

LOWER WINTERBORNE PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT – 2013/2014 TO VILLAGE MEETINGS

ESTABLISHMENT The Parish Council has throughout the year had an average of seven councillors out of a full complement of ten. Frances Langley resigned as our Parish Clerk at the end of December and I am pleased to welcome Lesley Wilcox as is her replacement.

MEETINGS Ten Parish Council meetings have been held during the year with seven at W Kingston and three at W Zelston. Average councillor attendance at these meetings was 67%. Total Parishioner attendance ranged from 4 to over 80 with an average 5.8 per meeting if you take out the 80+ who attended the Mapperton Solar Farm and Broad Close development meeting last September.

Additionally Parish Councillors have also attended a variety of other meetings including:

- Two Annual Village Meetings (W Kingston and W Zelston)
- Development Control Committee Meetings in Blandford
- Bus Transport withdrawal of services
- NDDC Workshop on Council Tax Budget
- Planning Seminars
- DT11 Forum Meetings in Blandford
- Dorset Association of Parish & Town Councils Meetings in Dorchester
- County Councillor Division Meetings
- Various courses for new councillors and clerks

FINANCE

- The audit report for the financial year ENDING 31 March 2013 was very satisfactory, with no adverse comments raised by the auditors.
- The accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2014 are now being prepared and will be available (on request) for viewing in May/June, prior to them being sent for audit.
- The precept was set for this financial year at £13995.00. Of this sum £6675 is raised from across the whole Parish. With an additional £6820 being raised from W Kingston to pay for general maintenance to playpark and recreation ground, grasscutting to playpark, cemetery, churchyard and verges, maintenance to reduce mole activity and fuel and servicing of tractor mower. W Kingston recreation ground is regularly cut by volunteers. £500 is for grasscutting of Parish owned land in W Zelston.

PLANNING MATTERS

The Parish Council has three weeks to respond to planning applications unless they are a major application. During the year the Parish Council has processed many planning applications including Tree Works. There were three major applications, Mapperton Solar Farm, Broad Close Development and Scats Site Development. In all of these applications the Parish Council on behalf of the residents made known to the planning department at NDDC the concerns and objections raised but both the Broad Close development and the Scats Site were approved by the District Council. The Solar Farm although approved by East Dorset District Council is now subject to a judicial review on technical grounds.

OTHER ITEMS

During the year the Parish Council has dealt with the following items that are just a few of the many that have been addressed:

- Recruitment of a new Parish Clerk
- Flooding safety and prevention
- The River Winterborne and its associated issues
- Maintenance and safety of playpark equipment
- Maintenance of other recreational area and the W Kingston Churchyard and Cemetery
- Speeding & dangerous driving in our villages
- Road maintenance – including potholes and blocked drains
- Homewatch
- Dog Fouling
- Bere Regis Mini FC
- W K Youth Club approx. 20 members
- Winterborne Nursery School – Outstanding Ofsted report

FINAL COMMENTS

From this very brief resume of the year's work, I hope you can appreciate the wide range of subjects that the Parish Council deals with on your behalf. You will appreciate that it is time consuming and I am very grateful to the support I have received from the Parish Councillors and the Parish Clerk. I would also like to thank our two District Councillors, Emma Parker and Jane Somper for attending as many of our meetings as their other commitments permit.