

WILLOUGHBY PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT 2015/2016

Your Council has pleasure in presenting its report for the year 2015/2016. The Council held 9 meetings during the year and it is from the minutes of these meetings that this report has been compiled.

The Parish Council meetings were well attended by the Councillors with County Councillor H Roberts attending 2 meetings and Rugby Borough Councillor E Crane 3 meetings.

ROADS/VERGES/FOOTPATHS & STREET LIGHTING

Railings Barberry Cottage – The railings opposite Barberry Cottage have been repaired.

Lengthsmen Scheme – The Council is to continue with the Lengthsmens Scheme for 2016 which will be funded by Warwickshire County Council.

Drainage Plan – Astonishingly no plan existed with Warwickshire County Council of the drainage locations with the Village Boundaries. Councillors Thomas and Ray pain-stakingly undertook to locate and map 91 drains around the Village and they have been identified on the Village Map. Warwickshire County Council have hence been able to clean and flush all the drains identified.

White Lines - The poor state of the white lines in the Village and on the Main Road has been brought to the attention of Warwickshire County Council and these will be repainted when funds become available.

Skip Lorries – The Contractor of the Skip Lorries which continually used the Village as a short cut was monitored and usage reduced.

Winter Gritting – The Council once again raised with Warwickshire County Council the gritting of Woolscott Lane which was not included in the Winter Gritting schedule even though it is a bus route.

Traffic Calming by the Pond – following the death of a domestic cat (run over by a car by the Pond) the Council raised with Warwickshire County Council Traffic Calming measures. It is thought that this will be unlikely due to an estimated cost of £25,000 to Warwickshire County Council.

Hedge Main Street – Rugby Borough Council has been requested to follow up requests to the Tenant of a property in Main Street to cut back a hedge which is growing over the footpath. Parish Council requests to the Tenant failed to resolve the problem.

Pot Holes – Main Street –A number of pot holes in Main Street were brought to the attention of Warwickshire County Council Location Officer for action along with ruts along a stretch of Woolscott Lane.

A45 Hedge – The hedge along A45 fronting Haywards Lodge has been cut back.

Grass Cutting – W. S. Gardens have been appointed again to carry out the grass cutting of the Playing Field and Verges in the Village. The verge cutting is part funded by Rugby Borough Council.

7.5 Tonne Signs – The 7.5 Tonne restriction signs are now in place in the Village and lobbying continues to have them erected in Longdown Lane which would inform HGV Drivers that Longdown Lane is not suitable for them.

The Police are not prepared to support this proposal based on a traffic survey on the number of HGV's using the road.

White House Triangle – The Highways Department made temporary repairs to the pot-holes around the triangle and complete resurfacing at a later date is awaited.

Footpath R244 The length of this footpath from its point at Pye Court to the A45 across Big Field had the crop killed and the footpath re-established after it had been ploughed over.

Flooding A45 (old Railway Bridge) – The flooding of the drains under the old Railway Bridge was cleared on several occasions during the year.

Speeding A45 – Councillor Roberts contacted Warwickshire County Council for them to install speed cables across the A45 at Willoughby road junctions to enable a true assessment of vehicle speeds along this stretch to be determined.

Fox Covert – Rugby Borough Councillor E Crane asked to raise with Highways need to level off the corner opposite Fox Covert.

Border Signs – The Warwickshire Border sign (Nichol's Farm) on Longdown Lane is missing and needs replacing.

PLANNING

Planning permission granted for:

R15/0180 – 1 Magdalen Road – erection of a side and rear extension.

R15/1779 – Ivy House Farm – erection of a part storey side part two storey side including provision of a first floor balcony. The Parish Council requested several alterations to this application and these were reflected in the conditions laid out.

R15/ Land North of London Road (Bird of Prey Centre) – erection of a Bedroom timber Cabin – permission granted with the Parish Council comments addressed.

R15/1700 - The Bake House – Conversion of out buildings into residential area – no objections from Parish Council

R15/1492 – Playing Field North of Village Hall – change of use of agricultural land to provide an extension to the existing Village Playing Field.

R15/1484 – Bath Farm – demolition of existing conservatory and erection of new classic style orangery.

R16/0070 Forrabury Main Street – erection of single storey front and rear extensions and installation of new windows to front elevation.

R15/2499 – 2 Tattle Bank Cottages – demolition of existing garage and erection of replacement double garage.

R16/0386 – 8 Magdalen Road – Two storey side extension

R15/0181 – Sundown – retention of a metal container

R15/0578 Stonewell – erection of a Garage

Proposed Development:

R16/0164 The White House – erection of a two storey side and single storey rear extension with entrance canopy; Parish Council has raised no objections.

Planning Permission refused

R14/12311 – erection of two semi-detached dwellings and associated works at 3 Tattle Bank Cottage. The Parish Council had raised objections to the development.

PLAYING FIELD & OPEN SPACES

Playing Field – A grant of £10,000 (Rugby Development Fund) and a discretionary grant of £2000 (WEF) have been awarded for the drainage etc work in the Playing Field extension to enable its use as part of the Playing Field.

The Parish Council has accepted a Quotation from Modern Plant to carry out the drainage work which is expected to commence in early Spring. Access for the Contractors equipment to the site has been granted by Mrs Braisford.

Quotations are being sought for the clearing of the ditch and hedge re-establishment on the Vicarage side of the extension.

The ditch alongside the inside of the Playing Field extension (Rose Inn side) has been flayed and Councillor Hallam has completed the outstanding work recommended by the ROSPA report last September.

The Land Registry has acknowledged receipt of the Parish Council application to register the original Playing Field land, the extension is already registered.

A fence prop supporting the Playing Field fence has been removed and the fence made good by the Rose Inn landlord.

An ecological survey by Acorn Ecology Ltd was carried out to enable a protected species method statement for great crested newts, reptiles and nesting birds as required prior to any work being undertaken in the extension.

The Willoughby Educational Foundation has made a generous grant of £1000 towards the maintenance and upkeep of the Playing Field equipment.

The Village Hall Management Committee has been advised that the land required for the Village Hall Car Park will be leased at a peppercorn rent to them for 100 years once they have obtained Planning permission for the development, to this end an official copy (WK473681) of the Village Hall and Playing Field has been forwarded to them.

OTHER MATTERS

Parish Notice Board – Parish Council has requested Mr Vessey to construct a new Notice Board made from Accoya material to replace the existing Notice Board on the Bus Shelter.

Laptop – A new laptop for the Council's use has been installed with training given – the e-mail address is now willoughbyclerk@gmail.com.

Website – the Parish Council website is now up and running and the Parish Council has requested ideas and suggestions from villagers to add to the website www.willoughbyparishcouncil.org

Phone Box – The Parish Council has purchased the existing Phone Box outside the "Rose Inn" and the BT phone has been removed.

Church Bells – The Parish Council had received a number of complaints regarding the playing of the Church Bells for several hours on a Saturday evening, complaints being the length of playing and noise on a hot summer evening. The complaints were forwarded to the Parochial Church Council.

Japanese Knot Weed – A small amount of Japanese Knot Weed has been identified in the Village and the landowner has arranged for it to be sprayed with herbicide over the next 12 months with the first treatment commencing last November.

Neighbourhood Watch – Councillor Settle has continued to keep all members of the team aware of correspondence and recommendations from the PCSO (PCSO 6149 Helena Seal). Concerns can be raised with Councillor Settle on 01788 890724 or e-mail. The Council is considering Possosium marking for the Village similar to the scheme as carried out in Birdingbury.

Precept --The Parish Precept for 2015-2016 was set at £13,000 and will remain at this figure for 2016-2017.

Clean up for the Queen – The clean up for the Queen weekend was arranged in March but regrettably only several volunteers attended. Thanks to Councillors Thomas and Belgrove for their efforts.

Defibrillator – The Defibrillator is now in place on the outside wall of the Village Hall and has been connected up to the electricity supply (thanks to Mr B Ogle). Twelve volunteers have now come forward and been trained on the use of the Defibrillator and two people have agreed to be trained as first responders. Thanks to

Councillor Thomas for organising the provision of the Defibrillator its cabinet and the training of volunteers – a very important piece of equipment for the Village.

WALC – Local Councils Explained – a copy of this publication has been obtained for use by the Parish Council.

Village Pond – The tree works required at the Village Pond and Shrubbery footpath were carried out by Arbolution Tree Services although this Contractor had to be recalled to clear a dead branch left in the middle of the Pond.

Councillor Thomas continues to clean out the grill at the pond overflow to prevent flooding. Several villagers became alarmed at the low level of water in the Pond during the summer, but the levels have now returned to normal.

Street Lights – E.ON advised that the electricity price for street lighting was to be increased by 50.48% - despite enquiries the Parish Council was unable to source an alternative supplier who would provide power for street lighting. The Parish Council has also been unable to have Western Power clean up the area leading to the sub-station in Magdalen Road.

Haywards Lodge – Parish Council has asked Rugby Borough Council to declare Hayward's Lodge a Nature Reserve. Cummins have carried out voluntary work in Haywards Lodge cutting back vegetation and re-establishing some walkways.

Village Design Statement – The Parish Council has incorporated into the final draft the suggestions made by Rugby Borough Council. RBC has now accepted in principle this final draft.

Flood Action Plan/Emergency Plan – The final proofs have been accepted by the Parish Councillors.

The Parish Council is to obtain quotations for the printing of the final drafts of:

- The Village Design Statement
- Emergency Plan
- Flood Action Plan

The Parish Council acknowledges the excellent work that Councillor Settle has undertaken in the preparation of the documents.

Christmas Over 60's Meal

The Christmas Meal was held again in the "Rose Inn" and enjoyed by all those who attended. Thanks are recorded again to the Willoughby Charity for funding this event.

D E Neville
11:04:2016