

**WINCANTON TOWN
COUNCIL**

ANNUAL REPORT

2014

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Chairman's Review

Since taking on the new role of Mayor the experience has been both challenging and rewarding in about equal measure. When asked by some school children about whether I enjoyed the role of Mayor, with some reflection over a few moments, I said that such a role was not designed for enjoyment but one of duty and commitment in contributing to the betterment of the local community. In this capacity you have a fast learning curve.

The economic situation still continues to have impact upon our town with both positive inward investments in local businesses and sadly others having difficulties. The Town Council is always a true supporter of local enterprises which in turn create employment.

Many issues such as housing and transport have come to the fore over the last year and will be ongoing in both the near future and far longer. These issues are not unique to Wincanton, but still cause a lot of concerns and have become contentious. With this in mind it is positive development that the public of Wincanton have taken a far more active role in their contributions to these debates which have a profound effect upon our community.

Planned houses proposals are coming in thick and fast and cause great concern for both the residents of Wincanton and the Council. With the core strategy for planning in our area being in limbo at the moment such actions by developers is not surprising. Wincanton needs urgently support in the development of a clear profound infrastructure over the long term to help ease the pressures building upon us, especially employment, education placements, inward investment in the High Street and business enterprises.

Car parking has been and still is a major concern for us and no fee parking on demand is and has always been our goal in supporting the High Street to be a viable sustainable busy hub of our town. What we mean by this is to always endeavour the fight against South Somerset District Council introducing charges in whatever form. Whatever comes to the negotiations with the District Council our end target will stay the same enabling our town to flourish in a positive manner.

The Cale Park project is ongoing and things have moved on since last year. Within a short time of the report the MUGA development should begin and be completed by mid-summer. A lot of hard work by the sub-committee has taken place and the Chairman David Norris is the leading light in this field. The Cale Project itself lead by Richard D'Arcy is moving at pace and with clear direction which is really pleasing for us all. The support by small groups, individuals over the year has proved invaluable.

The Town continues to support project large and small wherever possible from the Sports Ground, David Sharpe Centre to the Gardening club, plus others. Our Annual Community Award to Wincanton Community Hospital is a reflection of our commitment to the community within the limits of our remit as a Town Council.

However, it is the everyday, all year actions of the Council that contributes to the town being a pleasant, enterprising, spirited community. It is at this point I and the Councillors publicly thank the officers and the ground staff for their conscientious, efficient and effective approach to all their duties and the wonderful results from them.

In our role of Council for Wincanton we provide clear and effective services to the best possible standards, within the restraints of a tight budget is commendable

This Council has always tried to provide the best services whilst keeping expenditure at realistic levels to this end we lowered the precept to £163,800 for 2013/2014. The abridged accounts for the year are shown below:

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2014

End of year Accounts

Expenditure	2013		EOY
	Precept		
Salary Costs (inc NI & Pension)	£	84,500.00	£ 85,007.92
Wincanton Sports Ground	£	15,000.00	£ 15,000.00
Cemetery Costs	£	1,400.00	£ 2,634.67
Licensing	£	2,500.00	£ 1,924.02
Grounds Maintenance	£	16,000.00	£ 16,882.82
Property Maintenance	£	2,000.00	£ 2,047.83
Town Hall & Community Office	£	5,000.00	£ 6,701.95
Administration	£	5,000.00	£ 4,583.76
Insurance	£	7,500.00	£ 3,948.11
Grants	£	2,250.00	£ 29,544.72
New Equipment	£	1,000.00	£ 1,220.76
Tourism	£	500.00	£ 3,118.17
Xmas & Street Lights	£	-	£ -
Town Hall Repairs	£	2,000.00	£ -
Toilets	£	1,000.00	£ 1,286.89
David Sharp Centre	£	7,000.00	£ 5,778.72
Allotments	£	1,000.00	£ 1,137.32
Peoples Plan/Town Team	£	-	£ -
Recreation Ground	£	6,000.00	£ -
Land/Car Parking Provision	£	24,000.00	£ 24,155.00
Mayor's Chain Repair	£	600.00	£ -
Youth Work Provision	£	2,000.00	£ -
Tree Policy Maintenance	£	2,000.00	£ 3,150.00
Mayors Allowance	£	2,250.00	£ 714.95
Total	£	190,500.00	£ 208,837.61
	Vat		£ 13,087.61
	Fixed Bond		£ 50,000.00
	Total		£ 271,925.22

Paid under grants

Paid under grants

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Income

Precept	£ 163,800.00	£ 163,800.00
Burial Fees	£ 3,000.00	£ 5,099.30
Licensing	£ 5,000.00	£ 11,256.64
SSDC	£ 500.00	£ -
Rents	£ 600.00	£ 616.02
Allotments	£ 600.00	£ 735.32
Interest	£ 1,000.00	£ 36.11
Tourism Sales	£ 1,000.00	£ 3,471.00
David Sharp Centre	£ 5,000.00	£ 6,624.00
Other	£ -	£ 11,898.87
Miscellaneous	£ -	£ 1,093.00
Town Team	£ -	£ 6,656.00
Donations	£ -	£ 6,320.00
Total	£ 180,500.00	£ 217,606.26

VAT Reclaimed

Funds available 31/3/2014	£18,390.31
Reserves	£65,957.68
Total	£84,347.99

Funds held for projects

Peoples Plan	£1,679.00
Youth Worker	£5,911.48
MUGA	£9,451.03
Town Team	£2,945.98
Cale Park Renovation	-£2629.50
Total	£17,357.99

Grants Given in 2013/2014

Wincanton Cricket Club	£300
Victim Support Group	£100
Wincanton Museum	£300
Citizen Advice Bureau	£1,000
Rural Youth Club	£6,998.52
Peoples Plan	£321
MUGA	£8,809.47
Cale Park Renovation	£8,629.50
Town Team	£3,710.02
Gardening Club	£400
Website Update	£1000
CCTV	£414.72

Funding Received in 2013

War Grave Contribution	£30
Multi Use Games Area	£3000
SCC Youth Worker Funding	£3320
Town Team	£6656