

## **WILLOUGHBY PARISH COUNCIL** **ANNUAL REPORT 2010/2011**

Your Council has pleasure in presenting its report for the year 2010/2011. 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 7 meetings. The Police attended one meeting in July and have not attended since – they have now confirmed that they will not attend any Parish Council meetings unless a request for attendance is made to the Chief Superintendent who will then consider attendance, additionally no Police Reports will be made available to the Parish Council.

The Parish Council also held a Public Meeting in regard to the proposed Crematorium & Cemetery off Moor Lane – this was extremely well attended by villagers.

A presentation was made to the Council by Warwickshire County Council Flood Risk Manager who outlined the ways that residents could protect their homes from flooding if living in the Flood Plain and asked for assistance in compiling an accurate Flood Plain for Willoughby rather than a computer generated one.

It was again disappointing that villagers attended only one meeting during the year – the dates of the Parish Council Meetings are well advertised on both the Parish Notice Board and in the Willoughby Monthly.

Year 2010/2011 will perhaps be best remembered by the proposal for a Crematorium & Cemetery off Moor Lane and a report to the Annual Meeting will be made by a representative of the VACC Committee.

### **ROADS, VERGES, FOOTPATHS & STREET LIGHTING**

**Verge Mowing** – Again a tremendous effort by the Contractor in keeping the verges of the village mown, the cutting for 2011 will be extended to include the right-hand side of Brooks Close leading down to the Church. The Council will receive a grant of £639 towards the verge cutting from Rugby Borough Council.

**Brooks Close/Lower Street** – The Council has been unable to have any work carried out by Warwickshire County Council on the pipe under the road leading from the pond to outside No: 13 Brooks Close, indeed Warwickshire County Council have indicated that responsibility for maintaining this pipe lies with the Parish Council as it has now taken ownership of the pond.

**Woolscott Lane** – Grandborough Parish Council has added their weight to the requests to Warwickshire County Council for repairs to the cracks in Woolscott Lane from the Sewage Works down to the first bend towards Woolscott.

**Moor Lane** – The Council has raised with Warwickshire County Council the poor condition of the verges in Moor Lane and potholes outside New Pastures and Manor Farm Barns.

**30 mph Signs** – the 30 mph sign in Moor Lane has been moved further down towards Manor Farm Barns and the 30 mph sign in Shar Lane to the other side of the pond.

**A45/Longdown Lane Junction** – The Highways Department has advised that they will not respond to a request to improve the visibility or markings when turning into Bricklefield Lane from the A45. Warwickshire County Council have been asked to request the Land-owners to trim back the hedges to improve visibility on the right-hand side when approaching the turning into Barby

**Public Footpath (Big Ground)** – Replacement of the three stiles crossing Big Ground have been requested from the Warwickshire County Council.

**Main Street Sign** – The Highways Department were thanked for removing the damaged sign at the entrance to Main Street from the A45 – a replacement has been ordered.

**Potholes** – County Councillor R Hazelton on behalf of the Parish Council has brought to the attention of the Highways Department Potholes at sites in Moor Lane, Main Street and on the A45. The Highways Department have also repaired a broken kerb in Lower Street and organised the cleaning of the drains in Willoughby and on the A45.

**Public Footpath** – The stile in the field adjacent to Haywards Lodge has been replaced and the area cleared. The Shrubbery footpath has been fenced on the left hand side leaving Lower Street and it was cleared of overgrowing foliage earlier in the year.

The field ditch between Pye Court and Brooks Close has been cleared along its length but raised issues regarding the culverts at both ends. Rugby Borough Council is to investigate these concerns.

**Longdown Lane** – The drains at the junction of Longdown Lane and the A45 have been cleaned by the Highways Department, but some issues of flooding still remain.

**70 Main Street** – The Council has brought to the attention of Warwickshire County Council the roots of the tree at this address lifting the tarmac on the pavement.

**Lower Street** – The Parish Council requested the owners of Ivy Barn Farm to bring to the attention of their Contractors the mud on the road and the verge destruction due to Contractors lorries turning into Ivy Barn Farm and arrange remedial work.

**Salt Bins** – The Parish Council has raised with the Warwickshire County Council the need to keep the Salt Bins around the village topped up during cold weather.



**Daventry Road Dunchurch** – Double yellow lines are under consideration for a length of Daventry Road (left-hand side) from the existing point down past the new houses to improve traffic movement.

**Willoughby Garage** – The Owner of Willoughby Garage has been reminded of the need for vehicles to park in such a manner as not to cause obstruction to view for vehicles turning right out of Main Street onto the A45.

**A45 Car Wash** – The Council had raised with the Planning Department Enforcement Officer the issue of possible chemical contamination of the storm-drains from this Commercial business, however no enforcement has been applied by Rugby Borough Council as they believe a Planning Application will be submitted shortly and this automatically stops any enforcement order.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL**

**Horse Chestnut Trees** – The Horse Chestnut Trees in Main Street by the telephone kiosk have been felled due to Canker, it is expected that they will be replaced by alternative trees in the Autumn.

**Walnut Tree** – The Walnut Tree at the Rose Inn will be cut back so that the branches overhanging the Playing Field will be removed.

**Contamination of Brook** – Source of contamination earlier in the year still not known, confirmed however that it had come upstream from a point past the Canal and Barby Garden Centre. Environmental Agency to be informed if contamination re-occurs.

**Community Orchard** – The Parish Council had received an offer to provide land for a Community Orchard, but this was rejected.

**Spring Clean** – A village Spring clean was held on 9 April.

**Preservation Order** – The Council is making enquiries as to the possibility of having Preservation Orders placed on the Sandstone Walls at Mr Stearns Farm and the Cottage in Moor Lane occupied by Mr K Barden.

**High Speed Train Proposal** – County Councillor R Hazelton had advised the Parish Council to continuously monitor the proposed route of the new High Speed Train route from London to Birmingham as the route could change at any time. A request, however, from HS2 (Southam Area Action Group) for funds to fight the HS2 Train Line development was rejected.

**Hedges, Verges & Trees** – Warwickshire County Council are looking at local landowners to advise them when verges, hedges and trees need attention.

**Lower Street** – The Council had requested the cutting back of the over-hanging hedge from White Barn Close.

## PLANNING

The Parish Council had raised no objections to the following Planning Applications which were approved by Rugby Borough Council:

**White Barn Close** – erection of a rear conservatory

**Willoughby Fields Farm** – retention of three shipping containers for the storage of agricultural related stock and equipment on this site.

**Ivy House Farm** – construction of a single Tennis Court with artificial grass surface and green surround fencing.

**The Lodge (Willoughby House)** – erection of a two-storey extension and two-storey rear extension including alterations to existing roof.

**Old Wesleyan Chapel** – erection of a single storey rear extension and retention of an existing flue.

**14 College Road** – erection of two-storey side and single storey rear and front extension.

**The Red House** – an oaked framed extension to side of property and erection of new garden wall.

**Ivy House Farm** – erection of 3 stables and adjacent hard standing for grazing horses to include planting of hedge and laying of access track.

**Barberry Cottage** – demolition of existing conservatory and single storey rear extension and the erection of a two-storey rear extension and replacement garage and porch.

**Willoughby House** – Provision of new field access.

**The Lodge (Willoughby House)** – erection of a replacement dwelling.

**Canal Barn** – Two-storey extension to provide link between existing dwelling house.

The Parish Council has been advised by Rugby Borough Council that no Planning Permission was required for: -

**Stable (Lower Street)** - stable in field adjacent to pond

**37 Main Street** – Fabricated building at rear of property.

The Parish Council has sent letters of objections/comments on the following applications:

**Abattoir** – Council now advised that no appeal against planning refusal will be made and the matter is closed.



**Canal-side Marina at Onley Fields** – Council has raised issues of traffic on the A45.

**Fields Farm A45** – Enforcement Order has been placed regarding the number of lorries and trailers stored there.

**Onley Grounds Farm** Council has raised concerns as to additional danger with the number of vehicles turning into and from the A45.

**Old Telephone Sub-Station** – Council has brought to the attention of the Enforcement Officer the possibility of residence there instead of the Caravan parked on the land.

**Land Adjacent to Manor Farm Work Units** – Council has objected to the application for the erection of an agricultural workers dwelling on the grounds that it is on a flood plain, outside the village boundaries and of a grand building for an agricultural worker.

### **PLAYING FIELD**

The obtainment of the land adjacent to the Playing Field is ongoing and in Solicitors hands.

A new Piccolo activity unit and Spring Helicopter have been installed with safe surfacing. The two spring animals have been removed as they had become unsafe, but the roundabout and Climbing Igloo have been refurbished. The Parish Council would like to acknowledge the generosity of the Willoughby Educational Foundation who has again contributed to the upkeep of the Playing Field and equipment and without whose help it would not have been possible.

### **POND**

The area at the rear of the pond has at last been cleared and seeded, a Display Board has been purchased illustrating the various wildlife and plants around the pond. This has been made possible thanks to Willoughby Society who has provided the majority of the cost. Again the Parish Council acknowledges the grant from the Willoughby Educational Foundation for work undertaken around the pond.

### **OTHER MATTERS**

**Fire Service** – The Parish Council sent letters of objection to the closing of Brinklow Fire Station.

**Affordable Housing** – The Parish Council is aware that agreement has been reached between the Rugby Borough Council Planning Department and the Rural Housing Association and a date is awaited for a Public Presentation as to the building of three dwellings on land in Brooks Close opposite the Church entrance.

**Best Kept Village** – The judges were impressed with the Community Projects such as Willoughby Weekend, Football Challenge, Bonfire and Scarecrow events, but felt that we need to make a more professional presentation backed up with additional

information and photographs. This is clearly something that needs attention if we are to succeed.

**Willoughby Weekend** – In its second year it was again a tremendous success and was enjoyed by everyone who attended with games, races, and sideshows. It is planned to run the weekend again on 26 and 27 June.

**Scarecrow Sunday** – What a wonderful day with the whole village responding to the construction of Scarecrows around the village. It is planned to hold the Scarecrow Sunday again on 8 May but starting at 1.00 pm not 2.00 pm.

The Willoughby Weekend and Scarecrow Sunday could not take place without the dedicated and willing help of everyone who helps organise or assist either before or on the days involved.

**Bonfire Night** – Thanks to Mr R Heckford and his band of loyal helpers this took place on 5 November again a wonderful occasion.

**Over 60's Lunch** – This event took place as last year at the "Rose Inn" with over 60 people attending. Thanks are recorded to the Willoughby Charity for funding this event.