

WINCANTON TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

2016

WINCANTON TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Chairman's Review

This year has been very interesting for the Town Council: there have been several new Councillors, some resignations and three Chairmen of the Council.

In May 2015 there was a contested election which resulted in 4 new councillors taking their places amongst those of us who retained our places.

One of the big positive stories of the year has been the securing of sufficient grant funding to allow phase 1 of the Cale Park project to proceed. Works will take place throughout the summer of this year and by Autumn there should be a newly built play area and a new bridge across the River Cale.

We look forward to formally granting Freedom of the Town to 1AAC in May, there has been considerable work this year involved in initiating and planning the event.

The fight against large scale speculative development that was a theme of last year's Chairman's report has come to a conclusion in that both planning appeals were upheld by the Planning Inspectorate. Whilst it is very comforting to see the amount of interest that any planning application within the Town generates amongst residents, it is important that we all remember that the Town Council is not the decision-making body for such matters and can only make recommendations to the District Council. On a related note, councillors have attended training sessions in respect of the planning system and how to engage with developers.

Where the Town Council has a significant role to play in the planning system is by the production of an adopted Neighbourhood Plan. This will enable us to shape the type and location of any development and will also enable access to a greater proportion of developer contributions (known as the Community Infrastructure Levy – CiL). Work on this continues and public consultation will take place in due course.

The new pre-school on land at Home Drive has been built and planning work on the extension to the Primary School is in hand. The construction of the new dementia care home next to the health centre has commenced (and temporarily halted); this is expected to provide up to 80 new jobs.

Our grounds men continue to do a sterling job of looking after our open spaces, cemetery and toilets, sometimes under difficult circumstances. Left behind dog mess is increasing at the Recreation ground and the David Sharp Centre continues to suffer from mindless vandalism and theft. We are working with the Police to combat the problem and would encourage residents to report any incidents of vandalism or anti-social behaviour immediately.

We are continuing to engage with a local artist to promote art projects in the town. Last Xmas he provided several pieces that improved the visual ambience of the town, as well as two more permanent pieces. Whilst not to everyone's taste, they certainly resulted in people considering their town in a positive way and engaged the public in a way that negativity surrounding development could not.

Additionally, the Town Council provided financial support to the re-started Carnival, the celebrations for the 70th anniversary of VJ day and the initiation of Neighbourhood Watch schemes in the Town.

This Council has always tried to provide the best services whilst keeping expenditure at realistic levels. The precept was £196,250 for 2015/2016. The abridged accounts for the year are shown below:

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2016

End of year

Year End

Expenditure

Salary Costs (inc NI & Pension)	£	97,505.08
Wincanton Sports Ground	£	8,000.00
Cemetery Costs	£	1,568.00
Licensing	£	2,078.86
Grounds Maintenance	£	13,014.04
Property Maintenance	£	6,935.00
Town Hall & Community Office	£	8,507.68
Administration	£	7,095.06
Insurance	£	4,215.04
Grants	£	68,852.59
New Equipment	£	7,405.34
Tourism	£	3,787.20
Toilets	£	1,446.22
David Sharp Centre	£	9,436.24
Allotments	£	1,797.29
Mayors Allowance	£	1,677.38
Total	£	243,321.02

VAT £16,347.84

TOTAL £259,668.86

Income

Precept	£	196,250.00
Burial Fees	£	6,337.00
Licensing	£	7,067.99
SSDC	£	0.00
Rents	£	41.38
Allotments	£	895.98
Interest	£	57.85
Tourism Sales	£	4,195.35
David Sharp Centre	£	6,880.29
VAT Reclaimed	£	14,767.61
Miscellaneous	£	5,598.52
Town Team	£	5,858.82
Neighbourhood Plan	£	8,000.00
Total	£	255,950.79

Funds available 31/3/201 £60,116.21
 Reserves Business Account £16,093.39
 Wincanton Projects Account £12,106.23

Total £88,315.83

Funds held for projects

Peoples Plan £1,679.00
 Youth Work £6,411.48
 MUGA £2,717.35
 Town Team £4,484.15
 Cale Park Renovation £11,536.55

Total £26,828.53

Total Funds minus monies held

Total £61,487.30

Grants Given in 2015/2016

Group	Grant Given
Somerset Citizens Advice Bureau	£1,000
Live at Home Scheme	£1,000
Wincanton Museum	£300
Town Team	£5,827.50
Lanhau Twinning	£300
CATCH	£400
Wincanton Film Society	£200
Wincanton Tennis Club	£100
Wincanton Over 70;s Lunch	£500
Wincanton Gardening Club	£400
Wincanton Carnival	£1,000
Wincanton Swimming Club	£100
Wincanton Cricket Club	£100
The Balsam Centre	£5,000
Wincanton Sports Ground	£8,000