# CHAIRMAN’S REPORT 2013

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 2013 to March 2014.

Membership

Your Councillors are Cllrs Angela Ballard, Jack Fryer, Colin Hales, Jon Haworth and Dean Morris
Jack Fryer and Dean Morris were appointed as rotating Chairmen in May 2013 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 , Maurice Howse and Daren Pemberton and by County Councillor Mike Brain 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 continues to be a priority issue for your council. 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 with the support of the County Council. We have secured funding for this program and we hope to have effective measures in place in the next few months.
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 installed.

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., notably the proposed Oversley Castle development and more recently we have given input on the proposals for the Three Horseshoes Caravan site .

The Council received a grant of ï¿½ 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. A significant effort has taken place to ensure that this parish Plan represents the views of all village residents and as such it will become a critical document in deciding future developments in the village .
The plan will be completed by the middle of the year and copies will be available for all residents

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 2013 at ï¿½ 7000. (A slight increase to enable gateway signage)

The budget has been set for 2014 – 2015

The Council reviewed its Financial Regulations, Risk Assessment and Fixed Asset Register at the January 2014 meeting.

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.

Your Council and Clerk are here to help. Do not hesitate to contact us.
Signed: Dean Morris and Jack Fryer Chairman – Wixford Parish Council

7th April, 2014