**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT 2012**

The Council has had a busy year – This report is a summary of the activities that the Council has undertaken over the last year, April 2012 to March 2013.

**Membership**

Your Councillors are Cllrs Angela Ballard, Jack Fryer, Colin Hales, Jon Haworth and Dean Morris

Jack Fryer was re-appointed Chairman in May 2012 and Colin Hales Vice Chairman.

Karen Parnell continues in her role of Clerk to the Council

**Meetings**

The Council has continued to meet every other month usually on the second Tuesday of the month (actual dates are posted on the notice board and website).  Our meetings are well supported by District Councillors Jonathan Spence, Maurice Howse and Daren Pemberton and by County Councillor Peter Barnes who attend regularly and impart knowledge and advice.

The council meetings are open to the public and provide an opportunity to ask questions on any issue relating to the village and generally to find out what is going on in the area.  We look forward to more people from the village making use of this facility in the future.

**What have we done?**

Village maintenance has been assessed continuously and a number of projects are underway or have been completed. Highway maintenance issues are frequently assessed and the parish council has a good and communicative relationship with the district and county councils.

Traffic calming remains an issue the council is committed to address.  We have facilitated a speed visor for a six month period which is now in place, as well as continuing to liaise with the county council on the Speedaware programme.  We have access to the temporary speed visor on rotation with other parishes, as well as posters around the village on speed reduction.  The County Council has now put the speed limit signage in correct locations so prosecution for speeding offences can now be enabled.

We are now examining physical traffic calming measures for the village in order to assess their effectiveness, practicality  and affordability.

We have embarked upon a programme  to upgrade the “ Wixford “ signs at the entrances  to the village so that they resemble those in other villages such as Arrow. The first of these has been ordered and will be installed in the next month or so.

The village hall is important to village life and we fully support the village hall committee in their efforts to upgrade the building and promote activities which utilize it more fully.

We have continued to use the website, notice board and newsletter to communicate activities within the village

**Planning**

We have assessed and provided local input on a number of planning applications and monitor plans for the potential development at Oversley Castle.

All planning applications are on the PC and SDC websites

The Council received a grant of £ 5000.00 from Awards for All to facilitate a Parish Plan.  The first part of the plan has been completed  and the next phase is well underway. We hope to  complete the plan this year.

**Finance**

For the year 2012-13 Wixford received an unqualified audit return from the external auditor

Karen Parnell is the Responsible Financial Officer to the Council.

The precept was set in November 2012 at £ 6000. (A slight increase to enable gateway signage)

The budget has been set for 2013 – 2014

The Council reviewed its Financial Regulations, Risk Assessment and Fixed Asset Register at the January 2013 meeting.

**Statement of Accounts**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | 31 March  2010  | 31 March 2011 | 31 March 2012 | 31 March 2013 |  |  |
| Balances brought forward |  | 7833 | 8708 | 10019  | 9982 |  |  |
| Annual precept |  | 5000 | 6000 | 5500 | 5500 |  |  |
| Total other receipts |  | 213 | 341 | 1826 | 5330 |  |  |
| Staff costs |  | 2235 | 2234 | 2325 | 2379 |  |  |
| Loan interest / Capital repayments |  | NIL | NIL | NIL | NIL |  |  |
| Total other payments |  | 2103 | 2796 | 5038 | 7866 |  |  |
| Balances brought forwards |  | 8708 | 10019 | 9982 | 10567 |  |  |
| Total cash and investments |  | 8708 | 10019 | 9982 | 10567 |  |  |
| Total fixed assets and long term assets |  | 2921 | 2921 | 2921   | 2921 |  |  |
| Total borrowings |  | NIL | NIL | NIL | Nil |  |  |

**Outlook**

**Over the next twelve months ,  we are likely to see significant activity relating to two developments which have the potential to have a significant impact on the village. The first of these is the development of Oversley Castle where there has already been a presentation to the village on the proposed plans. Although the castle itself is not in Wixford , the proposed access will be into the centre of Wixford via Church Lane. We have had a number of very constructive discussions with the developer on this issue and good progress has been made but some problems remain .**

**The second development relates to the Three Horseshoes and its caravan park. We have already had preliminary meetings with the purchaser but this is at a very early stage . Our objective is to ensure that any developments do not detract from the character of the village**

**Communication with Parishioners**

It is very important that the Parish Council communicates well with the Parish.  Over the last year the Parish Council has done this in the following ways:

Public participation in meetings

Regularly updated information on the notice board and Website, including agendas for meetings:  The website is the most up to date communication from the parish council and community forums and police newsletters are added as soon as the information becomes available, as are planning decisions.

Newsletters published at least four times a year.  Shirley Talboys does an excellent job as Editor and the professional looking publication promotes many local activities and news stories.  Input is sought from residents prior to publication.

The Clerk’s postal address, e mail address and telephone number are publicised on the noticeboard and on newsletters, as are the Councillor’s.

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Your Council and Clerk are here to help.  Do not hesitate to contact us.

Signed: ***Jack Fryer*** Chairman – Wixford Parish Council