

WILSFORD PARISH COUNCIL



© Imperial War Museum

*Battle of Loos 1915 and (left) Wilsford War Memorial—
detail from the east window of St Mary's Church*

There's always a lot going on in Wilsford and this last year (2014-15) has been no exception. Most noticeably perhaps, 10 new houses at Blackberry Way have been completed and are now occupied. The Parish Council welcomes the new residents and their families, most of whom if not all of whom have a former or existing family connection to Wilsford and the surrounding area. The homes are managed on behalf of Wilsford Community Land Trust (WCLT) by Lincs Rural Housing Association and are available at affordable rents on secure tenancies. As the houses were built as a direct result of a Housing Needs Survey carried out on behalf of the Parish Council in 2008 (and updated in 2010) the Council is delighted to see the scheme come to completion and congratulates WCLT and everyone else involved on a job well done!

Of course this last year has also seen the start of national events marking the centenary of **The Great War 1914-18**. In Wilsford we have been deciding how best to commemorate the sacrifice of the 22 men of our village who lost their lives in the conflict, their dependents, families, wives and children as well as remembering those who returned wounded or otherwise scarred by their experiences in the 'war to end all wars.' A survey carried out by the PC's World War One working group, (including representatives from the WI, Church Council and residents) found that many of us who live in the village were unaware of the existing village war memorial, the fabulous east window in St Mary's Church, and the group is exploring ways in which attention can be drawn to its purpose and location and how the sad story of its commissioning in the 1920s can be told. Responses to the survey question as to how or whether the village should celebrate this important centenary in some formal way were inconclusive, and as a



result a number of interesting ideas are being pursued, including tree planting, a stone memorial and a permanent commemorative exhibition in the St Mary's Bell Tower. The Parish Council has committed £2000 as a contribution to the final scheme and plans are afoot to submit a national lottery bid incorporating some or all of these ideas. The Parish Council has also been offered a piece of local blue limestone stone by Wilsford's **Glebe Quarry** (who supplied the limestone for the new tomb of King Richard III when recently interred in Leicester Cathedral) and it is hoped that it may be possible to use this generous gift to draw attention to the memorial window and mark the centenary.

The parish council also received a moving letter from the French village of Oignes asking for any information on one **Thomas Henry Turner** of Wilsford who was killed at the battle of Loos in 1915 aged 42 and is buried in Oignes Communal Cemetery. After a cordial exchange of letters it is hoped that the Parish Council will be able continue to

YOUR COUNCILLORS

work with Oignines to mark this important anniversary, which clearly means as much to those living on the other side of The Channel as it does to us. If any one has any ideas or memories, or would like to contribute or help with Wilsford's World War I commemorations please get in touch with Cllr Simon Davey who chairs the working group.

The Parish Council is also pleased to be able to report that after much work and some frustrating delays, that permanent speed indicator devices (SIDs) will be installed on the A153 on the way into the village in both directions, from Sleaford and Grantham. Due to complex and frankly incomprehensible (to the layman) highway legislation, the sign from Sleaford along Back Lane may not indicate the motorists speed but will draw attention to the sharp bend just before Town End, accompanied by a warning to 'Slow Down'. The sign from Grantham at the bottom of Ancaster Hill will be a more conventional illuminated 'Slow Down' sign indicating the vehicle speed and thanking those drivers approaching Wilsford under the 30mph limit. Those familiar with the SID on the way into Osbournby will recognise the type. Due to continued reports of speeding through the village the council has also invested in some Community Speed Watch moveable speed indicator signs which can be mounted on designated lamp posts both on Main Street and School Lane. Signs of this type can be seen operating in Ancaster. These devices will record the speed of traffic through the village and data can be downloaded to a mobile phone. The Parish Council will use his data working with Lincolnshire Police and the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership to combat persistent speeding through the village.

These two sets of Speed Indicator Devices represent a big investment for the village. The Parish Council has committed its reserves and raised the precept in order to fund their purchase, installation and on-going maintenance. Wilsford Parish Council hopes that slowing traffic through Town End on the A153 and making drivers more aware of their speed through the heart of the village will make a real difference the quality of lives of residents going about their daily business in the village and particularly our children at play. A total of £11,500 has been spent on the permanent signs for Town End and a further £2156 has been committed towards the mobile devices for Main Street and School Lane. The Parish Council has committed these funds in response to the long-standing concerns of residents regarding the speed of traffic travelling through the village. The number of accidents at Town End has increased in recent years in line with the volume of traffic on the A153, while there seem to be more and more cars driving through the village. The Parish Council wants Wilsford to be a safe place for and it is hoped that these measures will send out a firm message and that drivers will slow down. Both sets of signs should be installed by September.

In 2014, and after many years of sterling service, the Parish Council said goodbye to Cllr Peter Darby who resigned due to ill-health. The Council would like to record its thanks to Peter for all the time and effort he put in to village matters both as a Councillor and to other activities



Cllr Harry Attrill,
Chair and rep on
CLT. **231163**



Cllr Steve Turner,
Vice Chair and
RFO **230269**



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



Cllr Phil Bramley
230698



Cllr Jacky Clements
230277



Cllr Richard Frank-
land, rep for Allot-
ments **230466**



Cllr Simon Davey
WWI **231537**



Debbie Scott, Clerk
Wilsfordpc@gmail.com

over a long period as a resident. Last year the Council also welcomed Simon Davey, After a spell in the Army, Cllr Davey spent the bulk of his career in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London and overseas. He retired in 2007 and he and Marcela moved to Wilsford in 2010. Simon is active in church affairs and enjoys fishing on the River Witham.

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 while caring for those assets and amenities for which the council has a duty of care, ownership or responsibility.

Funding was provided by the Parish Council for a wide variety of projects including repairs to the Church Wall, a second print run of the popular Wilsford Walks leaflet (copies available in the Post Office) and the printing of the Village Newsletter. 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 this much valued village asset.

The numbers of complaints for dog fouling both on the playing field and on village footpaths have (thankfully)

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2014-15

reduced and in 2015 the council 's Dog Warden also issued its first fixed penalty notice for dog fouling. But sadly, the problem hasn't gone away completely and the council has decided to continue to employ the services of a licensed dog warden in an attempt to eradicate this anti-social and hazardous practice. The Warden is also licensed to deal with other littering and anti-social behaviour offences.

As our resourceful and reliable village handyman, **Ricky Ellis** carries out a number of important duties for the parish 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). Ricky has also agreed to help out installing and moving the new Speed Indicator Devices on Main Street and School Lane. Thanks once again, Ricky.

Financial report. In 2013/14 the Parish Council increased the precept by 22.4%, or £11.24 a year, per household. This year, the Parish Council has raised the precept again in order to complete the purchase of the SIDs and begin to rebuild reserves. It is worth remembering that prior to 2013/14 there had been no increase in the precept for four years, reflecting the difficult economic climate of the recession period. The precept (sometimes called the 'parish rate') is basically a tax charged on each property in the

parish. It is collected on the 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. Last year the Band D Council Tax increased from £50 to £61.24 and in April 2015 it rose to £72.78, an increase of £11.54 (18.84%). The total income for the Parish Council for 2014/15 was £10,823.27 (as opposed to £10,930.40 in 2013-14). These total sums include the rate support grant which the Parish Council receives from NKDC (£429.77 in 2015-16, £664.36 in 2014/15 and £724.40 in 2013-14), as well as the actual precept (£10,070.23, £8,335.64 and £6,825.60 respectively) raised directly from households through the Council Tax.'

Although the Parish Council is duty bound to provide certain services, 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 and budget is set, usually before the January meeting. For more information and an application form for funding for your village group or activity, contact the clerk.

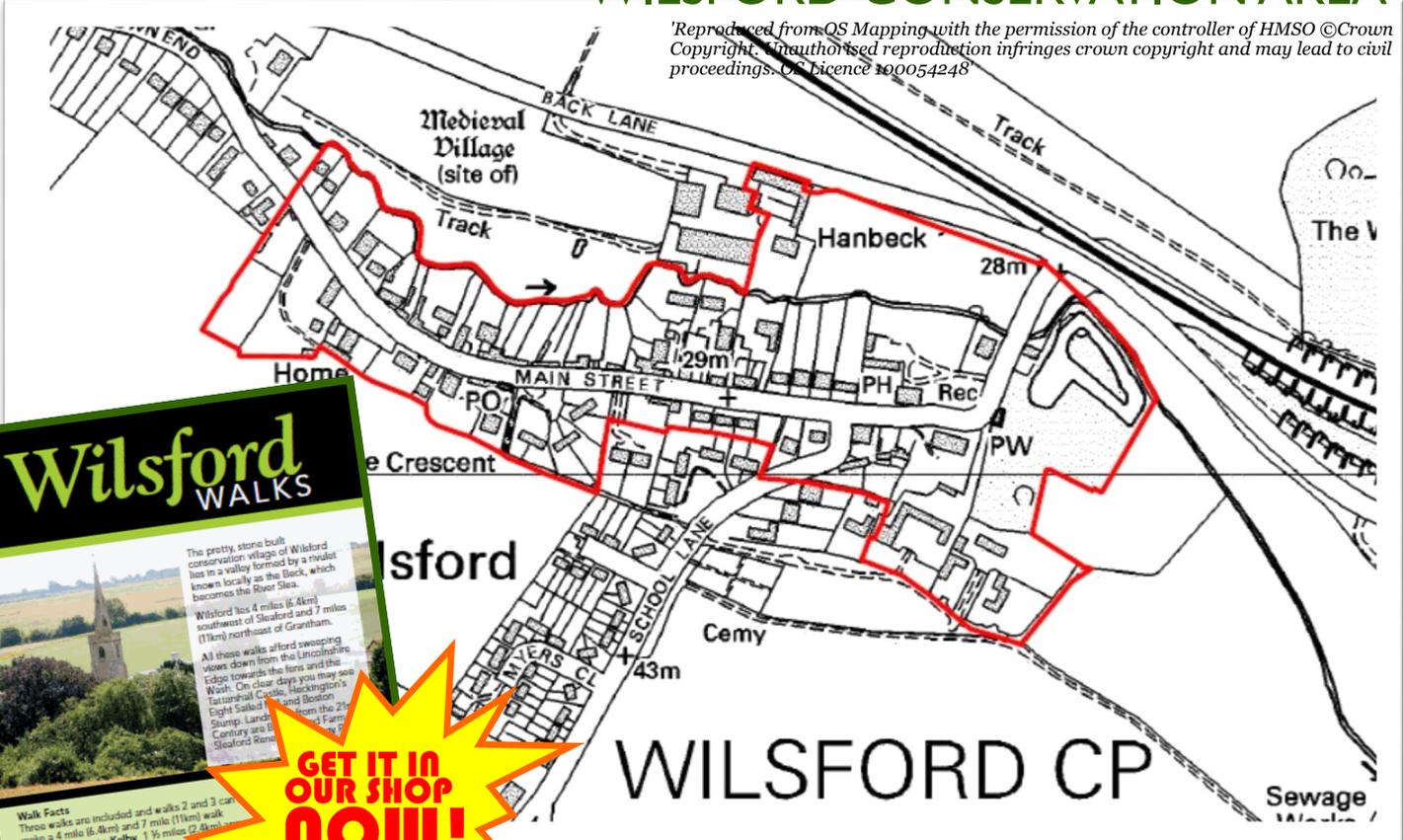
Wilsford Parish Council continues to vote to maintain services like grass cutting and dog-bin emptying at the current level. It was also agreed to continue with the dog warden contract, as this appears to be making a noticeable

WILSFORD PARISH COUNCIL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2014/15

Expenditure	2013/14	2014/15
Staff - wages and expenses	£2,043.24	£2,002.41
Hall Hire	£156.50	£142.00
Insurance/Audit/ Office/Admin/subs	£1,008.38	£1,173.25
Grass Cutting - village and Churchyard	£1,506.30	£1,634.99
Handyman	£924.00	£924.00
Dogbins - emptying	£297.75	£312.60
Dog Warden	£480.00	£1,440.00
Funding for PF/VH/Newletter/ Church	£3,202.96	£1,777.89
Allotments	£716.47	
Support for CLT	£28.00	
VAT	£915.74	£407.76
TOTAL	£11,279.34	£9,814.60
Income		
Precept	£6,825.60	£8,335.64
Precept Support Grant	£724.40	£664.36
NKDC grant - litter picking	£168.00	£88.41
NKDC grant -Dog Warden	£92.62	£46.31
Allotment rents	£75.00	£75.00
LCC grant - grass cutting	£626.21	£631.35
Bank Interest	£2.85	£4.00
Grant towards Church Path repairs	£1,200.00	
Reimbursement by LRHA	£708.00	
VAT Refund	£489.71	£960.05
Total before end of year adjustments	£10,912.39	£10,805.12
NS&I Interest	£18.01	£18.15
TOTAL	£10,930.40	£10,823.27

WILSFORD CONSERVATION AREA

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GET IT IN OUR SHOP NOW!

difference to the level of dog fouling, particularly on the playing field. 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 council has voted to top up this grant to continue to maintain the verges as they are. We think local contractor **PE Hempstead** does a great job of keeping the village looking neat and tidy.

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.

Finally a few words about the village **Conservation Area**. Wilsford has enjoyed conservation area status since 1978, though a full audit was not carried out until 2006, when the old conservation area was increased to 10.3ha (see map above) to include Hanbeck and Hanbeck Farm. A copy of this Conservation Area review is available from Lincolnshire Heritage and can be downloaded from its website and there is a link to a PDF on the Parish Council website. If you live in the village it's worth reading. Local Planning Authorities (NKDC in our case) have certain additional powers of development

control in Conservation Areas. The thresholds for development needing planning permission are lower, permission is needed for the demolition of buildings, and written notice must be given to the Council of any intention to lop, top or fell trees, with certain exceptions. Wilsford Conservation Area also has suspended permitted development rights for boundary treatments for those properties facing Main Street — specifically those under one metre in height. Planning permission is required to demolish these characteristic features and guidance should be sought from NKDC planners on changes. There is a list of properties with these features in the Conservation Area Review (page 21, paragraph 8.33.) It is also worth noting that as part of an ongoing program, NKDC is in the process of undertaking a review of the Local List of 'sensitive buildings' for Wilsford Parish (the whole wider parish, not just the village or the Conservation Area) which when completed will be made available for public consultation.

Harry Attrill, Chairman, May 2015

Thanks to Jane Sanders for the picture of the Memorial Window

Wilsford Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday 19th May 2015 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