

WILSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

I was voted into the Chair of the Wilsford Parish Council at the Annual Parish Meeting on 19 May 2015 so this is my first annual report. Having only been a Parish Councillor for a few months prior to that it has inevitably been a steep learning curve and I have been most grateful for the support and guidance of longer-serving colleagues. I have also had the benefit of the wisdom and experience of the Clerk to the Council, Debbie Scott, and it is a matter of great sadness to the whole Council that because of pressure of work in the numerous other activities in which she is involved Debbie has tendered her resignation and will leave us in May. Thanks and good luck, Debbie, in all your enterprises.



I must also pay tribute to my predecessor as Chairman, Harry Attrill, who retired in May 2015 having served on the Parish Council since 2008, most of that time in the chair. He will perhaps be most remembered for his work in bringing to completion the CLT development in Blackberry Way.

Finally, we have a new Parish Councillor, Gary Douglas. Gary, who has lived in Wilsford with his wife Melanie for past 3 years, retired from the Metropolitan Police service in 2006 having been a career detective at Scotland Yard for 32 years. Gary currently works for a firm of accountants investigating fraud cases on behalf of their clients and in his free time enjoys caravanning, walking his two Labradors and DIY.

In my first year in the chair I have been surprised by the range of subjects and issues that the Parish Council is asked to consider. But I think it is fair to say that the single issue that has taken up more of our time than any other has been the repercussions following the fire last July at the Wilsford Heath facility of Mid-UK Recycling. Few who were in the village at the time will forget the irritating smoke plume, the blocked roads and disruption to transport, the closed schools and businesses: and above all, the lack of real-time information.

The Parish Council held an open meeting on 22 September 2015 to quiz Alister Constantine, Mid-UK's Group Systems and Compliance Manager, and Sean Taylor of Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue, on what had happened, why, what was being done to deal with it now and to prevent it reoccurring in the future. Our meeting was a lively affair with Parish Councillors and over 40 people from Wilsford and the surrounding area putting some pretty tough, and sometimes highly technical, questions to our guests. Measuring toxicity was a major issue. A record is on the website but by the end the general feeling was, I think, that Mr Constantine understood our concerns, accepted that communication with Wilsford (within whose parish boundaries the facility is sited) had not

YOUR COUNCILLORS



Cllr Simon Davey
Chairman and
WVI **231537**



Cllr Steve Turner,
Vice Chair and
Finance Lead
230269



Cllr Michael Harrison
rep on Village Hall
Committee, **230136**



Cllr Phil Bramley
230698



Cllr Jacky Clements
230277



Cllr Richard
Frankland, rep for
Allotments **230466**



Cllr Gary Douglas,
rep for CLT
230838



Debbie Scott, Clerk
(to end of May 2016)
wilsfordpc@gmail.com

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been good and that we needed in future to be more involved in the company's thinking and development. We believe we have developed strong working links with Mid-UK.

We hope that the new measures the company has put in place will solve the problems of the past and that we shall not suffer another incident. To this end there has been another Open Forum, visits to the site, a table-top exercise that included Parish Council representatives and Mr Constantine has attended several meetings of the Parish Council to address specific concerns like development plans and traffic volume. We are also working with Ancaster Parish Council on a Joint Emergency Plan that should sharpen up our response to any major accident or disaster in the area.



Mentioning the Open Forum reminds me that you may not be aware that the agendas for our meetings, together with the minutes that follow, are on <http://parishes.lincolnshire.gov.uk/wilsford>. A maximum of 10 minutes is allowed prior to the start of every meeting for any members of the public who wish to address the Parish Council. Thereafter, they are welcome to remain in the room as observers but may not take part in the proceedings. Alternatively, if you do not want to attend the meeting in person, you can speak in advance to any of the Councillors who will raise the subject on your behalf.

The subjects people talk to us about are varied

and range from grass cutting in Blackberry Way to water from some hidden source pouring down the Kelby Road, dog nuisance on the playing fields to inconsiderate parking in Main Street, overgrown hedges to inadequate lighting, drainage to flood insurance. Some of these matters fall within our powers; if not, we can take them up on your behalf with, for example, County Highways or NKDC. On Council matters we can count on the support of our District Councillor, Kate Cook, who attends our meetings whenever possible and is a willing lobbyist on our behalf. We are also grateful to PCSO Colin Ironmonger, our police contact, who attends when possible and is a source of advice on matters more properly for the Police, like parking.

Last year's report recorded that the Parish Council had pledged £2000 as a contribution to the Bell Tower project in St Mary's church to create a permanent exhibition on Wilsford and particularly the 22 men from the village who fell in the First World War. The contribution was dependent on the church being able to obtain matching funds from the Heritage Lottery Fund



but in the event this route did not prove feasible. The Parish Council has therefore revised its contribution to £1000 towards a scaled-down project. Steve Turner is arranging for students from local schools who are studying design to contribute ideas to the project. The first thing we are likely to see is a stone from the Glebe Quarry placed outside the churchyard to direct

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people to the stained glass window that is our memorial to the fallen.

The Parish Council has for some time been concerned at the risks to life from vehicles speeding both on Back Lane (the A153) and on the streets in the village and resolved to do something about it. Our first step has been to install a Community Speed Watch moveable speed indicator in School Lane level with Paddock Close that shows approaching motorists their speed. This device can only be in position for 6 weeks after which it has to be re-sited for a further 3 weeks. The indicator has not been without its teething problems but during its working periods it has thrown up some interesting statistics. Typically, around 150-300 vehicles pass the sign in a 24-hour period but occasionally we have seen nearly 500. I am pleased to say the readings show that the vast

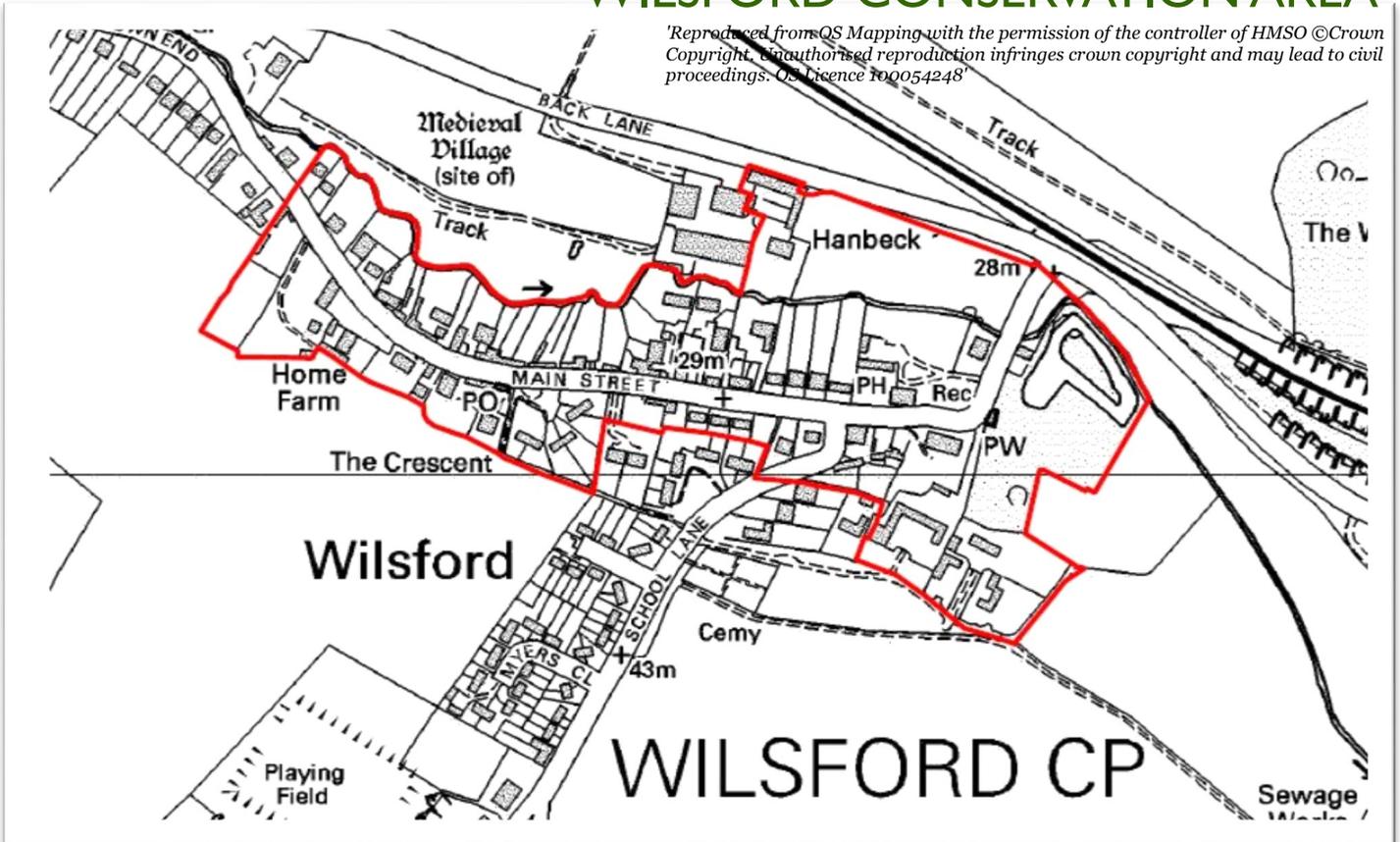
majority of drivers proceed down the hill at a reasonable speed. But not everybody: one motorist heading into the bend was recorded at 50mph! In due course there will be three further sockets so that the device may be moved around the village.

We are still awaiting the installation of the Permanent Speed Indicator Devices on Back Lane at Town End but a lot of preliminary work has been done including negotiation with householders to permit the siting of signs, the upgrading of some lighting and the relocation of overhead lines. The current target date for installation is the end of May or the beginning of June. This cannot come too soon. We have all seen vehicles, including HGVs, well exceeding the 30mph limit going through this tricky section and we hope that visual reminders of the speed limit and a warning to motorists approaching

WILSFORD PARISH COUNCIL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2015/16

<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>2014/15</i>	<i>2015-16</i>
Staff - wages and expenses	£2,002.41	£2,589.45
Hall Hire	£142.00	£147.00
Insurance/Audit/ Office/Admin/subs (included new laptop in 14-15, new noticeboard in 2015-16)	£1,173.25	£1,659.25
Grass Cutting - village and Churchyard	£1,634.99	£1,818.23
Handyman	£924.00	£991.00
Dogbins - emptying	£312.60	£318.90
Dog Warden	£1,440.00	£1,344.00
Funding for PF/VH/Newletter/ Church	£1,777.89	£1,260.00
Allotments	-	-
Election Expenses	-	£107.25
Community Speed Watch SID - purchase	-	£2,156.00
Rent to VLT on behalf of Village Hall	-	£3.00
VAT	£407.76	£997.87
TOTAL	£9,814.60	£13,391.95
<i>Income</i>		
Precept	£8,335.64	£10,070.23
Precept Support Grant	£664.36	£429.77
NKDC grant - litter picking	£88.41	£88.41
NKDC grant -Dog Warden	£46.31	£46.31
Allotment rents	£75.00	£75.00
LCC grant - grass cutting	£631.35	£634.76
Bank Interest	£4.00	£3.68
VAT Refund	£960.05	£1,073.11
NS&I Interest	£18.15	£18.29
TOTAL	£10,823.27	£12,439.56

WILSFORD CONSERVATION AREA



from the East that they have a bend and a road junction ahead of them will improve matters. Unfortunately, there has been some increase in the cost of providing and installing the SIDs.

We have a lovely village and the Parish Council works to keep it that way. Once again our village handyman, Ricky Ellis, has worked hard to ensure the village looks good. Among other things he trims hedges, clears up mess and grits the paths, monitors lighting and services the CSW indicator. We also benefit from the services of Phil Orme who patrols the village and the playing fields and is empowered to issue Fixed Penalty Notices to those who litter or do not clear dog nuisance. His presence has a marked effect on keeping offences down. We extend our thanks to Ricky and Phil. The Parish Council also contributes to the cost of cutting grass on the playing field and in the cemetery, to support the Playing Field Committee and St Mary's Church Council.

The Parish Council has continued to work with the other organisations in the village and has representatives on the CLT and the Playing Fields, Allotments and Village Hall Committees. We fully support the VH Committee (now chaired by James Bell) in its collaboration with the Focus Consulting Group to rebuild or refurbish the Hall and have pledged £500 to the initial feasibility stage.

But all this activity, much of it described above, costs money and we have had to look carefully at securing sufficient funds to undertake it. We anticipate expenditure in 2016-2017 of £16,221. Additionally, we need to maintain a level of reserves that will enable us to meet any unexpected expenditure. It was not an easy decision but, faced with a fall in the support grant, the Parish Council agreed to raise the precept, the amount we receive from NKDC out of Council Tax, to £13,234.83. In terms of the increase per household the increase is small and we hope people will accept that it is money well spent.

Simon Davey, Chairman, May 2016

Wilsford Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday 24th May 2016 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

Neighbourhood Plans - Luisa McIntosh, NKDC

Joint Wilsford and Ancaster Emergency Plan - Simon Davey

Open Forum

To allow members of the public to discuss any issues