

WILLOUGHBY PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2001/2002

Your Council has pleasure in presenting its report for the year 2001/2002. The Council had held 8 meetings during the last year and it is from the minutes of these 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 and WPC 621 Haden has attended 2 meetings. The Council are most appreciative for these attendances as they enable the Council first hand to be updated on Rugby Borough Council and Police matters. The attendance of WPC 621 Haden was most welcome as this reverses a tendency of the Police not to attend Parish Council meetings for a considerable time.

The activities covered in the last year are as follows:

ROADS VERGES FOOTPATHS AND STREET LIGHTING

A45 JUNCTION: The modifications to the A45 junctions at Londown Lane and Main Street were completed in April by W S Atkins, these modifications are being monitored by the Agencies to see if they have made any significant improvements.

Warwickshire Police had arranged for their Traffic Management to research the injury data for this stretch of the A45 and the Council continue to press for improved lighting at the two junctions.

MANOR FARM BARN CONVERSIONS Warwickshire County Council have confirmed that they have no intention of adopting the road leading, from Brooks Close to Manor Farm Conversions. The Council were advised that the Contractor building the Barn Conversions was under no obligation with regard to Planning Permission to build this road up to a standard for adoption by Warwickshire County Council.

DRAINS OUTSIDE VILLAGE HALL The Highways Department had attended the drains outside the Village Hall in an effort to prevent backfilling in heavy storms.

ROSE INN – FOUL DRAIN The seepage from the drain outside the Rose Inn persists despite a number of visits from Severn Trent and the Highways Department. Mr Lucas of the Highways Department will be contacted by a Councillor when the drain shows seepage again so that he can witness the occurrence first hand.

VERGES MOOR LANE The Highways Department have made several attempts to infill the damaged verges in Moor Lane with little permanent effect. The Council have advised the Highways Department in January that it requires further attention.

SHRUBBERY FOOTPATH The cleaning up of the Shrubbery Footpath was carried out by Mr. D Hargrave with funds for the project provided from the Parish Paths grant. The Council have asked for quotations for resurfacing this footpath and hope to be able to obtain grants for this work as the footpath is a much used facility in the village. The Parish Paths initiative have promised to have the vegetation along this path treated with weed killer when appropriate.

BROOKS CLOSE R246 FOOTPATH This footpath had been cleared by the owners of Cottage Farm where it had been blocked near to the entrance with Brooks Close.

R249A FOOTPATH – MOOR LANE – WILLOUGHBY HOUSE The Council have agreed for the Parish Paths scheme to replace a dangerous stile and a pedestrian gate installed on this route at no cost to the Parish Council.

MAIN STREET PARKING The Police have been instrumental in having several vehicles parked in Main Street and causing an obstruction parked at alternative locations, this was achieved with the co-operation of the vehicle owners.

MAIN STREET CAR PARK The Rugby Borough Council have confirmed that access to Ashills for vehicles will not be possible without Planning Permission. A number of apparently abandoned vehicles have been removed from this Car Park to allow use by Main Street residents. Regrettably the Council had felt that they could not comply with a Village Hall request to use the Car Park as an over-spill for Village Hall users this was because the Car Park was provided solely for the use of Main Street residents.

SHAR LANE – BRICKLEFIELD LANE JUNCTION The Council have raised with the Highways Department their concern on the planting of a hedge in front of the railings at this dangerous corner. The Highways Department are taking the matter up with the landowner.

BRICKLEFIELD LANE The Council have raised with the Highways Department the breaking up of this road near to Gate Farm.

ESTATE AGENTS BOARDS The Council have been successful in having the Estate Agents For Sale' boards removed from road junctions.

WARWICKSHIRE SIGN A45 The Council have raised with Warwickshire County Council the unnecessary expense in erecting a Warwickshire sign stating 'Home of the Belfry 2001' and then removing it.

SPEEDING THROUGH THE VILLAGE The Police have been in touch with the Coach firms G.A. Amos and Catterall Coaches regarding the speeding of coaches through the village. The Police have also spoken to the owners of Charisma requesting that their customers parking in Lower Street ensured that they did not block the road thus allowing coaches to drive down Lower Street.

Parking (alongside Rose) The Council had written to the landlord of the Rose Inn requesting that the footpath to the Playing Field be kept clear of traffic whenever possible and that delivery times be kept to a minimum to avoid blocking the access to properties.

Brooks Close Triangle The borders on the Brooks Close triangle were infilled with turf by Councillor Hallam so as to make the mowing of the grass undertaken voluntarily by Mr Jones easier.

Football Tournament/Beaver Scouts Requests for the use of the Parish Council Football Posts by Mr P Montgomery and Rugby & District Beaver Scouts were granted.

Village Pump The Council are in discussions with the owner of the property adjacent to the site of the village pump to see if the village pump can be made a feature within the village to everyone's benefit.

Flooded Properties The Council had been asked by Rugby Borough Council to provide details of properties which had been flooded recently. The Council felt unable to comply with this request and took the view that since the Canal Banks had been repaired no actual flooding had taken place in Willoughby with the cleaned out brook able to take all normal water flow.

PLAYING FIELD AND OTHER OPEN SPACES

Top Soil The Council had the quantity of top soil left over from the installation of the new swings removed.

Mowing Contract Following complaints regarding the non removal of grass cuttings from the Playing Field the Council agreed that in future they should be removed. The Contract was advertised in the local paper but eventually awarded to M Henson purely on financial grounds as the least cost to the Council. During the debate Councillor Henson had declared an interest and left the meeting.

Fire – Playing Field The Police had cause to approach a youth who had started a fire in the Playing Field.

Playing Field Hedge The Playing Field hedge and the hedge behind the Bus Shelter in Main Street are to be strimmed back.

igloo Councillor Henson is to modify the surrounds of the Igloo in the Playing Field making safe surfacing underneath with wood chipping. The work will be undertaken at no labour cost to the Council.

The parking of vehicles on both sides of the road opposite the Village Pond had now ceased with the previous owners of Ivy Barn Conversion leaving the village. The new owners were sensibly using the grass verges just past the pond.

WILLOUGHBY GARAGE The Police have requested the owner of Willoughby Garage to ask

delivery vehicle owners not to park on their frontage in such a position as not to restrict the view of motorists leaving Main Street to traffic coming from Daventry.

TANKERS The Police are following up several registration numbers of tankers which have been seen repeatedly in the village.

OLD PASTURES The drain outside Old Pastures in Moor Lane had now been repaired by the Highways Department.

SYCAMORE TREE — COLLEGE ROAD The Highways Department have yet to deal with a Sycamore tree in College Road whose roots are causing some concern with regard to drains.

MAIN STREET — BLOCKED TUNNEL The Bridges Section of Warwickshire County Council have been asked by the Highways department to clear a blocked tunnel at the junction of Main Street and Lower Street.

MOOR LANE — WILLOW TREES The lopping of the willow trees in Moor Lane will be carried out in April by the Highways Department at no cost to the Council.

HAYWARDS LODGE The brook has been cleared from the A45 down to the rear of Magdalen Road and it is envisaged that this will prevent flooding behind these properties in future.

COLLEGE ROAD The Police have advised the owner of a vehicle parking over a fire hydrant outside No: 8 College Road that parking was available at the rear of some other College Road properties.

LONGDOWN LANE A replacement sign at Longdown Lane opposite Gate Farm has been re-sited due to obstruction to view of motorists leaving Longdown Lane from Barby.

ROSE INN The landlord of the Rose Inn had been approached to see if he could request customers using the Rose Inn to park when possible on the Rose Inn Car Park rather than the grass verges in Main Street.

OLD PASTURES STREET LIGHT This has suffered from gunshot and the lamp had to be replaced at some considerable cost.

ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

Central Railway Situation remained basically unchanged during the year except that Rugby Borough Council had joined forces with all other Councils along the proposed route to fight the re-opening on a united front. It was thought that Great Central Railway would not finance the re-opening, particularly as it was now proposed to have 4 lines of track instead of 2 along the route.

Box Bridge No additional information was made available from Severn Trent as to the suitability of the box bridge to take the flow of water when the brook was in flood.

Onley Park No progress has been made on changing the Postal Address of Onley Park from including Willoughby, it was unlikely that the 100% support from residents of Onley Park required for this change would be achieved.

Ashills The Parish Council had engaged another Solicitor with regard to Ashills (Bradshaws) and he had been instructed to make application for Ashills to be registered as a common pursuant to the Commons Registration Act 1965 on behalf of Willoughby Parish Council. The Council had obtained and forwarded to Solicitors a number of statutory declarations from members of the locality regarding the use of the land over a number of years to support the application. Solicitors had advised owners of properties backing on to Ashills of the intended application and as a result of this and subsequent correspondence to the Council, several had been invited to Parish Council meetings to discuss the application. Regrettably they had not attended.

A misunderstanding with the owner of "The Willows" had been resolved and the boundary up to the brook edge agreed.

Fly Posting The Council had been in touch with a number of organisations requesting that they cease fly posting in the village.

Litter Bins A replacement litter bin had been placed by the telephone kiosk in Main Street and two more bins had been made available for the Playing Field.

Dustbins Red bins for the collection of waste paper had been provided to every householder by Rugby Borough Council.

Bus Shelters Councillor Henson had painted and repaired the two Bus Shelters in the village at no labour cost to the Council.

The Council are considering the supply of an additional Bus Shelter in Main Street for the use of passengers en route to Daventry. Existing kerb levels will also be raised in Main Street and the A45 to give easier access to wheelchairs.

OTHER MATTERS

Parish Clock The illumination of the Parish Clock remains outstanding due to difficulties with the Electrical Contractor on giving exact specifications as required by the Parochial Church Council to enable them to make an 'application for grant of a faculty'.

Neighbourhood Watch The Council have been advised by the Police that a paid employee has been taken on to organise the Neighbourhood Watch activities in the area.

Post Office With the possible closing of the Village Post Office the Council are working with the Post Office in efforts to safeguard a Post Office facility within the village. A leaflet has been circulated in Willoughby, Flecknoe, Grandborough and Sawbridge bringing villagers up to date and requesting information on possible locations for a new Post Office.

Queens Golden Jubilee The Council are working with other villagers and organisations with a view to holding celebrations to mark the Queens Golden Jubilee. The Parish Council are in a position to provide some considerable financial backing for such celebrations. This item will be added to the Agenda of the Annual Parish meeting.

Christmas Lunch Over 60's The Council are to discuss this matter at the Annual Parish meeting.

Village Crime The Police have informed the Council that three youths had been arrested in connection with incidents in the village. Some property from Brooks Close had been recovered.

Notice Boards The Council have agreed to have the Parish Council Notice Board renovated and it is possible that a new location will be required if and when the existing Post Office closes.

Millennium 2000 Group The Council have supported the Millennium 2000 Group Committee in providing skips for the cleaning out of the village pond and £250 towards the work undertaken in improving the triangle by the White House. The Council have also obtained a quantity of bulbs for planting by them around the village and recognises the excellent work that this Committee and its helpers have done in the village.

D E Neville

April 2002