



Winsham Parish Council

Annual Report 2016/2017

2016/2017 The Year in Review: Chairman's Report

As always, we take this time to reflect on the last twelve months as a Parish, but before we do that, I'd like to thank all of those that have volunteered your time across the multiple organisations and groups across the Parish. Without you, Winsham would not be the great place to live that it is. Thank you.

There are three initiatives I'd like to mention shortly, but for now, a list of achievements and works undertaken by the Parish Council in the past year include:

- The major cemetery renovation works were completed and I think it looks lovely up there now. We now have water up there for flowers and cleaning headstones. We will also have the telecoms monopole delivering better mobile reception and 4G to the local area soon.
- Overhaul of the look of the "assets" to the same colour brown, plus two benches added to the village – one by the phone box, the other at the bus stop opposite Davies Close.
- Addition of two benches into the village – one by the phone box (which is staying as a phone box owing to the number of objections) and one on the bus stop by the bus shelter opposite Davies Close.
- Long overdue replacement of the flagstones in the Church Street Lych Gate
- Support for the school by donating the monies from the Coronation Band
- Kick starting a review of the Parish Plan (you can view this here: [http://www.winshamparishcouncil.org.uk/Parish Action Plan 12548.aspx](http://www.winshamparishcouncil.org.uk/Parish_Action_Plan_12548.aspx))
- Superfast broadband
- And in the "Coming Soon" section, a possible return of the Youth café, and potential additions to the recreation grounds.

This is of course, in addition to all the 'business as usual' activities such as planning matters, finance, audits, looking after our assets. I encourage everyone here to make time to read the council agenda and subsequent minutes so you can get a flavour for the work that we do.

My question for you is this, how can we engage more? What will it take for younger people to be interested in their local government? How can we get people from Purtington or Leigh, for example, to get involved? We have the e-letter, various websites, the parish magazine, posters, word of mouth – but if you have any practical ideas, send them our way.

As you are all aware, there is the proposed development of 12 new homes on Westernway next to Balsom Close. Planning permission has been granted for the homes, plus, thanks to support from the community, the council were able to negotiate a 30+ space car park, and importantly also, a donation of the remaining land to us as green space. So what is happening with the land? Well, the honest answer is that we still know just as much as you do. We know it is "Under Offer" but the identity of the potential buyer is not known. As soon as we know what's going on, of course, we will communicate this on.

So onto the three new initiatives we are launching!

You will have seen the telecoms monopole is now with us in the Playing Fields. As a result of this, the Parish Council has received some money for the lease of the land. To this end, we have put up £5,000 for grants. Requests for donations can be submitted by any group or cause based within the boundaries of Winsham Parish, and can be for amounts from £50 upwards. The only upper limit would that be of available funds. Donations can only be made to properly constituted community organisations and charities. Requests for funding should be able to demonstrate clear need and benefit, value for money and sustainability, as and where appropriate. The application form is available, with the guidelines for applying, on the Parish Council website. Please go to:

http://www.winshamparishcouncil.org.uk/Community_Grants_10071.aspx

Now for an exciting and long overdue award process for the parish. There are many among us that have committed themselves to service in the community, whether it is organising events, serving on committees, and voluntary work. All of this unpaid, and at times, without words of thanks. Well no more! Every year, starting with the first award in May 2018, we will have a Community Service award. But, whilst the final decision lies with the Council, who gets this award is up to you. You can download the nomination form again from the council website. Please go to:

http://www.winshamparishcouncil.org.uk/Community_Service_Award_13634.aspx

Finally, we know that speeding is always of concern to residents so we are in the process of setting up a Community Speedwatch programme. For this, we need 10 to 12 volunteers to be trained in the equipment. The councillor co-ordinating this is Trevor Harris, who can be contacted using his details from the council website. Alternatively, if you are interested in finding out more, please drop your name and number to the clerk, and we'll forward it on. However, I must stress – if we don't get enough volunteers, we won't be able to run the scheme, so it's up to you and your neighbours who could not be with us tonight to make it happen.

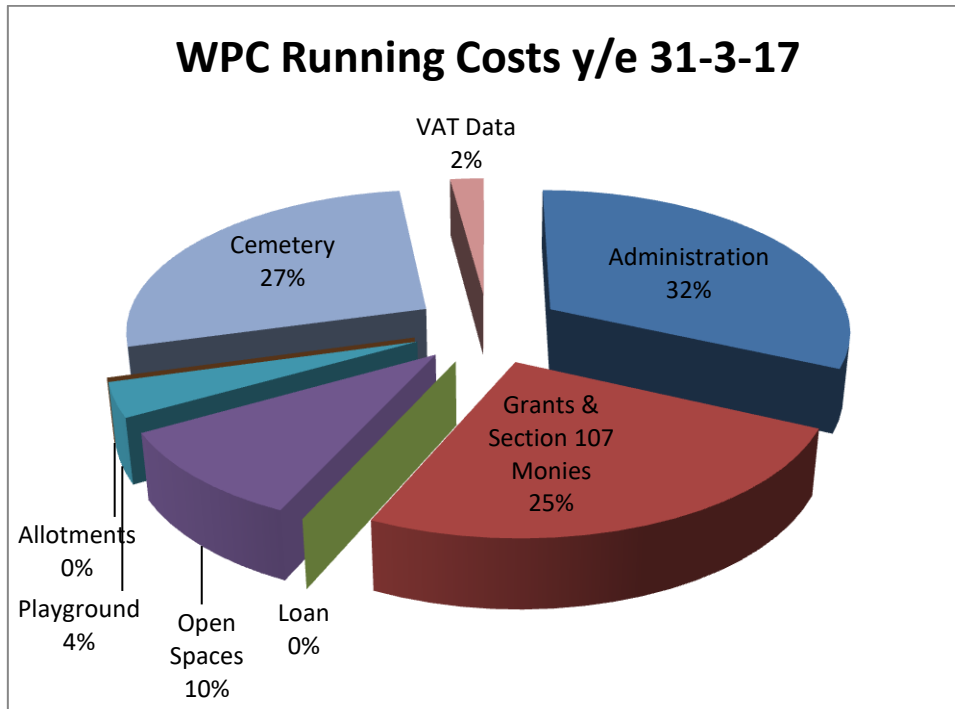
Clearly, much more has taken place in the community over the last year that I can cover in this report and you'll be able to get a flavour of this if you watch the presentation from the Annual Parish Meeting – which is on the Parish Council website. Do take a moment to catch up with what your neighbours have been up to!

Finally, do remember that all Parish Council meetings are open to the public – they are not a closed shop where deals are done in secret - so hopefully we'll see you at a meeting soon!

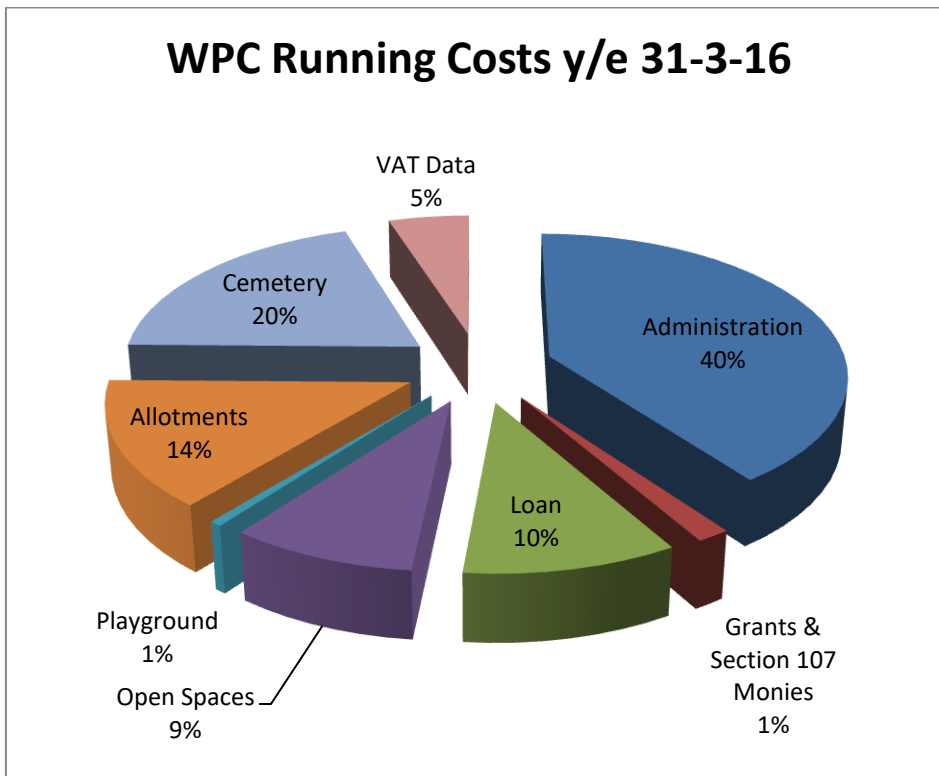
Regards,

Jason Stevens
Chairman, Winsham Parish Council

Financials for the year ended 31st March 2017



Financials for the year ended 31st March 2016



For further information on the Parish Council, including accounts, policy and strategy documents, for news and services - please visit the council website at <http://www.winshamparishcouncil.org.uk/> or contact the Clerk directly using the details below.