

WILLOUGHBY PARISH COUNCIL **ANNUAL REPORT 2011/2012**

Your Council has pleasure in presenting its report for the year 2011/2012. The Council held 8 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. In order for the Council to have a full complement of Councillors, Councillor R Settle was co-opted as a Councillor in July 2011 to serve out the term of this Council.

ROADS, VERGES, FOOTPATHS & STREET LIGHTING

Pye Court: The problems of flooding in Pye Court were brought to the attention of the Highways Agency along with a request to rotate the "No Through Road" sign (at the entrance) which in its present position had caused some vehicles not to proceed along Woolscott Lane.

Speed Aware: Quotations from TWM Traffic Control Systems indicated a cost of £1500 for each Speed Aware Modular Signs System in the Village. The Council decided not to proceed with the project.

7.5 Tonne Restriction: New signs have been placed at the entrances to the Village.

Street Lighting: The Street light that was knocked off the telegraph pole near "The Rose Inn" by a lorry has been replaced and is operational again. The Council continue to pressurise the Highways Agency for a Street light at the junction of Longdown Lane and A45.

Daventry Road Dunchurch: Double Yellow Lines have now been laid down one side of the road.

Footpath Big Ground: A temporary bridge has been constructed on Foot-path R249 just Willoughby side of the border with Braunston. The Countryside Access Team is looking into replacing the stiles on Foot-path R249A.

Salt Bins: New Salt Bins have been purchased and installed at the junction of Magdalen Road/Main Street and the junction of Shar Lane/Brickhill Lane.

Standing Water A45: The Highways Agency has power washed the drains under the "Old Railway Bridge" A45 which has resolved the standing water on the road at this point.

Land Outside Village Hall: The Council is attempting to locate the owner of the stretch of land behind the Bus Shelter in Main Street.

Road Repairs: The potholes in Main Street and some sunken areas in Lower Street have been reported to the Highways Agency along with some pavement repairs – these have been marked and await repair. The protruding manhole cover outside the "Old Smithy" in Main Street has been attended to. Repairs have also been requested to the trench in Shar Lane (between Brooks Close and Brickhill Lane), which has sunk after work by the Electricity Board last year. Potholes on the A45 Road have been repaired.

Woolscott Lane – Hedges now cut back between the Pumping Station and Grandborough Border – the water burst has at last been repaired and the Highways Agency is to carry out repairs to the split surfaces and uneven surface of this lane.

Hedges: The overhanging hedges at "The Red House", No: 7 Brooks Close, No: 1 White Barn Close and 70 Main Street have been cut back following a number of complaints to the Council

Moor Lane – The Moor Lane brook has been cleared of vegetation.

Spring Clean: Councillors M Thomas, A Belgrove and the Clerk carried out a litter Spring clean during March around the Village.

A426: Improvements to this road will include "re-modelling" and consideration of Speed Safety Cameras with additional improvements at the Broadwell Cross-roads by widening the "splay" at the entrance.

PLAYING FIELD AND OTHER OPEN SPACES

Playing Field: The Council has received possibly its best ROSPA Safety Report for over 25 years as to the condition of the Playing Field and its equipment – this supports the excellent remedial work (G Rigby) and new equipment installed during the year. The cutting back of the Playing Field hedge has been carried out.

Remedial work has included additional bark under the swings, painting of wooden parts of swings, climbing frames, Shelter, painting and repairing the climbing frame and roundabout. In addition new warning notices were attached to the Basket ball/Goal to replace the old notices removed by vandals.

The Parish Council made a successful application to the Willoughby Educational Foundation for a grant towards the maintenance and insurance of the Playing Field and its equipment which is in the region of £2750 per annum. The Parish Council acknowledges the grant which was awarded for without such assistance the Playing Field and its equipment could not achieve the high standard already described. The Council will install a Galvanised removable Steel Bollard at the entrance to the Playing Field to prevent unauthorised access by vehicles.

PLANNING

Navigation House: The Enforcement Officer looking into a number of signs erected outside this property and the use of building with a swimming pool.

Former Repeater Station A45: Parish Council objected to an application for "change of use" to storage with associated parking.

The Mangers – Manor Farm Barns: No objection from the Parish Council for the installation of three new roof lights to the South East roof pitch.

Navigation Bungalow: Planning permission granted for erection of single storey side extension and demolition of existing garage and link wall and erection of single storey front extension to form double garage. No objection from Parish Council.

Onley Grounds Farm: Permission granted on appeal for the construction of a Grain Store. Parish Council had objected to this.

Ivy House Farm: Permission granted for the erection of a two-storey side extension. Parish Council raised no objections.

Rugby & Daventry Crematorium & Cemetery Project: Councillors M Thomas and B Hallam had attended the Public Meeting on 12 July 2011 – project was now with Planning Department with Planning application expected May/June 2012.

The Parlour – Manor Farm Barns: Permission granted for the replacement of out buildings with garage extension, external alterations and provision of roof lights. No objection raised by Parish Council.

Land adjacent to Manor Farm Works Unit: Permission granted for the erection of an agricultural workers dwelling. Parish Council had raised objections.

Willoughby House: Permission granted for the provision of new field access. Parish Council raised no objections.

A45 Café (land at rear): The Enforcement Officer continues to monitor the use of the area behind the A45 Café by "Hydro Fans Direct".

A45 Car Wash: Drainage system now in place at this location.

VACC: The date that the Planning application for this project goes to Planning is still uncertain. VACC Committee is looking into arranging transport for villagers to attend the meeting when held. The application is being objected to by the Parish Council, WCC Highways Department, the Environment Agency, WCC County Archaeology and it does not comply with Rugby Borough Council Core Strategy CSL.

OTHER MATTERS

Affordable Housing: Warwickshire Rural Housing Association held a Public Consultation meeting on 30 June 2011 about the scheme to enable villagers to make comments and ask questions. Mr N Gilliver at W.R.H.A. informed the Council at the July meeting that no adverse comments to the development were received. The scheme was for 2 Bungalows and 1 House (all 2 bedrooms).

The Parish Council was advised later that regrettably the Brooks Close landowner was no longer willing to sell his land to W.R.H.A. but had sold it to a private individual. This of course meant that much needed affordable housing for WILLOUGHBY PEOPLE could not now be made available on this site. This was a very disappointing outcome particularly at this late stage as a tremendous amount of effort was put into the project by both WRHA and the Parish Council. They were trying to provide housing for villagers who may have wished to remain in the Village either as a young couple or elderly villagers wishing to down size without losing their roots. The Parish Council continues to look for alternative sites.

Wolfhamcote Parish Council: The Parish Council has offered support to Wolfhamcote Parish Council in fighting the stripping out of hedgerows in that Parish.

Neighbourhood Watch: At a meeting on 27 February it was agreed to re-start the Neighbourhood Watch in Willoughby. Councillor R Settle has agreed to be the Village Co-ordinator.

Village Pond: The Parish Council is to provide "No Swimming or Fishing" signs at the Village Pond for insurance purposes. Councillor T Thomas and B Hallam have carried out remedial work at the pond and the Parish Council looked into the possibility of reducing the number of drakes to the Pond due to an imbalance of ducks to drakes.

Snow Wardens: Volunteers are being sought to act as Snow Wardens (Voluntary) during the winter to advise Rugby Borough Council Highways Department of difficulties.

St Cross: Birch Ward was still open for elderly patients with medical problems during the winter period.

Allotments: The Parish Council is looking into possible sites for the provision of Allotments within the Village for interested villagers.

Imaging Your Past & Present: The Parish Council is working with Warwickshire County Council in identifying buildings and landscapes that are currently not protected within the planning process, but that people feel are important to their communities and future generations.

Willoughby 2012: Willoughby Parish Council supports the Willoughby 2012 being run and organised by the Willoughby Society over 3 weeks in June.

They are also involved in the Sub-Committee's which are organising the Scarecrow Sunday, Willoughby Fete and Willoughby Challenge events.

Diamond Jubilee: The Parish Council has agreed to plant a tree surrounded by a circular seat to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee - at present a site has not been chosen.

Sub-Station – Magdalen Road: The Parish Council has raised with EMEB the poor state of maintenance around the Sub-Station requesting a tidy up of vegetation etc.

Dunchurch Library: This Library has been saved from closure and is being run by 100 plus volunteers.

Crime Reports: The Council continues to receive Crime Reports from Warwickshire Police for incidents taking place in the Leam Valley.

Over 60's Christmas Lunch: The Over 60's Christmas Lunch took place at "The Rose Inn" on 3 December 2011 with 63 people attending. The event was made possible thanks to a most generous donation from the Willoughby Charity.

Bus Shelter/Village Seats: The repair and renovation of the two Bus Shelters and Village seats has been carried out thanks to Mr G Rigby.

Haywards Lodge: The Willoughby Society arranged for a working party from British Trust for Conservation Volunteers to spend the day at Haywards Lodge helping to thin some of the excess trees and undergrowth. The Parish Council thanks and acknowledges the efforts and funding of this by the Willoughby Society.

Village Clock: Remedial work required on the Village Clock was carried out in addition to the normal annual maintenance.

Parish Council Meetings: Council agreed to hold meetings on a monthly basis usually on the second Tuesday of each month.

Bus Route GA01: The Parish Council was advised that the GA01 Bus Service would not be affected by the cut backs in Rural Bus Services.

Dunchurch Community Forum: Willoughby hosted the June meeting of the Dunchurch Community Forum.

Insurance: The annual Insurance premium for the Playing Field and Council Public Liability etc has now reached £800.

Wind Farm: The Council had been advised in July that proposals have been made for a Wind Farm on the Shuckburgh Estate. A trial Windmill is to be erected shortly.

Walnut Trees – Rose Inn: Quotations were obtained for the cutting back of the Walnut Trees in the "Rose Inn" garden which overhang the Playing Field. These trees are subject to a Preservation Order and as such no final decisions have been made as to any cut back.

Parish Plan/Quality Council: As part of the preparations towards a Parish Plan a Parish Survey compiled by Councillors M Thomas and R Settle will be circulated to all Villagers in April. This will enable information gained from the Survey to be used in the Parish Plan and Design Statement.

Cottage Farm Fire: Following the problems which Warwickshire Fire Brigade had experienced in relation to response times and water supply, the Fire Brigade has confirmed that the response time in relation to the fire at Cottage Farm was acceptable and that sufficient water was available at that time to meet their needs. They are confident that no problems will occur should any fire break out in the Willoughby area.