

WINCANTON TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

2018

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Chairman's Review

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

The big positive story this year has been the completion of the Neighbourhood Plan and its adoption after a very strong vote in favour by the electorate of the Town. It has subsequently been ratified by South Somerset District Council and now forms a valuable part of the planning framework within the Town. Its adoption will enable the Town Council to access a greater proportion of developer contributions made as part of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CiL).

The redevelopment of Cale Park has resulted in greater usage of the play facilities and we have continued the redevelopment by completely re-building the shelter in the main part of the Park. This is now a handsome structure as opposed to the elderly and somewhat run-down shelter which it has replaced. In addition, the derelict and vandalised public convenience has been refurbished and re-opened.

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.

We are looking at our buildings estate and trying to determine the best way forward for both the David Sharp Centre and the Town Hall. The David Sharp Centre is owned outright by the Town Council and we are currently in active discussions with a third party who wish to take a long-term occupation to use it as a soft play area and public café. 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. We intend to engage with as many of you as possible to define the best way to do this and to establish what sort of use would be both beneficial and viable.

Construction of the extension to the Primary School has been completed and it appears to be a considerable asset to the Town.

Our grounds men continue to do a sterling job of looking after our open spaces, cemetery and toilets, sometimes under difficult circumstances. As noted last year, in order to provide an enhanced service and in the context of continued cuts in service provided by District and County Councils, we 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". This has been a successful change and we regularly receive compliments about the work that can and is now being done.

Dog fouling, littering and mindless vandalism have continued to blight public open spaces. We are 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.

The Town Council continues to support the Wincanton Community Partnership as a focus for community services, particularly those undertaken on a voluntary basis. In addition, we also support the work 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 £268,050 for 2017/2018. The abridged accounts for the year are shown below:

Wincanton Town Council Accounts

FY: 2017/2018

Income

Precept	268,050.00
Burial Fees	6,746.50
Cale Park Funding	7,683.33
Rents	474.51
Allotments	990.00
Interest	27.44
Tourism Sales	3,613.85
David Sharp Centre	5,873.73
VAT Reclaimed	18,763.40
Total	312,222.76

Expenditure

Salaries, Training, Uniform	130,541.22
Wincanton Sports Ground Grant	10,000.00
Cemetery Costs	2,322.96
Rates	4,008.81
Grounds Maintenance	23,990.22
Property Maintenance	2,590.00
Town Hall/Community Office	8,004.98
Administration	5,095.66
Insurance	3,617.12
Grants Given	19,869.59
Over 70's Lunch	684.57
New Equipment	985.00
Tourism Costs	3,210.15
Tree Maintenance	660.00
Churchfield Toilet	1,433.34
David Sharp Centre	8,311.29
Mayors Allowance	725.34
Allotments	1,036.08
Recreation Ground	13,386.77
MUGA	2,083.17
Car Park Compensation Scheme	24,155.00
Security Patrols	11,856.00
Neighbourhood Plan	3,535.85
Total	282,103.12

