

West Ashton Parish Council

Chairman's Annual Report May 2017/2018

The Parish Council was returned on 15th May 2018

The members are as follows:

Chairman	Richard Covington
Vice Chairman	Simon Alford
Councillors	Margaret Workman Helen Barrow Steve Molloy Horace Prickett (Wiltshire Council Southwick Division)
Clerk	Nicola Duke
Resignations	None

Prospective Councillor

There is one parish councillor vacancy.

The Parish

At the time of writing there are 285 properties and 547 Electors in the West Ashton Parish. The Precept 2017/2018 was £6,500.

Activities

The Council's activities cover a variety of issues that arise but in the main are about keeping a watchful eye in the Parish. This includes engaging with other organisations to provide and improve services in the Parish. Typically these are:

- Neighbourhood Plan
- Highway maintenance on the roads in and around the village
- The Parish Steward
- Community Speed Watch (CSW).
- West Ashton Magazine
- West Ashton Website
- Meetings:
 - Parish Council Liaison Group – WAPC has taken responsibility for these meetings but unfortunately the schedule has slipped but it is proposed to reinstate after the May 2017 local elections.

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- Neighbourhood Policing Team – Welcome to Mellissa Glover who has taken over from Ellie Porter. Ellie has been accepted by Wiltshire Constabulary to become a WPC.
- Area Board
- Community Area Transport Group (CATG)
- Planning Committees - Western Area
- Other includes
 - Wind Farm – This at least for the time being is no longer an issue and the group wound up.
 - Fracking and the potential harm it could cause in the area now the latest environmental concern
 - White Horse Alliance (WHA) still meets regularly to discuss development issues

Matters of Interest

1. Neighbourhood Plan

The Group is chaired by Richard Covington and supported by Carol Hackett. The parish council have contracted the services of David King to assist in the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan (NP). The draft scoping report has been completed; the Housing Needs Survey and NP are both in their final draft state.

Members of the group are: Richard Covington, Carol Hackett, Margaret Workman, Horace Pricket and Ron Pybus.

West Ashton Neighbourhood Plan Progress Update - Thank you very much to everyone who responded to the recent Site Selection Questionnaire. All the responses have now been collated and a report prepared by our Planning Consultant. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has also considered the earlier community consultation results and the Scoping Report research (now to be found at) before creating draft plan documents. The next stage in the process, is for all the draft Plan documents to be sent to Wiltshire Council for environmental screening for SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment) and HRA (Habitat Regulations Assessment). This will take approximately 8 weeks.

After Screening, we will absorb any comments made, finalise the draft documents for the community to consider and then carry out the formal public consultation (the 'Regulation 14' Consultation). This 6 week consultation will provide local residents and other people/organisations with an interest in the village their first chance to review all the draft Neighbourhood Plan documents based on the earlier research and consultation, and provide a way to make any comments. At this point, a suggested strategy will be clear, but also the evidence and arguments to support it. The documents will then be amended again to reflect the community's views and suggestions. More information will be provided about this stage of the process in good time. We will continue to advise the community as Screening progresses.

Information on the Neighbourhood Plan is posted on the West Ashton website: <http://www.westashton.org.uk/np.html> and includes the site survey and plans so far.

2. Traffic Calming

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The traffic calming measures have been installed does not seem to have achieved the desired effect along Bratton Road with the village boundary. The middle part of Bratton Road is still subject to a minority of motorists that do not abide by the statutory limit of 30mph. Clearly the initial solution will need to be looked at again with a view to improving its effectiveness. These could be further traffic calming measure or / and reducing the speed to 20mph. A 20mph limit would be more achievable once the A350 is rerouted as part of the Ashton Parks development.

3. Parish Boundary Issue.

Rumours abound that Trowbridge Town Council are still intent in subsuming the new Ashton Park development into Trowbridge. However the overall effect has somewhat changed now that the issue of protected Bat species has meant the business parked destined for North Bradley will now be in West Ashton and the corresponding equivalent area of housing development moved to North Bradley.

4. Traveller Site on the A350

This site has continued to be difficult with appeals and further planning applications. It would seem that this is a typical process of bit by bit expansion, which one might conclude is contrary to the initial permission granted for a single gypsy family out of concern for their blighted situation.

5. Community Speed Watch

Community Speed Watch (CSW) continues, the device now primarily used by West Ashton. There are now four members if the team. Margaret Workman is the lead and coordinator ably helped by Carol Hackett, Jo Walton and Richard Covington. The Speed Indicator Device (SID) was installed by Simon Alford but unfortunately it does not work and attempts to get it fixed proved difficult to achieve.

6. Recreation Area

The recreation area is in good shape and has a range fo play equipment and appears to be widely used.

7. Miscellaneous Planning Applications

There have been a variety of planning applications for extensions to property in the parish, and whilst the Parish Council doesn't have to make the final decision, it does raise issues and concerns and submits responses to Wiltshire Council.

8. Festivals

There are fewer applications for festivals / music events in 2017 as indicated by the number of licences for 'Temporary Event Notices' granted by Wiltshire Council. The Once Upon a Time in the West event is again scheduled for this year. Tickets will be available from Margaret Workman and are intended to give discounted ticket prices to village residents.

9. Highways

This is what was reported in the annual report last year: *The planned re-routing of the A350 has been held up because of wildlife but is believed to have been resolved. Therefore the proposed works may be started this year (2017).*

I think it prudent to refrain from any prediction in this annual report (2018).

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10. West Ashton Magazine (WAM)

The West Ashton Magazine was edited by Leya Walker along with a new 'revitalised' format and presentation of articles. The team has kept the magazine going for the past twelve years and continues to be supported by Jo Watkins and Paul Workman with the help of Janet Sweetman and Tim Le Mare who prepares the copy for printing. Geoff Watkins has continued to secure the sponsorship necessary to keep the magazine free.

From the June 2018 issue of the magazine Jo Watkins has agreed to pick up the reigns again with Tim Le Mare continuing to prepare the magazine for publication. Thanks you to Leya all who have contributed to the magazine, affectionately known as "WAM". A particular thank you should go to those who deliver WAM: Carol Hackett, Sylvia Preston, Jean Covington, Geoff Watkins, Andrew and Lucy.

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Finances for 2017/2018 (see last page 5 more detail)

<u>Income in 2017/2018</u>	£8,408
<u>Expenditure in 2017/2018</u>	£19,016
<u>Reserves</u>	
Held in reserve for the Recreation Area (including £50k investment)	£45,000
The Village Magazine	£710
Contribution to electronic speed indicators	£1,000

Thank you

I wish to thank all Councillors and Villagers who have helped me in my role as Chairman in 2017/18. In particular I would like to thank:

- Parish Clerk - Nicola Duke who has provided invaluable support and guidance in the formal matters of the Parish Council.
- Margaret Workman for continuing to organise Community Speed Watch and deal with planning matters along with contribution about school issues and processes. Whilst not part of the parish council responsibilities a particular thank you for organising 'Friday Coffee Mornings' in the village, which has been a great success in both meeting villagers and its financial contribution to the village hall funds.
- Tim Le Mare for continuing to publish WAM and support the website.
- Horace Prickett, WAPC and Wiltshire Councillor for helping with the issues confronting the council and calling in, when necessary to the Western Planning Committee a number of the more planning applications. As Community Action Transport Group (CATG) chairmen supporting grant applications.
- I would also like to thank all in the parish that by their hard work and dedication provide the essential support and help to ensure West Ashton is a safe and interesting parish in which to live.
- Geoff Watkins for continuing to secure sponsorship to keep the magazine free.
- Simon Alford for taking on and identifying tasks for the Parish Steward, the scheme that has been reinstated by Wiltshire Council having contracted with Ringway for Highway services. Latterly the installation of the Welcome to West Ashton flower box and for planting the flowers. Thank you Simon Jo Alford
- Thank you to Melissa Glover (PCSO) for taking on the role in West Ashton.

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Finance in more Detail

Year to 31 March 2018	
Receipts	
11 Village Magazine	£ 512.00
12 Recreation Area	£ 0.00
13 General Interest Income	£ 1.55
14 Other Income	£ 421.13
15 Precept	£ 6500.00
16 VAT refund	£ 973.25
17 Grants	£ 0.00
Total Income	£ 8,407.93
Payments	
1 Clerk's Salary	£ 1,913.52
2 Admin Expenses	£ 306.60
3 Audit	£ 50.00
4 Hire of Hall	£ 0.00
5 Insurance	£ 450.82
6 Recreation Area	£ 1,278.23
7 Training	£ -
8 S137 grants / donations	£ -
9 Subscriptions	£ 252.35
10 Neighbourhood Planning	£ 4,890.86
11 Other expenditure – traffic calming	£ 8,000
12 Village Magazine	£ 1,874.00
13 Web site	£ -
Total Expenditure	£ 19,016.38

West Ashton Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report May 2017/2018

The new Parish Council was returned 'uncontested' on the 4th May 2017

The members are as follows:

Councillors	Richard Covington Margaret Workman Helen Barrow Simon Alford Horace Prickett Steve Molloy
Clerk	Nicola Duke

**Richard Covington
Chairman
May, 2018**