

**WINCANTON TOWN  
COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2019**

## WINCANTON TOWN COUNCIL

### ANNUAL REPORT 2019

#### Chairman's Review

This year we have again seen the resignation of two Councillors and the co-option of one replacement councillor. The final vacancy was not filled owing to the short remaining tenure of the Council. This review will constitute my last as Chairman of this Council as I am not seeking re-election as a Councillor in May. I wish the best of luck to my successor.

We are continuing the development of the remainder of the Cale Park area. There are several ideas being mooted, including an adult exercise trail, a dementia garden, and a replacement skateboard park.

Located within Cale Park, the David Sharp Centre is owned outright by the Town Council. During the year we successfully concluded discussions with a third party who have taken a long-term occupation to use it as a soft play area and public café. This feature within Cale Park has proved very popular and has provided a modest income to the Town Council.

During the late Summer a public cinema style screening of a film took place. This was largely funded from advertising revenues. It proved popular and is set to be repeated in Summer 2019.

In 2018 the Town Council provided initial seed funding to a local non-profit making group that produces a monthly community magazine called "The Word". This is now self-financing from advertising revenues and has received many positive reviews from residents. It is an asset to the Town.

The Town Council continues to support the Wincanton Community Partnership as a focus for community services, particularly those undertaken on a voluntary basis. This group will hopefully flourish to provide a service to the community, although recent meetings have sadly seen a drop in attendance.

The Town Hall is owned by a Trust of which the Town Council is the sole Trustee. The building requires improvement and upgrading to remain as our principal office and to enhance usage of the (upstairs) chamber and associated facilities.

Our grounds staff continue to do a sterling job of looking after our open spaces, cemetery and toilets, sometimes under difficult circumstances. We continue to provide an enhanced service and in the context of continued cuts in service provided by District and County Councils and on a wider and more frequent basis than those bodies might be able to provide.

Dog fouling, littering and mindless vandalism have continued to blight public open spaces. We continue to work with the Police to combat the problem and would encourage residents to report any incidents of vandalism or anti-social behaviour immediately.

This Council has always tried to provide the best services whilst keeping expenditure at realistic levels. The precept was £269,555 for 2018/2019. The abridged accounts for the year are shown below:

# Wincanton Town Council Accounts

**FY: 2018/2019**

## **Income**

Precept	269,555.00
Burial Fees	9,619.60
Rents	25.00
Allotments	1,077.38
Interest	121.35
Tourism Sales	2,548.87
David Sharp Centre	4,224.00
Miscellaneous	4,259.80
VAT Reclaimed	19,318.20
<b>Total</b>	<b>310,749.20</b>

## **Expenditure**

Salaries, Training, Uniform	136,110.92
Wincanton Sports Ground Grant	15,000.00
Cemetery Costs	3,096.50
Rates	5,874.56
Grounds Maintenance	25,360.55
Property Maintenance	669.70
Town Hall/Community Office	9,548.67
Administration	5,697.96
Insurance	3,360.83
Grants Given	49,342.86
Over 70's Lunch	1,000.00
New Equipment	2,596.88
Tourism Costs	2,266.50
Tree Maintenance	3,205.00
Churchfield Toilet	522.58
David Sharp Centre	14,428.79
Mayors Allowance	2,207.71
Allotments	1,399.80
Electricity/Gas	4,452.46
Car Park Compensation Scheme	24,155.00
Security Patrols	940.00
Equipment Finance	2,622.72
<b>Total</b>	<b>313,859.99</b>