

## **Introducing Wing Parish Council –= December 2020**

Hello from Wing Parish Council!! This is the first of what we intend to be regular updates on our meetings and activities, which we hope parishioners will find informative. To kick off, we wanted to introduce the Council and its responsibilities.

Wing Parish Council (WPC) has 7 elected members assisted by a hard-working Parish Clerk. It's one of more than 10,000 Parish and Town Councils in England, Wales and Scotland. The role of the Parish Council is limited compared to that of Rutland County Council (RCC) which provides the majority of services in the village and across Rutland. WPC is however directly responsible for providing allotments, for the upkeep of public bus shelters, play areas and seats, and for the maintenance of grass and trees in communal areas, especially the playing fields. We consider planning applications but only to report recommendations and comments back to RCC which takes all decisions. We also make representations on other matters that are not under our direct control, such as the maintenance of highways, footpaths and other local services, and businesses such as the water treatment works. We operate a budget of approx. £10,000 p.a., most of the income coming from the Parish Precept that is a component of overall Council Tax.

WPC also acts as Trustee for Wing Community Centre, the Charity that owns the Village Hall (though operational responsibility is delegated to a Management Committee, chaired by Richard Tulloch). The Council also delegates specific tasks to working groups such as those responsible for drafting our Neighbourhood Plan (chaired by Nicky Lyttelton) or providing support during the Covid-19 pandemic (chaired by Susannah Fish).

Meetings of WPC are held usually on the last Wednesday of alternate months (May, July, September, November, January, March), normally in the Village Hall but currently by video-link. Notices of meetings, Agendas and Minutes are posted on the Parish noticeboard and the Parish Council website. Our business is not always exciting but we do our very best to serve the community!

Members of the public have a statutory right to attend Parish Council meetings as observers, and the interest of parishioners is warmly welcomed. At all its regular meetings, WPC schedules time for public participation ("democratic 10 minutes"), usually at the start of the meeting, when parishioners are invited to speak - any matter of concern can be raised, regardless of whether the issue is on the meeting agenda. An Annual Parish Meeting is held in May, when representatives of community organisations are encouraged to submit verbal or written reports. Parishioners are of course welcome to contact the Clerk or any Councillor about any matter at any time.

### **Current members of the Council are:**

Kenneth Siddle, Chair (6 Church Street - [ks14@cam.ac.uk](mailto:ks14@cam.ac.uk))

Jon Roberts, Vice-chair (3A Top Street - [theoldpubcottage@gmail.com](mailto:theoldpubcottage@gmail.com))

Susannah Fish (City Yard House, Top Street - [Susannah@starfish-consulting.co.uk](mailto:Susannah@starfish-consulting.co.uk))

Helen Cullen

Judith Oakley

Richard Tulloch

One vacancy (election pending in May 2021)

Helen Duckering, Clerk ([wingclerk@gmail.com](mailto:wingclerk@gmail.com))

### **Useful Websites:**

There is more information, including copies of Council policies and official papers, together with Agendas and Minutes of all meetings, on the Council Website:

<https://www.wingrutland-pc.gov.uk/>

And for general information about the role of Parish Councils see:

<https://www.localgov.co.uk/What-are-parish-councils/35176>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parish\\_councils\\_in\\_England](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parish_councils_in_England)

By the time you're reading this, I hope you'll have seen the wonderful Christmas lights in the centre of the village, in the large tree that has grown from what was once a Christmas Tree in the old Cuckoo pub. The lights have been paid for by Councillors and other residents, and we hope they will provide some much needed cheer at the end of a difficult year. Thanks to everyone who helped set up this spectacle, and especially to Jon Roberts for braving the cherry-picker and Tony Marshall for supplying the electricity.

Next month we'll have more to say about some of the issues the Council is currently dealing with, so watch this space.....

In the meantime, from all your Councillors, best wishes for a Merry Christmas in Wing!

**Did you know?**

**- that there are around 130 households in the Parish of Wing, with 260 registered electors and a total population of around 320.**