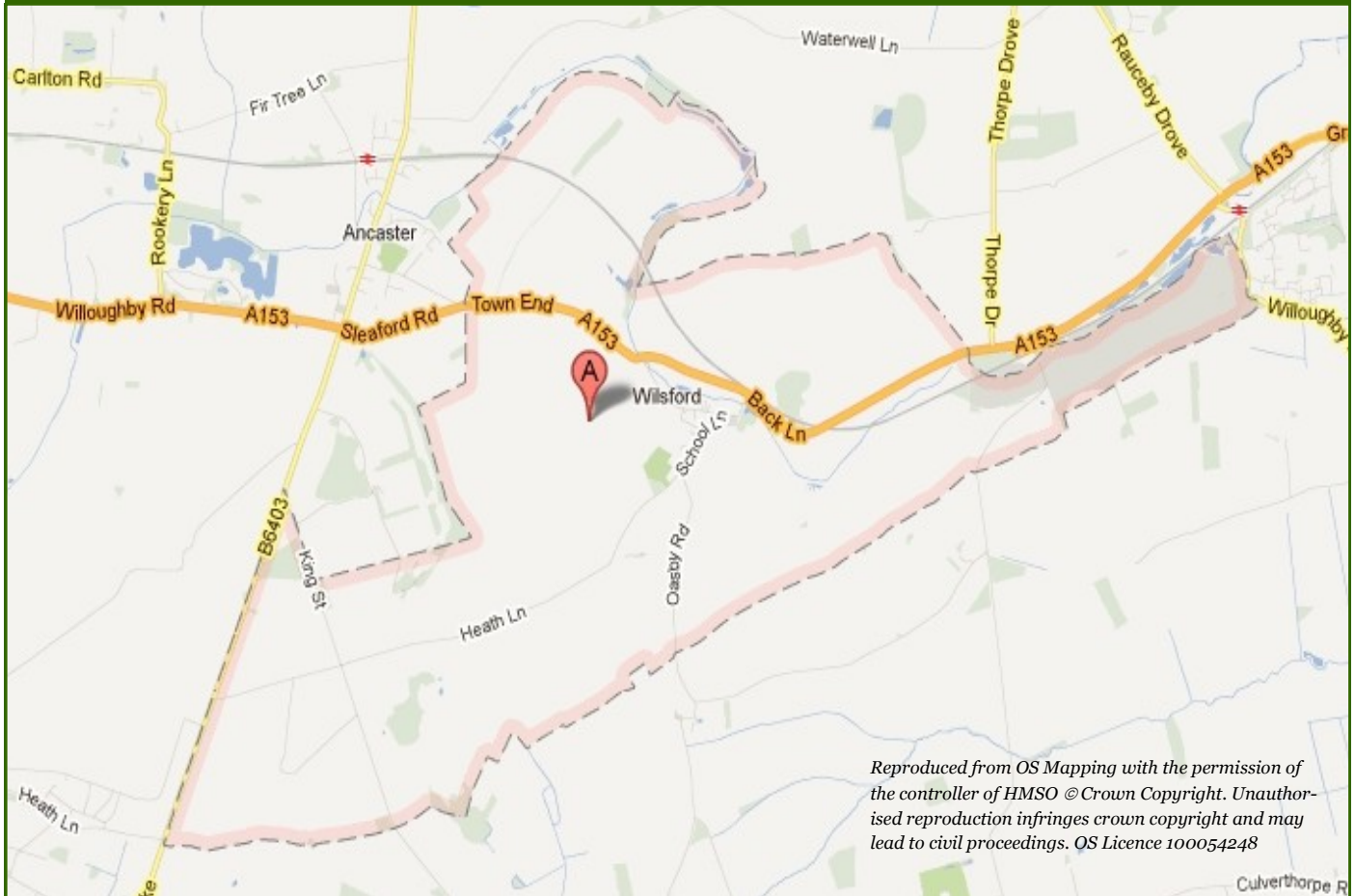


WILSFORD PARISH COUNCIL



There's always a lot going on in Wilsford. Its difficult to remember it all and I will almost certainly omit something interesting or important from this report. However, before I look back on the issues and achievements of the year it is appropriate that I record the parish council's sadness at the passing of **Jim Cook** our district councillor who died suddenly in February. Jim was great friend to Wilsford and always did his best to support the parish council and a host of village institutions from the Village Hall to the Horticultural Society. Attending his funeral at Osbournby I became aware of just how widely Jim was respected and admired by all the parishes in his ward. Thanks Jim.

We now welcome Jim's successor, **Kate Cook** (no relation) and look forward to working for Wilsford with her in the coming year.

Wilsford Parish Council is pleased to report progress on a number of projects and initiatives this year. Work will begin shortly on the **10 affordable homes being built on the plot** between school lane and the playing field now owned by Wilsford Community Land Trust. The homes which will only be available to rent, are for those in need of housing with a close connection to Wilsford, including those now resident in nearby parishes like Ancaster, Welby or Oasby that lie outside North Kesteven. The homes must be

finished by March 2015, so register your interest with Wilsford CLT and for more information go to **www.wilsfordlandtrust.org.uk**. The regeneration (if you will pardon the jargon) of this area will include a new road (with a new name tba!) with a clear line of sight from School Lane to the Playing Field with improved push-chair friendly access to the field, as well as a reconfigured Village Hall car park.

The Parish Council remains committed to creating and maintaining a pleasant, clean and safe environment for the whole community and will continue to provide for the efficient management of Wilsford's green spaces, the churchyard and caring for those assets and amenities for which the council has a duty of care, ownership or responsibility.

Funding was provided for a wide variety of projects including the new church path, water storage and connection for Wilsford Allotments Association. The Council continues to support the playing field with funds for grass cutting, litter picking and dog bins and is encouraged to see a re-vitalised Playing Field Committee taking ownership of the management his much valued village asset.

After continued reports and complaints of dog fouling both on the playing field and on village paths the council has also invested in the services of a licensed dog warden. The

service has been used successfully by other parishes to combat this serious health hazard and we need your feedback to see if it is working.

A memorial bench for **Les Walton** has been installed on the footpath about halfway up Ancaster Hill. The rustic seat was whittled by **Ron Sheridan** (of Wilsford Woodcrafts) and installed by village handyman, **Ricky Ellis**. Now that the southern hedge has received a much needed haircut, the views from **Les' Seat** are spectacular. It's worth mentioning that in his role as retained handyman, Ricky carries out a number of important duties for the council including litter picking, maintenance of village furniture, tree and hedge trimming, clearing up dog mess and gritting paths etc in the winter (when we have them). Thanks Ricky.

The Parish Council also worked with experienced local walkers **Gordon and Jayne Sanders** to publish a **Wilsford Walks** leaflet. The leaflet (and the walks!) have proved very popular and we hope to continue the collaboration to publish more in the future, as soon as some ticklish 'rights of way' issues can be resolved. Leaflets are available in The Shop and The Plough and **Wilsford Walks** can also be downloaded from the parish council website, <http://parishes.lincolnshire.gov.uk/Wilsford/>

Speaking of which, the parish council **website** is also new and improved (thanks Debbie) and you can always catch

up with what happened at PC meetings by downloading minutes or agendas.

A round-up of the year's activities would not be complete without a fond farewell and big thank you to **Dick and Di Fairhead** who are leaving the village soon to be nearer family in Sleaford. Dick and Di have (among many other things) produced the **Wilsford News & Views** since, well, forever. The newsletter is a fantastic way of communicating what's going on in the village to the majority of households and the PC would also like to thank **Jacky Scott-Coombs** and **Jayne Sadler** who have taken up the challenge. We wish the new editorial team well.

Financial report. In 2013, the council set the precept at £6826 which with a new local authority support grant effectively meant 'no change.' This was the fourth year in succession the council voted for no increase. This year, as I am sure you will have noticed, and for a variety of reasons, the parish council felt it prudent to budget a comparatively significant increase. Firstly the longer we kept the precept the same so as the cost of services continued to rise the more ground we would eventually have to make up. Secondly the direction of travel in terms parish council funding is to cut the direct support grant from NKDC and expect the PC to make up the difference via the precept. The precept (sometimes called the 'parish rate') is basically a tax charged on each property in the parish. It is collected on the

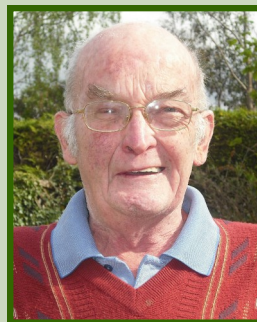
YOUR COUNCILLORS



Cllr Harry Attrill, Chair and Council rep on CLT Steering Group. Tel 231163



Cllr Steve Turner, Vice Chair and Responsible Financial Officer Tel 230269



Cllr Peter Darby Tel 230979



Cllr Phil Bramley rep on War Memorial Committee Tel 230698



Cllr Richard Frankland, council rep on Allotments Association Tel 230466



Cllr Jacky Clements Tel 230277



Cllr Michael Harrison council rep on Village Hall Committee, Tel 230136



Debbie Scott, Clerk Wilsfordpc@gmail.com

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2013-14

PC's behalf by NKDC and appears as a charge on your Council Tax bill. The Localism Act 2011 has provision for the capping of the parish council rate.

The Band D Council Tax increased from £50 to £61.24 an increase of 22.4%, or £11.24 a year, per household. That's about 21p a week. The total income for the Parish Council for 2014/15 will be £9000 (as opposed to £7550 in 2013-14) which included the Rate Support Grant of £664.36 (£724.40 in 2013-14).

Effectively like many businesses and households, the PC is facing a double whammy. Prices for services are increasing at the same time as support grants are being cut. For example the grant for litter picking and dog-bins has been cut this year by 50% (and we expect support to be withdrawn completely by 2016) but the PC voted to maintain this service at the current level. It was also agreed to continue with the dog warden contract, as this appears to be making a difference to the level of dog fouling, particularly on the playing field, while the charge for dog bin emptying also continues to rise year on year. **Lincolnshire County Council** continually reviews what it pays the PC to manage grass-cutting on parish highways (verges etc) and our grant is fixed at the rate they pay their contractors - of course this is a very competitive market and prices keep being beaten down. The grant has been reduced by nearly £200 since 2012 and the PC has voted to top up the grant to continue to maintain the verges as they are. We think local contractor **PE Hempstead** does a fabulous job of keeping the village looking green and pleasant.

Following many complaints and concerns voiced by residents over a number of years, and a marked increase in traffic the council is now embarking on a project to consider the

best way of providing effective permanent **anti-speeding devices** in the village both at Town End and Main Street. It was therefore decided to begin to accrue funds against this eventuality. Permanently fixed re-active speed indicators (like those installed in Osbournby last year) cost around £12,000 payable over 3 years. Alternatively there's recently been a demonstration of movable reactive signs in Ancaster, these are expected to cost around £2,500 - £3,000 each. Significant housing development planned in Sleaford and Grantham is expected to increase the volume traffic using the A153 and following data recently collected on behalf of the PC in Wilsford by the **Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership**, the council is now considering the matter of speeding, particularly in Town End as a matter of urgency.

Although the Parish Council is duty bound to provide certain services, (see the attached budget sheet for what the parish council spends the precept on) the precept is in a very real sense, **your money**. Applications for funding by community groups are therefore always considered by the Parish Council before the precept is set. For more information and an application form, contact the clerk.

Every parish council meeting starts with a 10 minute 'public forum' for parishioners to raise matters of interest or concern or ask a question of the council. Alternatively you can contact any member of the parish council who will raise an issue on your behalf at the public forum. If the matter is urgent or of a serious nature you can ask a councillor to consider putting the issue on the agenda for the next meeting so that it can be debated and if appropriate voted on. If an issue isn't on the agenda it can be discussed by the council but no formal decision can be taken. For more information on how to get in touch with the council please contact the clerk, Debbie Scott.

WILSFORD PARISH COUNCIL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2013/14

Expenditure	2012/13	2013/14
Staff - wages and expenses	£2,561.67	£2043.24
Hall Hire	£139.00	£156.50
Insurance/Audit/ Office/Admin/subs	£670.30	£1008.38
Grass Cutting - Village and Churchyard	£1,347.50	£1506.30
Handyman	£958.00	£847
Dogbins - emptying (*2yrs)	£553.50*	£297.75
Jubilee	£292.18	
Funding for PF/VH/Newsletter/Brownies /Church	£3,163.73	£3202.96
Allotments	£248.60	£665.55
Support for CLT	£230.00	£28.00
VAT		£905.57
TOTAL	£10,164.48	£11,141.25
Income		
Precept	£7,500.00	£7,555.00
NKDC grant - litter picking	£172.61	£260.62
Allotment rents (part 11-12, and 12-13)	£145.00	£75.00
LCC grant - grass cutting	£621.80	626.61
Bank Interest	£29.84	£2.85
VAT refund		£489.71
Contribution to church path		£1200
LHRA reimbursement		£708
TOTAL	£8,469.25	10912.39



Wilsford Walks leaflet— available in The Plough and the shop or downloadable from the PC website—get them while they're hot

Two other ongoing matters are worthy of note. Firstly the continued delays to the proposed **re-surfacing of Main Street**. While the council is frustrated that the work keeps being rescheduled, it is also concerned at the lack of clear communication by the county highways authorities. While the parish council appreciates that there are a lot of roads in the county and that many were badly damaged during the winter of 2012/13, and further that resources are finite and that Wilsford is unlikely to be a priority, we do expect residents and businesses to be given sufficient clear notice of likely disruption and that sufficient provision is made to permit access for buses (particularly in term time) and residents most of whom rely on their cars most of the time. To date the quality of this communication has been poor and the PC has had to continually chase for information. We hope the situation will improve and that the proposed works will now finally take place in July.

The issue of **street lighting** has also been raised this year. The parish council is unanimously of the view that it wishes to protect the rural character of the village and that while adequate lighting should be in place to ensure public safety, light pollution is to be avoided. The council noted that in recent years the proliferation of security and amenity lighting at many properties in the village also inevitably increases levels of light pollution. However following representations from residents and a night time walk of the village it has been agreed to install an extra light on Main Street (between the bus shelter and the shop) but the application is deferred in the hope that an existing light can be transferred from the Village Hall Car Park area once the new lighting scheme associated with the new car park and affordable housing development is in place.

Finally, 2014 also marks the beginning of a series of national commemorations marking the centenary of the **Great War 1914-18**. The Parish Council is supporting an independent committee chaired by resident Simon Davey and representing as wide a possible cross-section of village groups (Including the Church Council and the WI) to consider how Wilsford should mark the anniversary. A significant number of men from the village (22) were killed and perhaps many more

wounded or scarred in other ways. Wilsford's womenfolk, friends and families will also have been seriously affected by the 'war to end all wars' and its impacts will have been felt in the village for long after the war ended. In the immediate aftermath in the early 1920s a committee including members of the parish council raised money by local subscription to commission and install a new east window in the church as a suitable tribute to the fallen. This beautiful memorial deserves to be more widely appreciated and raising awareness in the village is just one of the ideas under consideration by the committee. If you want to get involved in this important project please contact Cllr Phil Bramley for more information.

Harry Attrill, May 2014

Wilsford Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday 20th May 2014 at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall. All Councillors and residents of the Parish are invited to attend, but only members of the electorate of Wilsford may vote.

Agenda

Welcome

Minutes of the last APM

Chairman's Report

Financial Report

Open Forum

To allow members of the public to discuss any issues