



*West Wycombe  
Parish Council*

## ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17

This publication is based upon the report given by  
Cllr. Mrs Vicki Smith, Chairman of the West Wycombe Parish Council  
at the Annual Parish Meeting on 28th April 2017.

Reports from The National Trust, West Wycombe Community Association,  
West Wycombe Events Team, West Wycombe Parochial Church Council,  
Thames Valley Police and Downley Dynamos Football Club  
can be found in the  
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on the website

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## Finances and the future

I feel that I have been saying it has been “a time of austerity for all councils” for some years now but it is still the case I’m afraid.

We decided to increase our precept for this coming year because we know Bucks County Council will soon not fund the money we receive from them for services/work they have devolved to us. Added to this is the possibility that the formation of the councils in Buckinghamshire will change and we may be expected to deliver more services.

Bucks County Council have applied to The Secretary of State to become a unitary authority which means they will be the only council for Buckinghamshire, there would be no district councils.

The district councils have not taken this well as you can imagine and have put in their own application to join together to become two unitary authorities, one at the south of the County and one in the north of the County, with no county council in Buckinghamshire.

The Secretary of State was expected to give his decision in March but this has not happened as I write and with the forthcoming General Government elections in June this could be put off for some time.

At present parish councils are not capped on how much they can charge their council taxpayers for the service they provide but County Councils and District Councils are capped by Central Government.

Most parish councils, like us, only have one member of staff, the parish clerk, who is usually employed part time, so it would be foolish for us to take on such responsibilities as social services, care of the elderly, children services, rubbish collections, highway repairs, to name just a few of the services the County Council and the District Councils provide at present.

Please use our website and follow us on Twitter to find out what’s happening in the Parish during the course of the year.

If you run a community group or a business you can be promoted in the directory pages of the website and if you’re holding an event send an email to [clerk@westwycombe.org.uk](mailto:clerk@westwycombe.org.uk) with the details and we’ll promote it on the website and it’ll appear in our Twitter feed



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## Parish Council Officials - 2017/2018

### Chairman:

Cllr. Mrs Vicki Smith, 2 High Street, West Wycombe, HP14 3AE  
Tel: 01494 532239

### Vice Chairman:

Cllr. Neil Harris, 49 High Street, West Wycombe, HP14 3AG  
Tel: 01494 524787

### Clerk:

Mrs Sharon L. Henson, 18 Portway Drive, West Wycombe, HP12 4AU  
Tel: 01494 448048

### Members:

Cllr. Roger Seymour, 78 Chorley Road, West Wycombe, HP14 3AR  
Tel: 01494 439081

Cllr. Neil Timberlake, 8 Portway Drive, West Wycombe, HP12 4AU  
Tel: 01494 459004

Cllr. Mrs Kate Cheshire, 34 Portway Drive, West Wycombe, HP12 4AT  
Tel: 07768 746150

Cllr. Simon Cope, 20 Rosemary Close, West Wycombe, HP12 4AG  
Tel: 07890 898256

Cllr. Paul Brown, 52 Chorley Road, West Wycombe, HP14 3AR  
Tel: 07949 078209

### District Councillors:

Cllr. Mrs Jean Teesdale, 43 Green Lane, Radnage, Bucks HP14 6DJ  
Tel: 01494 483298

Cllr. Ian McEnnis, 49 London Road, High Wycombe, HP11 1BN  
Tel: 01494 462834

### County Councillor:

Cllr. Darren Hayday, 17 Woodlands Close, High Wycombe, HP12 4HB  
Tel: 01494 462611

## Parish Maintenance and Highways

### Towerage Lane

We had the gripps (gullies) in Towerage Lane dug out again this year because heavy rain breaks up that road very quickly and floods the cricket meadow and the junction with the A40 if the water has nowhere to go. Bucks County Council has recently repaired the potholes in this road.

### Rosemary Close

We were asked to look at the trees in Rosemary Close as they were beginning to show real signs of wear and tear. We asked Complete Tree Services to assess the situation and work on the trees took place on March 10th 2017 at a cost of just over £1500. Hopefully the trees will now stay healthy and last for many years to come.

### Bradenham Road, Chapel Lane & West Wycombe Road

We have attended HS2 meetings again this past year and have an assurance that the A40 from the M40 Stokenchurch to the Pedestal roundabout and back will not be used for construction traffic unless there are extenuating circumstances and we have asked for police help to manage the traffic if this does occur.

Unfortunately we haven't managed to get the same assurance for the A4010.

### Throughout the Parish

We continue to report non-working street lights, water leaks, blocked gullies, flooding, trees down and inconsiderate parking as part of our every day work plus anything that has a detrimental effect on our residents.

You can help by making your own reports to Transport For Bucks. You can make reports online and then track progress or you can telephone TFB on their new number:

01296 382416

### Planning

We have deliberated on many applications this year, some are straightforward, some are more complicated but one took a lot more time than any we've seen in a number of years; have a look at the planning page on our website for application number 17/05580/FUL - over 300 pages!

## Parish Maintenance and Highways

### Chorley Road

After being given a petition organised by a Chorley Road resident requesting traffic calming measures to reduce the speed of vehicles travelling along Chorley Road we and our Bucks County Councillor Darren Hayday, presented it to the BCC Local Area Forum Committee meeting in February because there was a hope that there could be some money in their small budget in 2018/19 to put towards a scheme. We have been told that almost any traffic calming measure could cost at least £20,000. The Parish Council would have to pay half, plus we would have to pay for a public consultation which would cost over £5000. The Parish Council is not in a position to fund this type of scheme. We have been proactive and have purchased a Speed Indicator Device, a Mobile Vehicle Activated Device to be precise, at a cost of nearly £4000 for Chorley Road. It runs on batteries, records data and can be moved to other roads in our parish. Our District Councillors have put £500 towards the cost of the MVAD. And we have asked residents to help run this device. Training took place on April 21st.

### Copperfields

We are in the process of trying to sort out the broken bollards on the West Wycombe Road near Copperfields. The bollards were broken down around Christmas time but trying to get information from BCC Highways or the police is proving difficult. We paid for the bollards to be installed initially and hope to put in an insurance claim to replace them as each one costs around £150 plus the cost of installation.

### Pedestal Playing Field

We have been asked by two people to ban dogs on the Pedestal Playing Field because of dogs fouling that area. We have put two dog poo bins at the entrances to the field and our noticeboards ask owners to keep their dogs on leads. One of our Councillors (and his wife) undertake a weekly inspection and litter pick of the playing field and confirm that dog faeces is no longer a major issue.

We have always wanted people to be able to bring their dogs as part of their family activities there and haven't had any complaints from the football club who use the field so it was decided to put the decision on hold and regularly review the situation.

The waste bin that was recently destroyed by fire has now been replaced.

## Parish Maintenance and Highways

As you know we have taken on grass cutting on the verges, sign cleaning and weed killing within the 30mph speed limit roads in our parish.

We are always being asked why we cannot get the speed limits lowered or enforce weight restrictions or traffic calming on the roads in the parish but these are Central Government National speed and road limits and Highway laws are difficult to change.

We are all aware that the traffic and the size of the lorries, tractors, coaches and buses have increased through our parish over the last few years. Bucks County Council are working on a freight strategy for Buckinghamshire so we wait to see what that brings forth.

### High Street

The A40 through West Wycombe is the route designated by the police and The Highways Agency for when the M40 is closed and therefore cannot have any form of traffic calming. Keeping vehicles parked one side of the High Street is the one way we try to stop vehicles speeding through this 18th century village.

Anyone who lives on the High Street will tell you that when there are very few cars parked on the High Street, drivers take no notice of the speed limit and often race each other through the village.

We are aware of the potential danger of accidents to people and buildings. There is not an easy solution but West Wycombe roads are always on our agenda.

We have to remember that the village was built when a horse and cart was the mode of transport and most of the homes and businesses now have at least two vehicles which have to be parked somewhere. We have no extra parking places to offer people. We do not own any land.

### Pedestal Sheep Field

We have just ordered a new kissing gate for the Pedestal Livestock Field because the current one is in very poor condition and there was a possibility of sheep and dogs getting out of the field, onto the road and maybe causing an accident. You do all have your dogs insured against third party claims don't you?

## Meetings

In addition to our own monthly meetings, which anyone can attend and be welcome, we also attended meetings of Bucks CC Local Area Forum, The Wycombe District Association of Local Councils; planning training sessions with them and WDC and we attend meetings of Wycombe District Council's Rural Forum. Over 70% of land in the Wycombe District area is farmland.

We have a good working relationship with our local area Neighbourhood police team and attend police led meetings (Neighbourhood Action Group) involving parish councils around us to share information that helps us all.

### A Personal message from the Chairman

My thanks to Cllr Jean Teesdale and Cllr Ian McInnis our Wycombe District Councillors and Darren Hayday our Buckinghamshire County Councillor for their continuing support of this council.

We would like to thank Mike Henson for managing our website and Twitter Account. It is very interesting website, not just parish council news, so please do look at it to find interesting articles on wider issues too.

Mrs Sharon Henson, our Parish Clerk, is the person to contact to if you have anything you would like the Parish Council to consider or comment on. Sharon is our Financial Officer and she does all our office work. She provides the necessary information and financial statements for our monthly meetings so that we can move forward quickly with decisions and plans for the future. Her knowledge of our area and council law is second to none. She writes a monthly newsletter for us in the parish magazine where you can pick up our details. We appreciate all Sharon does for us and she is a very valuable member of our team.

Finally, I would like to say a "big thank you" to your/our West Wycombe Parish Councillors.

They are unpaid and have worked hard for you again this past year. They make parish council meetings interesting and enjoyable with their ideas and varied views.

We are in constantly changing and challenging times and we are often frustrated by the time it takes to get things done but get things done, we do! Almost all of our Parish Councillors are on other West Wycombe organisations giving up a great deal of their valuable time voluntarily to keep West Wycombe a safe, vibrant, welcoming place that residents want to live in and others want to visit.



## Parish Council Accounts

Year Ending 31st March 2017

OPERATING INCOME	31/3/2016	31/3/2017
Administration	£39749.68	£42332.62
Allotments	£360.00	£340.00
Pedestal Playing Field	£300.00	£300.00
Burial Ground	£465.00	£483.00
Highway	£4172.59	£2033.58
VAT Data	£3997.79	£2828.73
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>£49045.06</b>	<b>£48317.93</b>

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS SUMMARY		
Opening Balance	£9584.32	£13942.75
add Total Receipts	£49045.06	£48317.93
Total	£58629.38	£62260.68
less Total Payments	£44686.63	£38107.05
Closing Balance	£13942.75	£24153.63
RESERVE BALANCES		
Current Year Fund	£4358.43	£10210.88
General Reserves	£9584.32	£13942.75
Total	£13942.75	£24153.63

Keep up to date with what's happening in West Wycombe

Our website is more than just the Parish Council

[www.westwycombe.org.uk](http://www.westwycombe.org.uk)

and you can also follow us on Twitter

 @WestWycombePC

## Parish Council Accounts

Year Ending 31st March 2017

RUNNING COSTS	31/3/2016	31/3/2017
Administration	£18332.37	£15053.17
Allotments	£1175.36	£1403.33
Pedestal Playing Field	£7059.84	£3423.60
Burial Ground	£3665.68	£3992.58
Highway	£7218.34	£6172.80
Street Lighting	£4407.25	£4573.03
Reserves	£0.00	£1006.56
VAT Data	£2827.79	£2481.98
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>£44686.63</b>	<b>£38107.05</b>
CUMULATIVE FUNDS		
Barclays Community Account	£11313.90	£21523.79
Barclays Business Saver Account	£2628.85	£2629.84
Total	£13942.75	£24153.63

### Financial Statement

We have spent the last twelve months trying to reduce our costs and have successfully re-negotiated our telephone and lighting energy bills.

We have also taken the decision to cease our contract with the street lighting maintenance contractors; they appeared to be getting money for nothing and could not answer our questions about their activities. As they always invoice for street lighting repairs, after we have reported faults, we could not see a need to pay for a maintenance agreement that was costing around £3000 per annum.

Our salary bill is lower this year as we have not had the extra work involved in the HS2 negotiations. All of this is helping us to build up reserves for replacement street lighting, replacement play equipment and the extra work we expect will come our way with all the budgets being cut by central government.

We finish the year with £24,153 in the bank as our reserve. The accounts can be viewed on our website at [westwycombe.org.uk](http://westwycombe.org.uk)

## TVP - Neighbourhood Policing Team

### Summer Burglary Crime Prevention Advice

The team is reminding residents to be vigilant with regard to their home security as the weather gets warmer. Most burglars are opportunistic and a property that presents itself as insecure is far more likely to be targeted than one which is properly secured.

As the weather improves it is important that you do not leave ground floor windows or doors open and unlocked unless you are in the room - it only takes a second for someone to enter your home and take things without you noticing.

Please take a moment to have a look at our top tips for keeping your property secure over the summer.

Always close and lock your windows and doors when leaving your property - even a small open window could entice a burglar

If you are in the rear garden make sure the windows and doors at the front of your property are secure

Do not leave valuables on display through windows

Any car or house keys should be out of sight and some distance from a window or door

Ensure that any side entrance is secure, locked and not easy to climb over, even when you are at home

If you want to leave windows open while you sleep, fit window restrictors so that they cannot be fully opened

Consider installing a visible security light or alarm to deter criminals

If you are going on holiday make arrangements to make sure your house appears occupied whilst you are away. Put your lights on a timer and ask a neighbour to come and pick up your mail and draw your curtains. Could a neighbour park on your drive? Don't advertise the fact that you are on holiday on social media.

Do not leave garden tools out in your garden for an offender to use to gain access to your property or a neighbour's.

## West Wycombe Events Team

The West Wycombe Events Team which includes Councillors Kate Cheshire, Neil Harris, Roger Seymour and Vicki Smith produced an amazing Summer Fayre attended by over 4000 people last year but 2016 also featured the Lighting of the Beacon to celebrate Her Majesty's 90th Birthday, a Summer Quiz in the marquee, an Autumn Quiz in the Village Hall and the Festive Fayre brought thousands of extra visitors into the village to support our local traders at Christmas. It was a bit damp for the New Year's Day Walk but everyone who ventured out was rewarded with tea and cakes.

2017 started with the St George's Day Quiz in the Village Hall, next on the calendar will be The Beacon On The Hill on June 9th and then our Summer Fayre Weekend starts with a quiz in the marquee on Friday July 7th with the Fayre itself on Saturday 8th July.

**\*\*\* Don't miss \*\*\***

**2017**

***West Wycombe Summer Fayre***

**in the grounds of West Wycombe Park**

**on**

**Saturday 8th July**

Further details at [facebook.com/WestWycombeVillageEvents](https://facebook.com/WestWycombeVillageEvents)