

Annual Report 2019/2020

Annual Report of the Chairman, Councillor Peter Ketley



This report covers the year covering May 2019 up to April 2020. Elections were held for the whole council in May and three new councillors were welcomed: Lucy Golton and John Turton representing the Wilsden ward and Beth Petty representing Harecroft. At the May Annual Meeting of the Council Councillor Peter Ketley was elected as Chair and Councillor Trevor Duffton was elected as Vice Chair. Councillor Petty left the Council in the autumn, with Amanda Belford being co-opted in the spring to represent the Harecroft ward.

Meetings

The parish council met monthly throughout the year. As well as full council meetings there were meetings of the Management and Strategic Policy Committee, Neighbourhood Planning Working Group, Green Spaces Committee and the Community Engagement Working Group. Other Working Groups include the Internal Audit Committee, The "Wilsdener" Editorial Group and the Play Area Working Group. The agendas and minutes of these meetings, together with the documentation of all other parish council meetings are available on the parish council website: www.wilsdenparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Grants

Monies received during the year included:

- Section 106 funding that Bradford received from building development in the village. This was an incredibly hard and lengthy negotiation and we are delighted that the outcome was a grant of £56K for the refurbishment of the Play Area in the park.
- A grant from the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner's Safer Communities Fund of £519 as a contribution towards the cost of an additional street light for the entrance to the park by the bowling green.
- A grant from the Road Safety Trust for £20K. This will be spent in: Harecroft and is an evaluation of how to apply speed reductions in a rural hamlet in an innovative way through incremental changes in visual deterrents over a fixed period of time. It is to be hoped that this will successfully address the problems of speeding through the village. Work is due to start later this year.

The parish council gave a number of community grants during the year:

- Wilsden Village Hall for renovating the car park. As the surface was hazardous and needed urgent attention money was taken from Reserves to enable the work ; hence the deficit in the accounts.
- Wilsden Primary School for parking buddies
- Wilsden Gardening Association for a toilet on the allotment belt.
- Keighley Relate to support their work counselling young people from Wilsden who had been given GP referrals.

Activities

The two major projects that have occupied the council for some time have been the development of a Neighbourhood Plan and the Community Asset transfer of green spaces, together with the war memorial and the bus shelter at the corner of Royd Street from Bradford Council to the parish council.

It is fair to say that the process of achieving a Neighbourhood Plan seems to have been going on for years without anything to show for it but a series of drafts. This lengthy process is not due to the parish council's lack of commitment or effort, but rather to the ever-changing demands of higher levels of government, not

only on local plans but on the Bradford Plan to which we must conform. The main issue that has been addressed this year has been the implications of an assessment of the Green Belt and the need to identify the changes to accommodate the required additional housing. It is to be hoped that conclusions will be drawn early in the next council year.

Negotiations have been continuing with Bradford Council on the transfer of the management of the green spaces in the village; work has been done on identifying the green spaces and on agreeing a financial settlement with Bradford. It was hoped that this would be completed by the end of the year but legal complications have meant that this will be delayed into next year.

Other activities included:

- the continuing development of the parish council website and the expansion of it to include community information and the development of an associated Facebook page. This work is to improve community engagement.
- A further blue plaque was installed, the latest one on the wall of the New Inn commemorating Jeff Hall, the England international footballer whose early death turned the tide against polio.
- The provision of summer bedding plants and winter Christmas decorations has been expanded and the parish council is pleased to welcome and support the Wilsden in Bloom initiative which promises to further brighten our villages.
- Twenty eight planning applications were received for the council to comment on and make recommendations to Bradford.
- The parish council continued to support the continuation of a Youth Club at Wilsden Village Hall by paying for one of the Bradford youth workers and by subsidising the rent paid by Bradford for the use of the Village Hall.
- The Volunteer Car Scheme continued to supply a valuable service to many residents of Wilsden and neighbouring villages.

Covid-19

The final two months of the year were dominated by the impact of the Covid-19 virus. This has had an inevitable impact on what we are doing and the way that we do it and the parish council, working with the Village Hall, swiftly co-ordinated the delivery of voluntary support to vulnerable members of our community.

Following the imposition of a lockdown by the government which prevented face-to-face meetings the council moved in April to a remote conferencing platform. Legislation was required from government to enable local councils to hold remote meetings; once this was obtained councillors were faced with a steep learning curve in preparation for the first remote meeting in May. The ability of the public to continue to participate was key to the planning.

The intention will be 'Business as Usual'; the parish council will continue to represent the concerns of the residents of Wilsden and Harecroft. Although the contact point has been closed residents may telephone or email the clerk using the contacts at the end of this report.

The Parish Council is holding all meetings remotely due to Coronavirus restrictions. All its meetings remain open to the public and all Council meetings include a 20 min. session where residents can raise any issues they wish. Details of how to join the meetings are on the relevant Agendas which are available to view on the parish council website under meetings or by contacting the Clerk. The Contact Point at the Village Hall is currently closed due to Coronavirus restrictions. In the meantime, If you wish to contact the Parish Council please do so by either emailing the Clerk at clerk@wilsdenparishcouncil.gov.uk or use the form on the Parish Council's website at www.wilsdenparishcouncil.gov.uk or telephone 07384 713 156.

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Reserves brought forward from 2018 to 2019 44,587

INCOME

Council Tax precept	53,502
Council Tax Support Grant	2,749
CBMDC allotments	580
Miscellaneous Grants/refund	3,717
Allotment rent	169
Donations	789
Interest	322
VAT	3,107
Total Income	64,935

EXPENDITURE

Salaries	14,210
Chair's Allowance	0
Subscriptions	1,111
Administration	234
Bank/credit card charges	113
Printing and Stationery	743
Newsletter/Annual Report/Walks leaflet	1,536
IT & website costs	1,079
Room Hire	735
Travel & Homeworking	120
Contact Point & Storage	3,850
Training	1,132
Telephone & Postage	249
Insurance	353
Auditors' Fees	495
Miscellaneous	1,828
Green Spaces Mgmt./Horticulture	9,407
Christmas Lights	2,826
Neighbourhood Plan	843
Youth Service Support	6,197
Village Hall Operating Costs	8,500
Capital Purchases	3,490
Walling Group Insurance	280
Community Grants	11,145
VAT	4,789
Total Expenditure	75,265
Deficit for the year	10,332
Income less VAT	61,828
Expenditure Less VAT	70,476
VAT Carried forward to 2020 - 2021	58
Balance CFWD to 2020 – 2021	34,256

COUNCILLORS 2019-2020

Wilsden Ward

Peter Ketley (Chair) 07813 126475

Peter Allison 01535 273403

**Trevor Dufton (Vice Chair)
01535 273101**

Jane Callaghan 07986 294757

Tony Caunt 01535 273709

Lucy Golton 07812 195991

David Overend 07494 597887

John Turton 07412 250002

HARECROFT WARD

**Bethanie Petty
June- Sept. 2019**

**Amanda Belford 07971 393696
(Elected March 2020)**

