

WILLOUGHBY PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021

<u>Chairperson:</u>	Mr M Thomas
<u>Parish Clerk:</u>	Mr D E Neville
<u>Parish Councillors:</u>	Mr B Hallam
	Mr A Belgrove
	Mr R Honess
	Mrs R Settle

This Report is for presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting.

The Council held 6 meetings during the year 2 of which were by Zoom (held under the guidelines outlined by the Government).

The Council meetings were well attended by the Parish Councillors but regrettably County Councillor H Roberts and RBC Councillor E Crane were unable to attend any.

ROADS/VERGES/FOOTPATHS & STREET LIGHTING

- The funding of the road markings alterations and the provision of street lighting at the junction of Longdown Lane/A45 will be met from Councillor Roberts budget. Work is expected to commence in April. The owner of Gate Farm has cut back the bushes at this junction which were restricting view of traffic along the A45.
- Five members of the Public have indicated that they would be prepared to work on improving the Public Footpaths around the Village. The volunteers undertaking this work will be covered by our Insurers together with any equipment used. RBC has been requested to provide any PPE equipment required for use by the volunteers. Councillor Honess has forwarded to the WCC Transport & Highways information on the types of paths involved to enable them to forward this to the County Paths Team.
- The Litter Bins in the Playing Field continue to be emptied by Councillors.
- Grandborough Parish Council has been advised of the cost of uplifting and re-siting of the Boundary Stones at our boundaries but as yet they have not been able to respond with a definite decision.
- Western Power was informed of the parking of vehicles on the frontage of the Sub Station in Magdalen Road.
- The Parish Council raised again with the Localities Officer the flooding under the old Railway Bridge and the constant need to clean the culverts.
- Highways have filled the potholes outside Willoughby Garage (A45), 11 Brooks Close and Moor Lane outside Leam Farm.

- The Highways have made an excellent job of repairs to the surface of Woolscott Lane.
- Repairs to the edges of the Village Pond have been completed.
- The edges of the Shrubbery Footpath have been cut back.
- The area around the seats in Brickhill Lane, Brooks Close and the triangle at the junction of Brooks Close/Shar Lane have been cleared of vegetation.

PLANNING

R21/0071 Old Smithy – The Parish Council raised no objections to the conversion of redundant Barn and outbuildings to create one residential unit subject to the WCC Highways raised no issues regarding access.

PLAYING FIELD & OTHER OPEN SPACES

- The Council continue to fill in any rabbit holes which occur in the Playing Field.
- New Notices are to be placed at the four entrances to the Playing Field to include that dogs must be kept on a lead at all times when walking along the Public Footpath in the Playing Field extension.
- The level of bark under the Igloo was raised on the advice of ROSPA.
- The Council has agreed to purchase as soon as finances permit, a replacement Climbing Frame from ESP. Applications for grants were made to Willoughby Educational Foundation and Rugby Borough Council. The old Climbing Frame has been dismantled and scrapped as it had become unsafe.
- The Council agreed to let the Playing Field be used by Macmillan for a Coffee Morning to raise funds.
- Monthly inspections by Councillor Belgrove on the Playing Field equipment are now taking place.
- New fencing has been installed at the boundary of the Playing Field with the field facing the A45 field.

OTHER MATTERS

- The Play Scheme run by Rugby Rangers regrettably was not able to be undertaken, it has however been scheduled in for 2021.
- The Parish Council considered the possibility of organising a Youth Club but due to Covid 19 this was not possible in 2020.
- The Parish Council circulated the Village regarding the provision of outdoor Adult Exercise Equipment, but agreed not to follow through with this project. They are however considering providing an alternative exercise option in the form of Adult Exercise classes possibly in the Village Hall.
- On the advice of WALC the Annual Meeting for 2020 was not held due to Covid 19.

- A number of Gel Bags were provided to the owners of properties which have or will possibly be in danger of flooding near to the brook. Additional Gel Bags are now being sourced at the request of Villagers.
- Mr W Carlisle has made a generous donation of £1000 to the Parish Council funds.
- Councillor Settle has informed the Council of an improved contact with Neighbourhood Watch and that it's Newsletter was being circulated again.
- Councillor Hallam is to plant two Willow Trees at the Pond.
- Councillors continue to keep the outlet of the Pond free from debris.
- The Parish Council has accepted a Quotation from WS Gardens to continue to mow the Village verges and Playing Field for 2021.
- Despite Covid 19 restrictions the Parish Councillor have continued to deal with concerns and issues raised by Villagers and are always available to discuss any issues around the Village.

D E Neville
Parish Clerk
May 2021.