

WILLOUGHBY PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2000/2001

Your Council has pleasure in presenting its report for the year 2000/2001. The Council has held 8 meetings during the last year and it is from the minutes of those meetings that this report has been compiled.

All meetings have been extremely well attended by Councillors. County Councillor G D Collett has attended 5 meetings, but regrettably once again the Police have not been able to attend any meetings.

In August Councillor Peter Montgomery resigned from the Council and the Council co-opted Councillor Ben Hallam in November to replace him after no nominations were forwarded to Rugby Borough Council for this vacancy.

The activities covered in the last year are as follows:

ROADS VERGES FOOTPATHS & STREET LIGHTING

Foot-bridge R427L3

Modifications to this foot-bridge to enable easier use by elderly people were carried out by Councillor Henson at no cost to the Council.

Severn Trent - seepage - Rose inn

Numerous approaches have been made to Severn Trent to have the seepage from a drain outside the Rose Inn rectified, however, even after several visits from Severn Trent the matter remains unresolved. County Councillor G D Collett is taking the matter up on the Council's behalf.

Island Main Street

The Highways Department have carried out repairs to the tarmac around the island fronting the White House, but are not planning to undertake the upkeep of the lane from this island up to Ellards Farm.

Village Hall Parking

The Parish Council have been advised by the Village Hall Management Committee that they were not able to consider working with the Parish Council on the idea of using the land at the rear of the Playing Field for parking. The Village Hall Committee are to look at other avenues to satisfy parking at the Hall.

Bricklefield Lane

Councillors Henson and Mitchell had set fire to a quantity of brash left at the side of the road when the hedgerow had been cut back.

Brooks Close

The Council were grateful to Mr Jones of Lower Street who had undertaken the mowing of the Brooks Close triangle during the year. Councillor Henson and the Clerk had trimmed back the lower branches of the trees on the island and disposed of them, this had made it easier for Mr Jones to mow.

Following suggestions and representations by Mrs Quirke to the Highways Department, Warwickshire County Council had now installed warning signs re children playing and animals crossing the road by the pond in Lower Street, This had meant moving the no-through road sign from the triangle to another position. The Council are grateful to Mrs Quirke for the excellent work that was put into this project.

Longdown Lane

Despite objections and representations from both Willoughby and Barby Parish Councils, Warwickshire County Council have indicated that they will not be reintroducing the 3 tonne restriction on this road which would have prevented its use by heavy goods traffic using Longdown Lane as a short cut to DIRFT. This decision was based on the traffic survey carried out by Warwickshire County Council. County Councillor G D Collett is attempting to have this decision reversed in the light of recent traffic movements.

The Council have asked the Highways Department to resite the Longdown Lane sign on the Dunchurch side of Longdown Lane as it is felt its present position can restrict vision of traffic coming from the Dunchurch direction.

A45

At last the Parish Council with the help of County Councillor G D Collett and some excellent reporting in the local press been able to achieve improvements at the junctions with the A45 at Longdown Lane and Main Street. W S Atkins are to present the plans for the improvements at the Parish Annual Meeting on 10 April. The Council would like to thank the villagers who attended the Dunchurch Electoral Division Panel Meeting and put the case for improvements so strongly, particular thanks are noted to Mr G Hill whose letter to the Council was used as the base for the Council's representation to the Authorities and the press coverage.

Shar Lane

The Highways Department rejected the provision of sleeping policemen in Shar Lane at the entrance to the village due to the cost.

Brooks Close Verges

The Council is grateful to Mr R Heckford who had trimmed back the hedge in Brooks Close opposite to the Church and attended to the verges. Mr Heckford has promised to maintain the hedge and verges in the future.

Moor Lane Trees

The Council have asked for advice from Severn Trent Water and the Highways Department on the condition of the willow trees on the brook banks in Moor Lane. In particular the Council is seeking assurances on the effect of the roots on the sewage system and the brook banks - as yet no information on the surveys has been received.

Barrier Moor lane

The Council had been advised by the Highways Department that they saw no need to improve the barrier at the junction of Moor Lane and Lower Street where Mrs Hall had fallen into the brook.

Weedkiller on Verges

The Council had brought to the attention of Rugby Borough Council the unsatisfactory spraying of the grass verges with weedkiller by the Contractor acting on behalf of Rugby Borough Council. Grass verges which are being maintained by villagers were unnecessarily sprayed whilst other overgrown verges were ignored.

Drain Outside Village Hall

The Council have written to the Highways Department concerning the speed with which the drains opposite the Village Hall easily back fill when the slightest amount of rainfall occurs.

R246 Footpath

The Warwickshire County Council have served a notice on the owner of Cottage Farm to clear the obstruction on this footpath.

Shrubbery Footpath

The clearing of the Shrubbery footpath has now been completed by Mr D Hargrave. He has also removed a tree stump which was restricting the flow of water along the brook village side of Haywards Lodge which could have led to the flooding in the field behind Magdalen Road.

The funding for this work was provided by the Parish Paths initiative.

Main Street - Pot Holes

The Highways Department have been advised of pot holes in Main Street at points outside "Tally Ho" and "Little Shaws".

Brook - Moor Lane

Mr Heckford had cleaned out the bottom of the brook from the Box Bridge down Moor Lane as far as Manor Farms New Barns. The cleaning of the brook from the junction of Main Street and Lower Street down to the Box Bridge was completed by Warwickshire County Council.

Box Bridge

Thanks to the work carried out by Mr J Walton, Severn Trent Water are to carry out a survey to see if the Box Bridge can take the flow of water in the brook under flood conditions.

Car Park - Main Street

Rugby Borough Council have had removed a number of abandoned and untaxed vehicles from the Main Street Car Park which should provide more car parking space for other car owners from Main Street.

They have advised that planning permission would be required if access to Ashills was ever contemplated through the Car Park.

ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

Great Central Railway

Mr Dodds and County Councillor G D Collett had kept the Council informed as to the actions by Great Central Railway. At present Great Central Railway are trying to bypass the Transport and Works Act and have suggested that a decision in its re-opening should be made by a Parliamentary Bill. This would in effect cut out the need for a Public enquiry.

Manor Farm Conversions

Following representations by the Parish Council the refuse bins were now being collected by the Council. However, the Council have been unable to bring about a change in the addresses of these properties which would have helped deliveries of post to them. The Council have also been unable to have the responsibility of the upkeep of the road leading to Manor Farm Conversions undertaken by Rugby Borough Council.

Onley Park

The Council had approached the Address Management Centre of the Post Office to have the postal address of Onley Park stand on its own rather

than be stated as Willoughby. The Address Management Centre conducted a survey of all the properties at Onley Park and could not get a 100% agreement (the figure needed to introduce such a change). This was extremely disappointing as Rugby Post Office were in agreement with the change and also it would have prevented the continual request in the village for directions to find Onley Park.

Milk Deliveries

After a long campaign the Council were able to achieve a reduction in disturbance by the milk deliveries by the Co-op in the early hours of the morning.

PLAYING FIELD AND OTHER OPEN SPACES

Playing Field Equipment

Thanks to a very generous donation from the Willoughby Educational Foundation a new climbing frame and swings were installed in the Playing Field. Without the help of the Willoughby Educational Foundation this would not have been possible.

Top Soil

A quantity of top soil which came from the foundations of the new equipment was made available to villagers at no cost.

Playing Field Igloo

The Council are considering putting the same safe surfacing under the igloo as is under the new climbing frame, this will enable a hop-scotch layout to be painted onto the old safe surfacing which was under the old swings.

Litter bins

A new litter bin has been purchased for the Playing Field and also the litter bin by the Telephone Box outside the Rose Inn will also be replaced.

Dogs

Additional notices have been placed in the Playing Field stating that dogs are not allowed also a resident of the village had informed the Council that their dog had been chasing a rabbit when seen in the Playing Field and he was not using it to exercise the dog.

Mr Heckford had been given permission to chain the gate at the Dunchurch side of Haywards Lodge to stop dog walkers using this entrance.

Village Seats

Councillor Henson has undertaken at no cost to the Council except for materials, the repair of two village seats in Brooks Close, one on the island and the other opposite the Church.

Mowing of Playing Field

The 2001 mowing contract for the Playing Field will be advertised in the local paper and local contractors will be invited to tender. Willoughby Village Hall Committee has already decided to employ their own contractor for the mowing of the Village Hall surrounds.

OTHER MATTERS

History of Willoughby

The Council have delivered 40 copies of the History of Willoughby to new-comers to the village.

Willoughby Educational Foundation

The Council appointed Councillor Walton as the Council's representative on Willoughby Educational Foundation to replace Mr P Montgomery. The Council made this decision on the basis that they believed the Parish Council's interests were best served by a standing Councillor.

Ashills

The Council had been advised by its Solicitor that its application to the Land Registry had been considered inadequate and therefore rejected. They had also learnt that one of the neighbours (of adjoining owners) who had a much closer interest in the land had been successful - the reason given was the Land Registry can and does grant possessory title to people who have actually occupied the property by enclosing it, mowing it etc but isn't in a position to do so to people or organisations not able to show close physical control over the land.

Village Clock

The Parish Council are to provide funds from the Millennium fund to illuminate the Village Clock during the hours of darkness. At present the Parochial Church Council have asked for a faculty to allow this.

WILLOUGHBY PARISH COUNCIL
SUMMARY RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31:03:01

RECEIPTS

Previous
Year

374.65	VAT Refund	1904.25
4500.00	Precepts	5000.00
6.44	COIF Dividend	6.44
40.35	Bank Interest	64.39
279.99	Willoughby Educational Foundation	7500.00
350.38	Parish Paths Grant	345.00
26.77	Gain on Investments	0.00
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	
<u>5578.58</u>		<u>14820.08</u>

PAYMENTS

75.00	S137 Payments	100.00
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RUNNING COSTS

1561.21	Playing Field and Open Spaces	9156.92
2284.08	<u>722.87</u> Street Lighting	<u>643.53</u> 9800.45

GRANTS

450.00	Village Hall	253.08
250.00	Churchyard	0.00
850.00	<u>150.00</u> Parish Clock	<u>0.00</u> 253.08

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

111.95	Subscriptions	159.95
95.68	Insurance	119.70
350.00	Salaries	175.00
325.02	VAT Payments	1704.29
1208.06	Others	<u>1014.65</u>
<u>0.00</u>	Loss on Investment	<u>10.49</u>
2090.71		3184.. 08
5299.79	TOTAL PAYMENTS	13337.61

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS SUMMARY

Balance Brought Forward 01:04:00	4278.81
Add Total Receipts	14820.08
Less Total Payments	<u>(13337.61)</u>
	<u>5761.28</u>

These Cumulative Funds are represented by

Current Account	5559.26
Add Investments	<u>202.02</u>
	<u>5761.28</u>

S137 PAYMENTS

The limit for spending under S137 of the Local Government Act 1972 for Willoughby Parish Council was £1141.18

The Payments were:

<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>NATURE OF PAYMENT</u>	<u>£</u>
Citizens Advice Bureau	Support of Administration costs	100

OUTSTANDING COMMITMENTS AS AT 31:03:01

D Hargrave (Shrubbery Footpath)	400.00
ABB (Street Lighting Maintenance)	72.25
VAT	82.64
Village Hall (Grant)	196.92
Churchyard Maintenance	250.00
Village Clock Maintenance	150.00
Clerks ½yr Salary	175.00
Clerks ½yr use of facility allowance	75.00
Typing -½ yr expenses and other expenses	59.43
Millennium Project Fund	<u>1500.00</u>
	<u>2961.24</u>

Chairman:

Clerk:

