

**WILLOUGHBY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2008/2009**

Your Council has pleasure in presenting its report for the year 2008/2009. The Council held 9 meetings during the year and one Public Meeting 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 G.D.Collett attending 9 meetings and Rugby Borough Councillor R Hazelton attending 10 meetings .Although the Police were unable to attend all meetings it was gratifying that a Police report was available at every meeting. It was also encouraging that members of the village attended a number of meetings and under the new Code Of Conduct introduced by your Council in 2007/2008 they were able to raise and discuss with the Council a variety of village issues.

Willoughby Parish Council would like to acknowledge the tremendous contribution and support given by County Councillor G.D.Collett to the Parish Council over the last 37years never one to duck a challenge he always 'tells it the way it is' and speaking personally over my 18 years as Clerk he has been a fountain of knowledge and encouragement ,has had the ability to open closed doors which has enabled this council to achieve success in numerous issues which otherwise we may have given up on.

Year 2008/2009 will perhaps be best remembered as one in which your Parish Council obtained four grants towards village projects ( detailed later) they were :

Felling and pollarding of the trees surrounding the village pond (Lottery grant of 10000 pounds)

Dredging of the village pond (Rugby Rural Development Grant of 9622 pounds)

Playing Field Equipment Refurbishment ( Parish Capital Spending Fund Grant of 20995 pounds )

Replacement of Bus Shelter A45 ( Warwickshire County Council Grant of 4230pounds )

A total grant aid of 44847 pounds towards projects that the Parish Council could not fund alone from the Council tax.

A further grant has been applied for through the Village Vantage scheme which is for the provision of additional parking at the village hall and church.

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

A 45 Willoughby The Speed Management Scheme on this road from the M45 roundabout through to the Northamptonshire border was at last completed in late summer this involved the resurfacing of the road ,new markings and layouts on the road a reduction of speed down to 50mph with appropriate signage and traffic speed warning signs either side of the Main Street junction. The police have claimed that since the speed reduction was lowered to 50mph the average speed along this stretch of road has been reduced by 10%.

Double yellow lines have been laid down in Main Street at the junction with the A45

Following a complaint from the Parish Council the footpath along the A45 between Main Street and Gateway Farm was cleaned back by the Highways Department last summer but they had refused to uplift and relay the path as requested, however it is understood that the whole length of the A45 footpath from the M45 roundabout through to the Northamptonshire border has been included in the 5 year plan of Sustrans to make this a cycleway.

The Main Street sign was replaced by the Highways department following damage caused by an accident at this junction however the sign at Longdowne Lane remains a problem in that although it has been replaced on several occasions heavy lorries turning into Longdowne Lane continue to damage it as the junction is too narrow

Warwickshire County Council have written to the land owners on both sides of the old railway bridge A45 in regard to making good the deterioration of the bridge retaining walls and this remains the responsibility of WCC to follow up.

Yellow Lines The provision of single/double lines in Lower Street as proposed by Warwickshire County Council to enable the reintroduction of G.A.Amos bus's back through the village resulted in a Public meeting being held on the issue. A record number of 61 villagers plus Councillors attended this Public meeting in September when it was clear that villagers were keen to reintroduce the bus service but a number of residents in Lower Street were against double yellow lines as proposed in the layout.

Following a meeting between G.A.Amos at which County Councillor G.D.Collett and representatives from WCC and Willoughby Parish Council were present it is considered unlikely that G.A.Amos has any intention of coming back through the village or even turning around in the village hence the possibility of 'Flexi-Buses' being introduced via another operator is under consideration by WCC.

The De Courcy Bus Service which goes to Rugby via many villages has been changed to include Willoughby and comes down Main Street Mondays to Fridays at 9:22am returning at 11:45 from Rugby.

Rugby Borough Council have decided that the yellow lines in Lower Street will depend on the re-introduction of Amos buses through the village, the viability of the Flexi Buses or the improvement to parking in Lower Street. This improvement is due to monitoring of the parking by residents and local businesses in Lower Street

Double yellow lines have been laid down at the junction of Lower Street and Main Street for safety reasons

The double yellow lines in Daventry Road Dunchurch will be finished once the development there is complete

Village 30mph signs Agreement with the Highways Department has been reached to move the 30mph sign in Lower Street back to a point past the pond Dunchurch side your

council continues to press for the moving back of the sign further out of the village in Moor Lane.

Weight Restrictions Several villagers have completed 'Information Packs' supplied by WCC for the monitoring of Heavy Lorries using Willoughby as a short cut to the A45 and DIRFT these have been forwarded to WCC for action. Additional packs are available on request.

Shubbery Footpath The Highways Department have at last agreed to clean up and repair where necessary the shrubbery footpath at both ends work is expected to commence within the next few weeks.

Culvert Moor Lane The Culvert in Moor Lane has again been cleaned out by the Highways Department and the ditch on the Braunston side lowered as requested by the Highways Department to prevent repeated blockages. The Parish Council have raised with the Highways Department the suitability of the existing pipe under the road as it is only 4 inches in diameter, a response is awaited

Main Street Drains at Nos 46/48 The Highways Department Engineers have conceded that the residents of these properties are correct in relation to flooding problems experienced there and instructions have been given to rectify the blockage

## **ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

Flooding The Parish Council have decided not to apply for any grants for alleviating flooding in the village from the Government as it was felt that both the Environment agency and Warwickshire County Council having stated in the past that little more can be done to prevent all flooding in Willoughby would not take on any further works grant or not.

The height and contours of the road at the bridge (Moor Lane/Lower Street) have been raised with Warwickshire County Council to see if during flooding water could be prevented from running down Lower Street . Initial costing have put a price in excess of 100,000 pounds on this.

Quotations have been requested for the trimming back of the Brook sides( during the growing season )between the Box Bridge and Barbary Cottage

Mowing 2008 saw the mowing and strimming of the verges within the village perimeter change from the Rugby Borough Council contractor to a contractor appointed by the Parish Council. There is no doubt that this has made a tremendous improvement to the image of the village and the extra cost well justified. The same contractor has been appointed for the 2009 season.

Horse Chestnut Tree Main Street Regrettably the middle tree on the verge by the Telephone Box in Main Street developed 'Canker' and as such had to be felled it is hoped that this action has prevented the remaining two trees from going the same way.

Village Spring Clean In conjunction with the Willoughby Society a litter pick took place during April a special thanks to all who took part.

The Parish Council would also like to acknowledge the special effort that Mrs N Sutton has made in litter picking around the village throughout the year ,many thanks.

Dog Fouling Dog Litter bins are now in place at points around the village and these are emptied on a weekly basis. There are however still instances where irresponsible dog owners are not using these bins and villagers are reminded that procedures are in place for action to be taken by the Dog Warden (see Clerk for information)

Moor Lane Seat The overhanging branches at the seat in Moor Lane have been cut back which will enable villagers to sit there and bask in the sun.

Tree Preservation A Tree preservation order has been placed on the Walnut tree at the Rose Inn .

Village Pond The Transfer Document for the ownership of the pond was accepted by the Land Registry and this has enabled the Parish Council to obtain grants (see earlier comments) for the felling and pollarding of the trees around the pond and the dredging of the pond.

To date the Tree pollarding is complete together with the erection of a suitable fence around its perimeter and this has already brought comment as to how big the pond actually is. The next step is the building or modification of the inlet and exit points so as to prevent blockage etc, and the purchase and installing of seats in memory of Mrs C. Marlow.

The dredging will commence once the water levels drop and the Ducks have stopped nesting completion of the whole project is expected in late summer

## **PLAYING FIELD AND OTHER OPEN SPACES**

Refurbishment of Equipment As stated earlier a generous grant has been obtained for the updating to existing standards of any remaining playing equipment ,the provision of suitable safe surfacing where appropriate and the purchase of new equipment with appropriate safe surfacing where applicable . This includes a Rectangular goal and Basketball post , a Vertigo Climbing unit , and a adequate Shelter/Meeting point.

At present a Quotation from Husson UK Ltd has been accepted and it only remains for Councillors to visit a site with their equipment on it to check quality before placing the order .Completion is expected in late Summer.

## **PLANNING**

Land off Moor Lane The Parish Council have made formal objection to the erection of a barn on land off Moor Lane the objection being that the size of the barn was too large and not necessary for a piece of land of only four and a half acres. Objections were also raised in that this development if passed could lead to similar applications on each of the

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remaining small plots giving the development a 'Shanty Town' appearance .

An Article 4 has been placed on this development and the Parish Council are in constant contact with the Planning Enforcement Officers advising them of any developments

Proposed Aattoir Willoughby Parish Council have supported Grandborough and Barby Parish Councils in objecting to the proposed building of an Abattoir ,cold store, meat processing plant with associated offices, formation of a yard area, provision of parking facilities, formation of a vehicle access and roadway and associated works on land adjacent to Daventry Road(A45) , near Only. The objections have included the increase in the risks of accidents on the A45 due to traffic turning right from the site, the likelihood of vehicles using Willoughby and Longdowne Lane as short cuts, increased risk of smells in Willoughby and that the development if granted should be further away from the A45 towards the M45

Land on Braunston Side of A45 past Railway Bridge Council have established that no Planning permission was required for a second caravan and a small shed on this site

## **OTHER MATTERS**

Willoughby Challenge The competition was once again a huge success with teams from other local villages and for the first time was won by the Willoughby team .The parish Council with other Local Parish Councils have made a donation towards the cost of the trophies .Special acknowledgement is made to Mr S.Thomas for organising the event on behalf of the Parish Council

Over 60's The over 60's Christmas meal took place on 29<sup>th</sup> November and was attended by almost 60 villagers who were able to spend a couple of hours enjoying an excellent buffet and a glass of wine with friends and neighbours

Police Reports Police reports on a monthly basis were available and published in the Willoughby Monthly, The reports highlight incidents which take place in Willoughby and the Leam Valley

Neighbourhood Watch It is very disappointing that this has not taken of as hoped for ,the item will be raised again at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Affordable Housing The Parish Council had as requested by the Warwickshire Rural Community Council identified a number of locations around the village as possible sites for this type of development, none of these was found to be suitable as was one offered by a local landowner.

The Rural Housing Enabler and a colleague from the Warwickshire Rural Housing Association have identified a further 5 sites in the village and the outcome of there discussions with the owners is awaited

Bus Shelter An 'Eaton Type 'Bus Shelter was purchased from Littlethorpe and replaces

the old bus shelter which stood on the Willoughby side of the A45 at the junction with Main Street. The new bus shelter was financed from a grant from Warwickshire County Council

Willoughby Weekend The Parish council is part of a village team which is organising the holding of a Willoughby Weekend which will take place on June 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> , the team has met on two occasions and plans are well advanced to hopefully ensure that this weekend is successful and becomes an annual event.

Willoughby Monthly September 2008 saw the first publication of the Willoughby Monthly and this has now become an established newsletter with contributions from, The Church, WI, Village Hall, Cricket Club, Willoughby Society, Parish Council, Thursday Club and the Police.

Special thanks to Richard Johnson for his efforts in making this possible and the teams sending in their reports and circulating the newsletter.

Village Car Park The Parish Council is working with the Village Hall Committee in trying to provide additional parking at the Village hall.

D.E.Neville  
01/04/09

**WILLOUGHBY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**SUMMARY RECEIPTS & PAYMENT ACCOUNT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31:03:09**

<b><u>RECEIPTS</u></b>	<b>£</b>
<b><u>PREVIOUS YEAR</u></b>	
387.23 VAT Refund	338.82
6500.00 Precepts	10500.00
4.51 COIF Dividend	9.90
377.48 Willoughby Charity	447.34
4.35 Gain on Investments	0.00
18.00 History of Willoughby Sale	6.00
570.00 Flood Grant	0.00
329.79 Willoughby Educational Foundation	0.00
0.00 Lottery Grant	10000.00
0.00 Warwickshire County Council Grant	4230.00
<u>0.00</u> Rugby Borough Council Mowing Grant	<u>639.00</u>
8191.36	26171.06

<b><u>PAYMENTS</u></b>	
100.00 S137 Payments	200.00

<b><u>RUNNING COSTS</u></b>	
1504.33 Playing Field & Open Spaces	2724.00
3066.48 1562.15 Street Lighting	<u>884.25</u>
	3608.25

<b><u>GRANTS</u></b>	
450.00 Village Hall	450.00
400.00 Churchyard Mtn	1000.00
1000.00 <u>150.00</u> Parish Clock Mtn	<u>150.00</u>
	1600.00

<b><u>GENERAL ADMINISTRATION</u></b>	
158.00 Subscriptions	179.00
355.07 Insurance	371.45
1447.38 Salaries	1487.38
754.76 Other	868.98
338.82 VAT Payments	1351.89
0.00 Legal Expenses	439.00
120.00 Audit Fees	120.00
377.48 Over 60's Lunch	455.29
550.50 Election Expenses	0.00
372.87 Church Illumination	150.00
229.79 Goal Posts	0.00
0.00 Bus Shelter	4230.00
0.00 Tree Felling (Pond)	5900.00
0.00 Fencing (Pond)	1860.00
0.00 Loss on Investment	<u>54.60</u>
	17467.59

<u>4704.66</u>	
8871.15	22875.84



**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS SUMMARY**

	£
Balance brought forward 01:04:08	970.18
Add Total Receipts	26171.06
Less Total Payments	(22875.84)
	<hr/>
	4265.40

These cumulative funds are represented by:

Current Account	4083.17
Add Investment	157.74
Add Cash in Hand	24.49
	<hr/>
	4265.40

**S137 PAYMENTS**

<b><u>PAYEE</u></b>	<b><u>NATURE OF PAYMENT</u></b>	<b><u>£</u></b>
Citizens Advice Bureau	Support of Administration Costs	100.00
Warwickshire & Northamptonshire Air Ambulance	Support of Administration Costs	<u>100.00</u>
		200.00

**WILLOUGHBY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**FIXED ASSETS AS AT 31:03:09**

**ASSETS PURCHASED IN YEAR**

Bus Shelter	4970.25	4970.25
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**ASSETS DISPOSED OF IN YEAR**

NONE		0.00
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**ASSETS ACQUIRED IN YEAR**

Village Pond	1.00	1.00
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**AT 31:03:09 THE FOLLOWING ASSETS WERE HELD**

Value at replacement value unless given nominal value:

Bus Shelters (2)		7470.25
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Street Lamps (Free standing) (14)		7461.93
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Street Lamp (Attachments) (12)		2145.77
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Seats (4)		800.00
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Main Street Car Park (Nominal Value)		1.00
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Haywards Lodge (Nominal Value)		1.00
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Village Pond (Nominal Value)		1.00
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**PLAYING FIELD EQUIPMENT**

Green Climbing Frame (Nominal Value)		1.00
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Shelter (Nominal Value)		1.00
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Slide and Spring Animals		8587.60
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Climbing Frame and Swings		10085.03
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Roundabout & Safe Surfacing		2284.27
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Litter Bins		266.74
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Goal Posts		270.00
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Playing Field (Nominal Value)		1.00
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£		<u>39377.59</u>
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