



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2016/17

### **Annual Report of the Chairman 2016-2017**

Councillor Peter Ketley

This report covers the business of the council during the period May 2016 to April 2017.

At the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held in May Councillor Ketley was re-elected as Chair and Councillor Dufton was elected as Vice-Chair. Helen Baranowski joined the council in September to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Councillor McNamara at the end of the previous year. The Parish Clerk, Ruth Batterley resigned in October and I would like to record the council's thanks to her for her services. In December Gail Denham was appointed as Ruth's successor.

The parish council met monthly throughout the year; additionally the Chair called three extraordinary meetings. As well as full council meetings there were four meetings of the Management and Strategic Policy, ten meetings of the Neighbourhood Planning Working Group and seven meetings of the newly formed Green Spaces 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](http://www.wilsdenparishcouncil.gov.uk).

Visitors to the parish council included Lyze Dudley, Community Development Worker, Craig Williams, Bradford Highways, Inspector Julie Deacon and colleagues, twice, Inspector John Toothill, Mark Burns Williamson, Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire, Michelle McQuigg, Virgin Media and Chris Slaven from Bradford's Emergency and Flood Planning Unit.

During the year community grants were given to the Wilsden Gardening Association, Wilsden Gala Committee, Wilsden Bowling Club, the Wilsden Walling Group, the Community Interest Company setting up the Post Office and Wilsden Village Hall. A replacement bench was also purchased, sited at the junction of Harden Lane and Bents Lane.

The major issues considered by the council during the year included the ongoing Neighbourhood Plan, Green Spaces issues, re-establishment of the Post Office, Highways issues, and Crime in the village.

Further work continued on the development of the Neighbourhood Plan, evidenced by the number of meetings of the working group. By the completion of the council year in April 2017 a draft plan that would go out for a six week consultation was ready for approval at the first meeting of the new council year in May 2017.

The council continued its efforts to address the issues that have arisen due to the financial restrictions on Bradford's budget for parks and green spaces management.

Improvements have been made to the flower beds in Royd Park and in other places such as the Cenotaph and the Village Green. This work has been supported by the Friends of Wilsden Park and by the Wilsden Gardening Association. The council has gained agreement from Bradford that a private contractor could provide additional cutting of the grass to increase the overall frequency of the cuts and thus improve the overall look of the Park. This will be an interim measure whilst the council continues its negotiations with Bradford concerning the long term management of green spaces in Wilsden. In the last annual report I expressed the hope that greater progress might be made in the subsequent year: I have been disappointed! Discussion with Bradford has continued about the devolution of other services, such as responsibility for the cenotaph, bus shelter by the corner of Royd Street and the pay-and-display car park.

Considerably greater progress was made, however in the efforts to re-establish a Post Office. The parish council gave a grant to assist the group formed to prosecute this work. A Community Interest Company was formed and the result was a Post Office open for business. Please use it!

Traffic speed restrictions on Main Street continue to arouse controversy, particularly with respect to the speed bumps. The scheme as originally designed by Bradford is still incomplete and the Highways Engineer has attended the parish council to try to reach a conclusion. The parish council also commissioned a survey of speeds through Harecroft, in response to residents' concerns; this work is still ongoing.

One disappointing facet of life in the village was the continuing incidence of crime, often manifested in surges. Whilst it is still true that Wilsden is a very safe place to live and the crime rate is low compared to other areas it is nevertheless a fact that when incidents do occur they have a very unsettling effect. This is quite understandable and is why the parish council invited not only serving senior police officers to hear the concerns of the village, but also the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire.

Other parish council activities during the year included the establishment of working groups to look at play provision in the park and the parish council's use of social media. The Walling Group continued its work in keeping dry stone walls in good repair. During the year the parish council considered fifteen planning applications, a marked drop in number from previous years due to the relaxation in the restrictions on permitted development.

In conclusion it would be wrong to omit mention of the continuing nuisance caused by owners who let their dogs foul indiscriminately throughout the village. The parish council has invested in an increased number of bins, liaised with the village warden and put out publicity on Wilsden Residents Facebook to try and stop this selfish inaction. It seems that all of this plus the possibility of incurring a substantial fine is not enough. If you see it, report it.

To end on a more positive note, the parish council continued its work to enhance the appearance of the village through increased provision of Christmas lighting and by planting spring flowering bulbs. In its budget for 2017 -2018 money was earmarked to support the provision of youth services.

## Finances 2016 to 2017

Reserves brought forward from 2015 – 2016	30,754
<b>INCOME</b>	
Council Tax precept	40,828
Allotments	733
Bank Interest	41
Council Tax Support Grant	2,424
HMRC	1,964
Locality Neighbourhood Plan	4,240
Donations	260
Walks booklets	7
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>50,499</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
Salaries/mileage	10,133
Chair's Allowance	0
Home Working	332
Insurance	278
Subscriptions	879
Printing and newsletter	1,087
Room hire and Contact Point	4,531
Stationery & admin	356
Training	560
Telephone	40
Miscellaneous	91
Audit fee	335
Hanging baskets/grass cutting/green spaces	2,899
Allotment	1,237
Christmas Trees, Lights and Sundries	1,799
Replacement seat Bents Lane	553
Post Office	5,000
Library	3,500
IT costs	1,038
Grants	1,379
Village Hall Grant	8,000
Neighbourhood Plan	4,241
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>48,268</b>
<b>Plus VAT rebate of £1,808 balancing to cash book total of £50,076</b>	
<b>Balance CFWD</b>	<b>£31,178</b>

### Contacting the Parish Council

Meetings are held on the first Monday of the month at 7.00 pm in the Library Room,  
Wilsden Village Hall

Gail Denham, Clerk, is normally available on Monday and Tuesday mornings in the Contact  
Point, Wilsden Village Hall. Telephone: 07875 635203

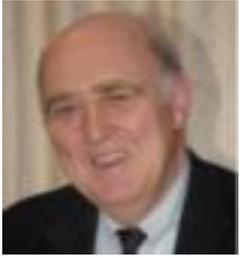
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# COUNCILLORS 2016 - 2017



**Peter Ketley (Chairman) 07813 126476**



**Peter Allison 01535 273403**



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



**Jane Callaghan 07986 294757**



**Tony Caunt 01535 273709**



**Ray Graham 01535 272587**



**Chris Webster 01535 271758**



**David Overend 07712 766338**



**Helen Baranowski 077790 24450**

**All Councillors are from the Wilsden ward, other than Councillor Webster who is from the Harecroft ward.**