

WINCANTON TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

2017

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Chairman's Review

This year we have seen the resignation of two Councillors and the co-option of two replacement councillors.

The big positive story this year has been the construction and completion of phase 1 of the Cale Park project. This has been well-received by the community and by the principal user groups, the children of the town. Usage at the park has increased dramatically and the park is now a great asset to the town. I urge all residents to look at the revamped facility. We are now looking forward to continuing the development into phase 2, which should encompass the remainder of the Cale Park area. There are several ideas being mooted, including an adult exercise trail, a dementia garden, a refurbished shelter and public conveniences.

In May 2016, the Town Council granted Freedom of the Town to 1AAC, a public event that included soldiers parading through the town for inspection. This event was very well-attended and was well received by the people of the town. I was delighted to undertake the presentation and inspection on behalf of the Town.

The development of the Neighbourhood Plan has continued and it is anticipated that it will be presented to the residents for adoption following a referendum later this year. It was disappointing to note that the public consultation event was attended by only one member of the public. The adoption of a Neighbourhood Plan will enable the Town Council to access a greater proportion of developer contributions (known as the Community Infrastructure Levy – CiL).

Construction of the extension to the Primary School has commenced and is expected to be completed in the autumn.

Our grounds men continue to do a sterling job of looking after our open spaces, cemetery and toilets, sometimes under difficult circumstances. In order to provide an enhanced service and in the context of continued cuts in service provided by District and County Councils, we have employed a grounds maintenance supervisor to enable a greater range of functions to be provided, on a wider and more frequent basis and to bring certain activities "in-house".

Dog fouling, littering and mindless vandalism have continued to blight public open spaces. 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. As part of this work and (initially) as a means of protecting the Cale Park project during its construction phase, we have employed a private security firm to undertake night-time security patrols. This has provided some comfort to residents but has not been universally successful at deterring petty vandalism in the town.

The Town Council has supported the instigation of the Wincanton Community Partnership as a focus for community services, particularly those undertaken on a voluntary basis. In addition, we have supported the inauguration of the Dementia Friends group as a means of encouraging greater understanding of this debilitating condition. These two groups will hopefully flourish to provide a service to the community.

This Council has always tried to provide the best services whilst keeping expenditure at realistic levels. The precept was £219,000 for 2016/2017. The abridged accounts for the year are shown below:

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2017

Expenditure	Year End	Income	Year End
Salaries, Uniforms and Training	£105,797.22	Burials	£5,365.50
Wincanton Sports Ground Grant	£10,000.00	Rents	£214.10
Other Grants	£16,814.77	Allotments	£974.22
Over 70's Lunch	£863.00	Bank Interest	£38.51
Town Team Payments	£1,000.00	Tourism Sales	£3,098.19
Cale Park Payments	£164,310.65	Precept Received	£219,000.00
Christmas Tree and Decorations	£6,366.50	Neighbourhood Plan	£1,000.00
Neighbourhood Plan	£11,644.30	Cale Park Funding	£127,326.83
Maintenance Costs	£19,439.42	VAT Reclaimed	£48,840.14
Tree Maintenance	£1,673.00	David Sharp Centre	£7,313.42
Cemetery and Burials	£107.43		£413,170.91
Licensing	£156.00		
Town Hall/Community Office	£4,205.02		
Administration	£5,646.93		
Churchfield Toilet	£319.46		
Tourism	£2,688.61		
Mayors Allowance	£3,428.07		
Allotments	£780.82		
New Equipment	£4,547.11		
David Sharp Centre	£3,072.44		
Car Park Compensation Scheme	£24,155.00		
Water and General Rates	£6,180.35		
Insurance	£3,273.51		
Electricity all buildings	£4,191.25		
Security Patrols	£12,200.00		
	£412,860.86		

Funds available 31/3/2017	£21,575.30
Reserves Business Account	£16,100.90
Wincanton Projects Account	£12,111.00

Total £49,787.20

Grants Awarded in the Precept 2016/2017

Group	Grant Given
Somerset Citizens Advice Bureau	£1,200
Wincanton Museum	£600
Wincanton Over 70's Lunch	£1000
Wincanton Gardening Club	£500
Wincanton Live at Home	£500
The Balsam Centre	£12,000
Wincanton Sports Ground	£10,000