



ANNUAL REPORT

2017/18

Annual Report of the Chairman, Councillor Peter Allison, 2017-2018

At the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in May 2017 Councillor Allison was elected Chair and Councillor Dufton was elected Vice-Chair. In December Chris Webster resigned as councillor for the Harecroft ward and Paul Howcroft was elected to the vacancy and will serve until May 2019.

The parish council met monthly throughout the year; additionally the Chair called three extraordinary meetings. As well as full council meetings there were five meetings of the Management and Strategic Policy Committee and three meetings of the Internal Audit Committee. The council also has a number of working groups and there were four meetings of the Neighbourhood Planning Working Group and six meetings of the 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.

Visitors to the parish council included Inspector Julie Deacon responsible for the Shipley area neighbourhood policing team accompanied by Chief Inspectors Rutter and Corkindale and PC Gallimore and representatives from Virgin Media.

During the year the council gave community grants to Wilsden Village Hall, the Wilsden Walling Group and the Volunteer Car Scheme to assist with operational expenses. One-off grants were also made to the Riding for the Disabled Throstle Nest Group and the Community Interest Company setting up the Post Office.

The major issues considered by the council during the year included the ongoing Neighbourhood Plan, Green Spaces issues, Highways issues, and crime in the village.

The draft Neighbourhood Plan started its first formal consultation period on June 14th closing on July 26th. In addition to receiving detailed comments from Bradford Council we received a further 24 written submissions from local residents, land owners, potential developers and statutory consultees such as the Environment Agency and Historic England. We also held two drop-in sessions during the consultation period for residents to view the draft Plan. We issued a document outlining the working group's initial response to the consultation and we are now working towards agreeing how these responses are incorporated into the draft, in order to take the Neighbourhood Plan to the next stage. There has been a delay in moving forward to the next stage of the Neighbourhood Plan because we were awaiting additional information from Bradford before deciding how to proceed with the next part of the statutory consultation process.

The council continued its efforts to address the issues that have arisen due to the financial restrictions on Bradford Council's budget for parks and green spaces management. Improvements have been made to the flower beds in Royd House Park and in other places such as the War Memorial and the Village Green. This work has been supported by the Friends of Wilsden Park and by the Wilsden Gardening Association. We continue to be concerned that greater progress had not been made in our negotiations with Bradford regarding the devolution of other services,

such as responsibility for the war memorial, bus shelter by the corner of Royd Street and the pay-and-display car park.

The Council did however ensure 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 Community Post Office has now been open for 16 months and it is progressing well towards achieving a fully sustainable future. Both the Post Office and retail side of the business continue to grow each month and customer feedback is extremely supportive. While many residents come in very regularly we do get people coming in for the first time since we re-opened who are agreeably surprised by the services and products offered.

Traffic speeds on all roads in the area continue to arouse controversy. Although the traffic calming through Wilsden has had some effect on average speed there are still too many vehicles ignoring speed restrictions and it is felt that the speed bumps are not as effective at slowing traffic as they could be. In addition to the speed issues on Main Streets there are also problems on Laneside and through Harecroft.

One disappointing facet of life in the village was the continuing incidence of crime, often manifested in surges of break-ins. 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 serving senior police officers to hear the concerns of the village.

Other parish council activities during the year included further work on ideas to upgrade the play provision in the park and work on improving the way that the parish council engages with the community in both Wilsden and Harecroft. The latter has included redesigning the Wilsdener and looking at how the parish council uses social media. The Walling Group continued its work in keeping dry stone walls in good repair. During the year the parish council considered thirty five planning applications, more than double the number in the previous year. The Volunteer Car Scheme continues to supply a valuable service to many residents of Wilsden and neighbouring villages and carries an average of more than 25 people per week to doctors, hospital etc. One challenge with an ageing population is that there are sometimes more people wanting to use the service than there are volunteer drivers.

In conclusion it would be wrong to omit mention of the continuing nuisance caused by those owners who let their dogs foul indiscriminately. The parish council has invested in an increased number of bins so those who bag the offending material can readily dispose of it. We recognise that only a minority of dog owners do not pick up after their animals but this minority risk giving all dog owners a bad name.

Details of the parish council finances are given on the next page of this report. The balance carried forward was higher than anticipated for two principle reasons. Firstly the budget for 2017-18 was based upon spending an additional £4,500 on the Neighbourhood Plan during the year but because of delays receiving information from Bradford the expenditure will take place in the current year. Secondly it was anticipated that more progress would have been achieved in our negotiations with Bradford Council to take over management of the Park and other green spaces and money was included in the budget to cover the additional expenditure that would have been necessary. In both cases the money will be retained for future expenditure in the area for which it was originally intended.

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. This year we also funded the installation of Yorkshire flags to celebrate Yorkshire day on August 1st.

Finances 2017 to 2018

Reserves brought forward from 2016 – 2017	31,178
INCOME	
Council Tax precept	47,997
Allotment grant	584
Allotment rent	158
Bank Interest	80
Council Tax Support Grant	2,691
HMRC	2,523
Other	5
Donations	270
Walks booklets	39
Total Income	54,345
EXPENDITURE	
Salaries/mileage	10,903
Chair's Allowance	0
Home Working & Travel	268
Insurance	280
Subscriptions	898
Printing and newsletter	840
Room hire and Contact Point	4,358
Stationery postage & photocopying	913
Office & admin	678
Training	941
Telephone	158
Audit fee	450
Hanging baskets/grass cutting/green spaces	2,750
Christmas Trees, Lights and Sundries	2,549
Youth Service contribution	6,197
IT costs	1,019
Grants	5,054
Village Hall Grant	8,500
Neighbourhood Plan	1,077
Total Expenditure exclusive of VAT	47,833
VAT	1,009
Total Expenditure inclusive of VAT	48,842
The outstanding VAT reclaim of £295 is carried forward to the 2018 - 2019 accounts	
Balance CFWD	£36,681

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: 07384 713156

E-mail: clerk@wilsdenparishcouncil.gov.uk

Website: www.wilsdenparishcouncil.gov.uk

COUNCILLORS 2017 - 2018

Wilsden Ward



Peter Allison (Chair) 01535 273403



Peter Ketley 07813 126476



Jane Callaghan 07986 294757



Trevor Dufton (Vice Chair) 01535 273101



Ray Graham 01535 272587



Tony Caunt 01535 273709



David Overend 07712 766338

Helen Baranowski 07779 024450



Harecroft Ward



**Paul Howcroft 01535 271758
(from February 2018)**

**Chris Webster 01535 271758
(to December 2017)**

