

WILLOUGHBY PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2012 / 2013

Your Council has pleasure in presenting its report for the year 2012/2013. The Council held 9 meetings during the year and it is from the Minutes of these meetings that this report has been compiled.

The Parish Council meetings were well attended by the Councillors with County Councillor R Hazelton attending 6 meetings.

ROADS/VERGES/FOOTPATHS & STREET LIGHTING

Pye Court – The Contractor has carried out remedial work to resolve the flooding problems outside Mr Palmer's residence and also repaired the sunken trench alongside the Pond.

Speed Aware – The Council has agreed to spend £600 on "Speed Awareness" digital display signs at the entrances to the Village for a trial period. This is, however, held up at present due to lack of suitable structures to attach the awareness equipment to.

Land outside Village Hall – The Council is following up a "lead" in attempting to locate the owner of the stretch of land behind the Bus Shelter in Main Street.

Salt Bin/Dog Bin – A replacement Salt Bin has been purchased and replaces the damaged one at the junction of Lower Street and Moor Lane. An additional Dog Waste Bin has been purchased and after much debate and objections has been sited along the Woolscott Road between the Cricket Club Entrance and Sewage Station.

Shrubbery Footpath – The Council had raised with the Highways Department the issue of the poor condition of the footpath between Lower Street and Main Street. Due to an unacceptable response from the Highways Department the footpath was cleared by local volunteers removing vegetation mud and leaves.

Moor Lane Your Council continues to press the Highways Department for remedial work on the dangerous and unacceptable condition of Moor Lane and its verges. At present the only promise is that work will take place when funds allow. Your Chairman has obtained promises of a replacement wooden fence on the stretch of road between the Box Bridge and Manor Farm Barns. It is also expected that the original footpath will be located and repaired. Villagers are urged to support the Parish Council by writing or e-mailing the Head of Engineering at Warwickshire County Council and complain of the condition of Moor Lane and its verges. E-Mail address is BrynPatefield at Warwickshire.Gov.Co

Bridge on Fox Covert Adopted Road – The Council through County Councillor R Hazelton had brought to the attention of Grandborough Parish Council the urgent repairs required to the parapets on the Bridge sides.

Footpath – Magdalen Road/Main Street – Councillor T Thomas sprayed the edges of this footpath with weed killer. The Councillors are to set up a Rota for walking the footpaths in the Village to enable reporting back of their condition and remedial work required if any.

Moor Lane Brook – The Council has raised with the Highways Department the overgrown vegetation and poor condition of the brook banks in Moor Lane from the Pumping Station entrance to Manor Farm Barns.

Drain outside 58/60 Main Street – The Highways Department has repaired the sunken drain outside these properties.

Parking – Lower Street – The Council received a request to look into the provision of double yellow lines at the “pinch point” outside the Red House, but decided not to recommend them.

Hedges – Lower Street – The Council had received a letter from the owners of Spring Cottage/Wren Cottage drawing the Council’s attention to the condition of the tree which overlooks their properties claiming it caused intermittent broadband reception. The Council has no jurisdiction on this matter but drew the complaint to the attention of the owners of the tree. The owners, whilst not accepting the comments made in the letter, have had the hedge running along Lower Street opposite these properties cut back.

Haywards Lodge Hedge – The Council has had the hedge which fronts Haywards Lodge on the A45 cut back and laid. The hedge in Brooks Close opposite the Church has also been cut back by Contractors.

PLAYING FIELD & OTHER OPEN SPACES

Playing Field – The Council has received another excellent ROSPA Safety Report with only several minor concerns raised, these have been attended to by Mr G Rigby who has also removed graffiti from the Shelter and repainted the Kissing Gate and Gate Posts.

New field gates at the “Rose Inn” entrance and a side gate to the Village Hall grounds have been installed.

The galvanised removable steel bollard at the entrance to the Playing Field to prevent unauthorised access by vehicles has also been installed as promised last year.

Mrs Brailsford has agreed to the transfer of a plot of land alongside the Playing Field which will enable an extension to the Playing Field and allow some of the field to be used as a Car Park for the Village in the future when funds/grants permit.

PLANNING

Navigation House – Planning permission granted for the change of use of existing out-building and swimming pool for a mixed use of residential purposes and for commercial coaching of swimmers. The Parish Council had objected to this application. Planning permission refused for the retention of two free standing Non-Illuminated signs. Parish Council had objected to the application.

Plot 5D Moor Lane – Planning permission granted for the erection of an animal shelter – the Parish Council had objected to this application.

The “Rose Inn” – Planning permission granted to the external alterations to the building including repainting, repairs to windows and the provision of anti-slip grit strips to external staircase. The Parish Council had raised no objections to this application.

Willoughby Fields Farm – Planning application for continuation of land for the siting of a static Caravan and its use as a dwelling. The Parish Council has raised no objections.

Navigation Bungalow – Planning application for the erection of a single storey side extension. The Parish Council has raised no objections.

Plot 6 Land at Willoughby – Planning application for the retention of three field shelters on this plot – Parish Council has objected to this application.

The Banks Main Street – Planning permission granted for the erection of a detached garage to the front of the house – Parish Council raised no objections.

Filling Station – London Road - Planning permission granted for the change of use of former Petrol Station to Car Wash & Valet – Parish Council raised no objections.

Willoughby Café – Planning permission granted for the use of part of the Café to light industrial – Parish Council raised no objections.

BT Repeater Station A45 – Planning permission granted for change of use to a dwelling and erection of single storey rear extension – Parish Council had raised objections to this application.

Land at Onley Fields Prison Farm – Planning permission for construction of Marina comprising 550 non-residential berths, Marina services and amenities buildings and repair facility. Parish Council commented on need to satisfy Highways Department and development not being allowed to extend further towards Willoughby.

Barn – Sawbridge Road - Planning application in Grandborough Parish for the conversion of a Barn (opposite Leam Farm) into a dwelling. Parish Council has objected to this application.

OTHER MATTERS

Neighbourhood Watch – Neighbourhood Watch is up and running in the Village thanks to excellent and dedicated work by Councillor R Settle and her bank of helpers. Regular updates are e-mailed to everyone concerned, Smart Water has been made available to Villagers and well received. Home Security and Safety Packs have been prepared by Councillor Settle with the help of PCSO Helena Steadman and have been circulated to Villagers where needed. Welcome Packs are being prepared for newcomers to the Village.

Police Reports – The Council continues to receive monthly Police Reports for the Leam Valley, but regrettably no Police presence is seen at Council Meetings.

Allotments – The Council can confirm the completion of the transaction to purchase land behind the Village Pond and its initial intent is to make this available as allotments for Village use. Currently Villagers have been asked to come forward if they wish to take on an allotment.

Tree Survey – A tree survey was carried out during the year by Councillors T Thomas and B Hallam – quotations from Arbolution Tree Services to carry out the work highlighted in the tree survey have been accepted including additional work in the Playing Field. Mr E Baker has been contacted regarding work highlighted along Brickhill Lane.

Walnut Tree – The Council has agreed to make a contribution to the cutting back of the Walnut Tree at the “Rose Inn” which is subject to a Preservation Order. They have also agreed with Mr Stearn that a Preservation Order will be requested on the Walnut Tree in front of his property.

Horse Chestnut Trees – a number of Horse Chestnut Trees given by Mr & Mrs Vessey are to be planted at Haywards Lodge

Parish Plan/Quality Council – The Council continues to work towards a Parish Plan and hence apply for Quality Council status. To this end a Village Survey was conducted during the year thanks to the efforts of Councillors M Thomas and R Settle. The results of the survey are being included in the Village Plan and Design Statement.

Councillor Settle is in the process of updating the Emergency Plan for Willoughby with a draft copy expected to be available at the next Parish Council meeting.

AUDIT – The Financial Audits 2012-2017 will be conducted by Grant Thornton UK LLP who has been appointed by the Audit Commission to replace Clement Keys.

Signs – A “Cars & Light Van” only sign has been erected at the Main Street Car Park whilst a “No Fishing or Swimming” sign has been erected at the Village Pond.

It is intended to purchase a Life Buoy Housing at the Village Pond in line with Insurance recommendations.

Dogs – Dog mess continues to be a nuisance around some parts of the Village – it is the recommendation of Rugby Borough Council and Willoughby Parish Council that Dog owners whose Dogs offend should be reported to the Dog Warden for action to be taken.

Over 60's Christmas Lunch – The Over 60's Christmas Lunch took place in December 2012 with over 60 people attending. The event was again made possible thanks to a generous donation from the Willoughby Charity.

Social Events – The Village once again held its Annual Scarecrow Sunday and Willoughby Weekend events – these were enjoyed by all Villagers who attended, but thanks to all the people who helped and assisted either in the organising or on the day without them it would not be possible.

VACC Report – It was with a huge sigh of relief that the Council learned during the year that Planning permission for the proposed Crematorium in Moor Lane was refused by Rugby Borough Council. No revised plans were received as expected and the Council has been advised that the land is now for sale.

Thanks are recorded to everyone who contributed either by helping or financially, but especially to M Thomas and the VACC Committee.

Maurice Henson – It was with sadness that the Council learnt last year of the loss of Maurice Henson who served the Village as a Parish Councillor for many years. Maurice was a valuable member of the Parish Council and would undertake any task required of him with humour and expertise – he will be sadly missed in and around the Village.

D E Neville
Parish Clerk - April 2013