

Parish Council Chairman's report for the Annual Parish Meeting,

Wix, 17th June 2019.

Throughout the four years of the previous Council's tenure our main aim throughout has been to "make a difference". By this I mean to make a positive difference to the village, its appearance, its infrastructure and of course to the lives of those who live and or work here. The present, newly formed council comprises five councilors, Emma our clerk and we have two spare seats. We hope to carry on having a positive impact on the village infrastructure and therefore the lives of the people who live here in Wix.

What follows is a summary of our work this year, the success of what we have achieved will ultimately be judged by the residents and one of the prime purposes of this Annual Parish Meeting is for you to let us know: what we have got right and wrong, what requires further work and what you would like us to do over the next four years until we are once again up for re-election. In considering your feedback, please be aware that on some issues there can be different views within the community. Our responsibility as a Parish Council is to try to do our best for the village as a whole, which sometimes means we cannot please all the residents all of the time. What I can assure you is that we, your Parish Council will endeavor to work hard on your behalf and without recompense, other than the satisfaction of giving something back to the community and seeing improvements in the quality of life in our Village.

Just before giving the update of where we are now and what we want to do in the future, there is one thing I would like you to do for us. Three years ago the Parish Council received £28,000 from the Green Farm solar project and we asked residents for suggestions about how this money could be spent for the good of the community and we are still open to suggestions, so please have a think about how you would like to see the money spent; we welcome suggestions from any residents who have ideas that will benefit our community. We cannot guarantee we will spend it on what you suggest, but when we do spend it we would like to think that we have considered all the options.

- **The playing field and grass cutting**

For the past two years the care and maintenance of the village field has been contracted out. On the whole, feedback from the villagers has been very positive with many comments such as “I have never seen the area looking so smart” being received. We always welcome feedback from users, so please let us know how you think the field is looking and whether there is anything you would like changed.

The work that started several years ago to remove the last of the willow trees between the 50 foot strip and the main field is still continuing; they are proving harder to get rid of than we anticipated, but we hope to finish that work this year so the area can be levelled, re-seeded and replanted with specimen trees spaced so that we can mow the grass between them.

There is still some tidying up to do where the MUGA mound in the north east corner of the field was removed two years ago; talks are ongoing with the contractors to finally resolve this issue and reseed the area properly.

- **The village pond**

Earlier this year the Parish Council resolved to coordinate a working group of volunteers to tidy up the village pond. There is work ongoing in the background to try to secure funding to help with this project as amongst other things, there are some very large trees growing in the pond and through the overhead electricity supply wires which will require professional removal.

Although some volunteers have already come forward, we are still looking for more volunteers to help with the more mundane tasks such as cutting back the smaller trees, bushes and brambles. Let’s make Wix village pond something to be proud, rather than ashamed of.

- **Fireworks display working group**

The Parish Council hosted their tenth annual fireworks display on Saturday 3rd November 2018 which amazingly means that the Village has now hosted an annual public display for 20 years! Once again the turnout was excellent meaning that we made a significant profit for re-investment in village projects. We purchased our fireworks from the Sheffield supplier once again and the quality and reliability of the fireworks was again much better than in previous years; over the three years 2016, 2017 and 2018 we haven’t had a single dud or misfire.

- **LED streetlight upgrade**

Over the last three and a half years, we have progressed with the programme of upgrading our 32 parish owned street lights, from sodium to LED. So far 20 have been upgraded and an additional 12 will be replaced over the next two years by when they have all been changed.

- **Community Speed Watch**

Wix Parish Council have continued to fully support the Community Speed Watch program being run by David Blackiston and his team of volunteers.

- **Allotments**

We still have a number of plots available at our allotments on Colchester Road. We are still looking for allotment holders to join with parish councillors in a committee to help run the site. Our Clerk Emma and her husband Paul are booked onto a course in a few weeks' time to help manage the allotments more efficiently.

- **Village Map**

This year we would like to resurrect the project to produce a map of the village with the names of all the properties shown on the map. We have discussed the idea of having the map on a large board, perhaps by the village pond or fastened to the bus shelter outside the village hall to make it easier for visitors to the village to find different properties. All comments and offers of help will be most welcome.

- **Small Grants fund**

Wix Parish council has made provision for grants to be made available in support of Wix clubs, organisations and groups. We wish to fund Wix groups that support social cohesion and deliver community wellbeing benefits through a common interest, to the residents of Wix.

Further details and application forms are available from the website or the Parish Clerk.

- **Everything else!**

Finally I would like to thank our regular volunteers who come to help the Parish Council unfailingly every time we ask for their help. In particular I would like to thank:

The parish councillors themselves who give their time freely to help make Wix a better place to live.

Finally I would like to thank anyone and everyone else who helps us, your parish council in any way, large or small, with the work that we do for the village of Wix.

Guy Nelson. 17th June 2019.