

## **NEWS From Wolston Parish Council February 2017**

Parish Councils were originally created as the result of an Act of Parliament enacted in 1894. The administrative base for our council is the Parish Office, located in the Baptist Church run by our Clerk Mrs. Maria Meede. When asked "what does a Parish Council do with the money it receives from the Council Tax ?" the answer is that it puts it to work on behalf of the local community.

So what do we actually do as a Parish Council? We comment on planning applications affecting the parish; we also comment on consultation documents such as the Local Minerals Plan, Rugby Borough Council's Local Plan, etc. Four members of Wolston Parish Council, working with three members from Brandon and Bretford Parish Council have overall responsibility for running the cemetery in Dyer's Lane assisted by the Clerk, Mrs. Juliet Carter. We run a thriving Youth Project catering for young people from the village on two evenings a week; we are "custodial trustee" of the Village Hall; registered owner of the Dyer's Lane Recreation Ground; custodial trustee of the Leisure and Community Centre and have recently taken over sponsoring the luncheon club for Seniors; rent the Allotments site from the Wilcox Trust; provide footpath lighting in a variety of locations; provide dog waste bins for use by the many responsible dog owners; maintain litter bins; maintain two children's play areas and the skate park; undertake "environmental improvement" in the village, using the services of our Lengthsman Handyman; employ external contractors for grass cutting and brook clearance; and ensure that other "agencies" including the Borough Council, the County Council, and Police are aware of problems affecting the village.

In addition Parish Councillors play an important role in the affairs of the village. As well as attendance at the monthly meetings - lasting about three hours - councillors need to be flexible about the number of hours a week they can give to deal with council business. This usually involves reading correspondence, reports, and copies of emails, and attending or running discussion meetings, or attending site visits. Councillors also have to decide spending priorities and where to allocate the money raised through the Parish Council precept. Our hard-working Councillors are not employed by the Parish Council but volunteers, willingly giving their time and expertise. They not only give loyal service and support to our community, but can be relied upon, at all times, to treat matters confidentially.

A newsletter has been prepared for issue to every property in the parish. In it you will read that we intend to continue improving the play facilities for young and old alike in Dyer's Lane Recreation Ground where everybody has the chance to keep fit and have a good time. We also intend to improve the parking facilities within the compound in an effort to reduce the nuisance that can be caused by indiscriminate parking affecting Lammas Court and other residents on Dyer's Lane and we are looking to undertake major improvements to the Pavilion, which really does need to be updated, so that better use can be made of the facilities. We rely on residents who see problems in the village taking the time to report issues either to the Clerk, the Chairman or to individual Councillors.

Although members of the public are always very welcome at Parish Council meetings, you don't have to wait to come along and raise issues in person. You can leave a message on the Clerk's answering machine (024 7654 5515), report issues on the village website or directly with the Clerk or Chairman by email. If you would like further information please don't hesitate to get in touch.

**Tim Harvey-Smith**  
**Chairman**  
**Wolston Parish Council**