by PC Lloyd Nethercott as Beat Manager, supported by PCSO Yvette Mayo. You can find their contact details on the Council's website.



Hall Committee

The Wrington Memorial Hall & Recreation Field Committee is a registered charity which works closely with and on behalf of the Council to maintain the Hall, Recreation Field and other Council owned assets. The Hall Committee is chaired very effectively by Marshall Clements, who sits on the Committee as one of the user representatives. Details of the Hall Committee's activities and accounts can be provided on request. Also, the Council has secured funding for a new double glazed main window at the Hall and will pay for full rewiring of the John Locke House.

Public Conveniences

The Broad Street toilets were transferred to the Council from NSC in April last year, together with a grant for refurbishment of the building. This work will be undertaken later this year and, while we will try to minimise any restrictions, you are likely to find that access is limited from time to time.

Street Lights

Our programme of replacing old concrete column mounted lights with efficient modern units is ongoing. These new lights are now all installed with part night switching, which turns off the power in the early hours.

Website

We were really pleased to launch our new website and hope that you've been able to look at it. In particular, we've included a list of all live parish planning applications from which you can immediately access the relevant pages on the NSC website. If you have any thoughts or suggestions about the website then please let us know.

Future plans – 2014-15:

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

- Defibrillator installations
- Solar/PV panel installation
- Emergency Plan/Community Resilience project
- New Hall kitchen (subject to grant funding)
- New resource/information centre in the old computer room
- Refurbishment of the Broad Street toilets
- Recreation Field drainage improvements
- Review of village & parish speed and waiting restrictions
- Play equipment replacement/refurbishment
- Pedestrian crossing schemes on the A38 at Cowslip Green and Redhill



Your Parish Council for 2014/15:

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George Lankester - 01934 862251
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John Rawlins - 01934 862432
Paul Robinson - 01934 862773
Barrie Taylor - 01934 862080
Deborah Yamanaka - 01934 862109
(District Councillor)

You can contact the Council through:

Fiona Burke, Clerk to the Council, and Judith Bishop, Assistant Clerk, on 01934 863984

Email: clerk_wrington@hotmail.com

Website: www.wringtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

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

This report is available on the Council's website and by email on request, together with an extended version produced for the Parish Meeting.

Published by:

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