

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

UPDATE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Council Matters</i>	2
<i>Annual Report</i>	2
<i>Your Places</i>	3
<i>Help Yourselfs</i>	4
<i>Gateway Signs</i>	4
<i>Your Community</i>	4
<i>Communications</i>	4

Special points of interest:

- Play Facilities
- Traffic Calming — Update
- Our SID
- Gateways — Your Ideas Please

PARISH LOOKING GOOD

Congratulations and a big thank you to all who found money and used it to repair the tower and make the church look absolutely superb!

Not the parish council's work but the church looks so good that we couldn't resist using a picture Great work!

The Parish Council has committed money towards repairing the clock.



wrockwardine.org.uk

Martin Goldstraw
 Clerk to Wrockwardine Parish Council
 Regent Villa
 London Road
 St. Georges,
 Telford TF2 9LH
01952 458006
clerk@wrockwardine.org.uk

CHANGE — ALL CHANGE

Next year is election year for both the Borough and our parish council.

Want to get involved?

Think about it and keep abreast of how to become a member by watching the web site www.wrockwardine.org.uk

Our meetings are public so come along.

Our clerk is leaving us after 19 years of work.

The vacancy is currently advertised with applications now being received.

Our Mr. Goldstraw will be a very tough act to follow!

Thank you Martin!!

We have a new Chair. Steve Rawlings stood down after nine years hard work,

He's handed the reigns to Nadine Evans who held the Vice chair role.

Thank you Steve for your hard work.

Annual report for last year inside — slightly summarised.

COUNCIL MATTERS

CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the first newsletter produced by your Parish Council for some time. We are anxious not to waste your money so we don't go to print unless there is something to say. At this point in time, there is a lot to tell you and we would very much like your input on work taking place on your behalf.

First, I'll introduce myself. As a longstanding member of the Parish Council, I took on the Chair last month, from Steve, who held the role for the last nine years. I've lived in Allscott for more than thirty years, working outside of the parish, nationally and internationally for the vast majority of that time, with a short spell of six years lecturing at Harper Adams – which gave me my shortest ever journey to work.

I'm not new to the workings of Parish, Town and Borough Councils though, and for five years I represented the University college at the Newport Regeneration Partnership, three of those being spent as its Chair during which time we worked with the Borough and Town Councils towards spending the money allocated to the Borough's Market Towns Initiative – resulting in the High Street and Park structure now in place there.

For our parish, I've managed the Finance and General Purposes committee of the Council for some years and have had the privilege of influencing the expenditure of your money towards maintenance and improvements.

THE PARISH COUNCIL

About the Parish Council

We are a group of people from varying backgrounds, each member being committed to our community and the place we live in. We do what we can but, like everyone, we are constrained by time and the other roles we fulfil. It's not always understood that Parish Councillors are not paid for their work. I think it's important that our residents and neighbours understand the role of the Parish Council. Most of the issues people ask us to address are related to planning applications or traffic speed. In fact, we have very little power to deal with these although we are able to influence to a smaller or larger extent – depending on the issue.

Our powers are clearly listed in a document on our website and it would be good if you get chance to look at it.

<http://www.wrockwardine.org.uk/powers.pdf>.

When you visit the site, you'll find it is up to date and holds lots of useful information – including local road closures. It also holds our agendas and minutes – and financial information.

2017-2018 CHAIRS REPORT (SUMMARY)

The Parish Council has this year continued its aim of helping members of the community and continuing our many improvements to our Parish environment. We continue to deliver a carefully costed and considered Budget, as we balance the needs of managing increasing commitments whilst keeping the precept at an acceptable rate. A copy of the Council's Accounts is available on the Website.

Communication

We have not recently published the Parish Newsletter, but we hope to return to a more regular publication in the future. We will also explore the option of an "online" newsletter for the Parish Council into the future. Our Clerk continues to place all our Minutes on our website and also other documents relating to the working of the Council. There is also an excellent weblog which allows up to the minute information on local planning and other Parish Council matters. The Parish council website is at: <http://wrockwardine.org.uk> The weblog is at: <http://weblog.wrockwardine.org.uk>

Traffic

The Parish Council has a longstanding traffic working group to which all members are invited. We have recently been in further discussions with T&W BC Officers and the developers of the land at Allscott Heath and are hopeful that all the time put in by the group will pay solid dividends with a traffic calming scheme in Wrockwardine village, Allscott and Admaston, all of which will be affected by the development.

We recently purchased a Portable Speed Indicator Device (SID) to be used at strategic locations around the Parish to try and discourage speeding motorists by flashing a reminder of the speed limit! You will be seeing this in the very near future as soon as the exact locations are agreed.

Development at Haygate Field is now going ahead following the successful appeal in the High Court, against the Borough Council. We have opened a channel of communication with the Developer of this site, and we look forward to working with them, for the benefit of the soon to be, newest residents of the Parish.

Major junction works will be taking place near J7 of the M54 to alleviate some of the appalling congestion that takes place there daily, however, we have not been party to the proposals at this time.

Parking

The new car parking area in Wrockwardine on the playing field is now completed with matting installed last year by 2 residents of the village. We hope this measure will help everyone in the village by removing some of the poorly and dangerously parked cars that were often in evidence. It can be fairly said, that the Park has been a victim of its own success!



Street Lighting

The Parish Council is responsible for a large part of the inventory of street lights in the Parish (but not Highway lights) but over time a number of recent developments have slipped through the net and not been transferred to the Parish. Some have not even been transferred to the Borough Council and have remained in the ownership of the site developer, but over time, maintenance (if any) has slipped, and the lights cease to work. The Borough Council will usually not maintain these lights as they are not their property, but this is of little comfort to residents. We are now in discussions with the Borough Council as to whether we should take over these street lights (subject to proper checks and funding) for the benefit of the parish residents.

This topic also has relevance with the two, large scale, developments proposed in the Parish as well as several smaller ones. All these developments will have street lighting and the Parish Council, as a full lighting authority, can take these lights over on completion. The Council is content that it can offer a very cost-effective service in this area for the benefit of the whole community who contribute to the Precept.

Parish Environmental and Play

Many of you will have seen (and hopefully tried out!) the new outdoor Gym by now. This was put in by the Parish Council for all of the community and its location was very much aimed at the many, many, people who already use Admaston House and Admaston Green.



All the indications from the mud on the equipment and the wear on the surrounding area is that it is a huge success in a very short time.

In the coming weeks, and as soon as ground conditions allow, the Parish Council with match funding of £500 Ward Funding from Borough Councillor Jacqui Seymour, will install a new footbridge at the Southern end of the Community Orchard, replacing the now dilapidated sleeper bridge that has been there for many years.

Trees

We have had to call in a Tree Contractor over the past year, firstly to deal with the damaged Oak on the Play Park in Wrockwardine, and more recently to address the issue of the lowering branches and the damaged base of the tree on the car park adjacent to Admaston House. This tree has a Tree Preservation Order on it, so we will be working very closely with the Borough Council's tree officer to plan the works in the very near future.

Grants

The Council has again made a number Grants from its Budget to local bodies and organisations whose work or activities have a positive or supportive effect on members of our community. A substantial Grant was recently made to St Peter's Church clock restoration fund. The Council considers Grant requests twice a year and asks that requests for Grant Funding be made to the Clerk using the form available from him, or on the website.

Council Members

The Council has once again has a full complement of Councillors for 2017/18. This is excellent news as it allows the Parish Council to be seen as a truly democratic body, representing ALL residents of our widely spread Parish. I would also like to take the opportunity in my report to inform everyone that Mr Goldstraw will be stepping down from his role as Clerk later this year and his expertise, depth of local knowledge and humour will be hugely missed by all of us on the Council once he has left us and eased into retirement! The Parish Council will start the recruitment process shortly, with the aim of a transition over several weeks, to allow the new Clerk to get a good feel of OUR Community before going solo later this year...

Thanks

I want to again thank our Clerk, Martin for his invaluable work for the Council over the past year. His patience and advice are valued by us all, and especially by the Chairman.... :-) Steve Rawlings Chairman: Wrockwardine Parish Council. April 2018

YOUR PLACES

Play and Exercise Facilities in the Parish

We have the following play areas – which are either owned by your parish council or leased to them by the Borough. Admaston – Burnell Road, Walcot – Meadow Drive and Wrockwardine. These are all available for the use of your children and we look after them, with RoSPA qualified help. The outdoor gym in the grounds outside Admaston House is similarly managed.

If you or your children use these facilities please do so carefully – and if you see any problems with equipment, simply report it to our clerk and he will take immediate action towards resolution. Please do not use these facilities when weather conditions or the results of them, render the equipment obviously dangerous.



Public spaces

We manage grass cutting and maintenance in several areas but we are not responsible for verges so please, when you see problems with those, just report them on telford.gov.uk via 'My Telford'. Within those spaces we manage we have seen an increase in the number of discarded gas canisters. This is worrying. Apparently there has been a recent boom in the popularity of Nitrous Oxide (laughing gas)– mainly among young people. Please be aware of this and make sure you're happy with what your youngster is doing whist out and about. Misuse can be dangerous so the police have been made aware of the increase in our parish.

GATEWAY SIGNS

Wrockwardine Parish Council

Within our budget we put money aside for some Gateway signs. We believe they contribute both to speed reduction and to pride in the community. We have asked the Borough Council to help us design and site these but we need your help too.

As we all drive around we see statements and phrases such as 'Rich in Heritage' or 'A pleasant place to live'. We need to think of something to put on ours. The Chair's tongue in cheek suggestion of, 'Nothing happened here' having gone down like a lead balloon, we thought there might be someone out there who could better present us. Do you have an idea? We're not yet sure whether to have these individually for each village or just one for the parish so if you can think of one for where you live – as well as one for the parish in general, it would be great. Please send your ideas to our clerk.

All ideas will be posted on the website and your preferences will be encouraged.

Sign picture courtesy of glasdon.com



YOUR COMMUNITY

Grants

If you would like to improve something or make a difference within our parish, please consider making a grant application. An application form is available on the web site and we consider all types of funding as long as it makes a positive difference within, or to people who live in the Wrockwardine parish.

Your Community

There are always new people coming into our parish and people's circumstances change. It would be great to have a list and contact information of all the community groups within the parish.

If you manage or attend any regular interest groups please can we hear from you. We will publish this on our website and where appropriate, will also hold links to community group websites.

Your Stories

If you've something to say about something good in the parish, why not let us know? If it's relevant we'll publish it on the web site and let you know it's there.

Your Events

Wrockwardine's fete is coming up – and its been with us for so long that we all expect it to be at the beginning of July BUT what else is going on? Let's use the web site to make people aware and parish events better attended.

HELP YOURSELVES

Car Parking at Wrockwardine playing field.

Parking cars parallel with the road allows more vehicles to park—so please be considerate when parking.

Dog Fouling

Throughout the parish this remains a problem. Where allowed do let your dog run but be prepared to follow and pick up. Dog mess presents a real threat—and particularly to children. **Together with Litter – Simply BIN IT OR TAKE IT HOME. Thank you**

COMMUNICATIONS

Throughout, we have mentioned the web site. Is this the way you would like to be kept aware of the activities and aspirations of the parish council? Would you prefer hardcopy letters like this?

Please let us know. If we go for hardcopy we probably should introduce advertisements in order to pay for the printing and distribution. Would you mind/prefer this?

MEMBERS

wrockwardine.org.uk

Martin Goldstraw
Clerk to Wrockwardine Parish Council
Regent Villa
London Road
St. Georges
Telford
TF2 9LH
01952 458006 clerk@wrockwardine.org.uk

Admaston & Bratton Ward

Elaine M. Anderson	elaine.anderson@wrockwardine.org.uk
Elaine R. Ballantyne	elaine.ballantyne@wrockwardine.org.uk
Kenneth J. S. Ballantyne	ken.ballantyne@wrockwardine.org.uk
Terry Kiernan	terry.kiernan@wrockwardine.org.uk
Stephen C. Rawlings	steve.rawlings@wrockwardine.org.uk
Ian Farrington	ian.farrington@wrockwardine.org.uk
Paul Bevis	paul.bevis@wrockwardine.org.uk

Wrockwardine Ward

Nadine Evans	chair@wrockwardine.org.uk
Jo Savage	jo.savage@wrockwardine.org.uk
Sheila Turner	sheila.turner@wrockwardine.org.uk