

**STALMINE WITH STAYNALL PARISH
COUNCIL**

ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17

Chairman's Report

I am pleased to provide this report for the year 2016/17, having being elected chairman of the Parish Council for the 2016/17 Civic Year at the May Annual Meeting of Stalmine with Staynall Parish Council.

Planning

During the year the Parish Council dealt with 41 planning applications, supporting 29 of them and opposing 12. Concerns were expressed by councillors that planning applications continue to be approved in rural villages without the necessary infrastructure to support those developments being in place and concerns were also expressed that further development would exacerbate existing problems in relation to flood risk and waste water disposal. Another major concern was that the increase in development in rural Wyre would increase traffic volumes on the A588 which already has one of the highest accident rates in the county. The Parish Council has contacted the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership and asked that our section of the A588 might be included in their average speed camera programme. They have responded that if they are able to expand the programme, that they will consider our request.

Budget

The Parish Council relies on the precept, which is set each January, as their main source of income, as a result of the Borough Council's decision, once again, not to pass on the local council tax support funding provided by the government. We do try to supplement the precept by submitting grant applications to national and local funding sources where possible.

Projects for 2017/2018

In addition to adding to the earmarked reserve for the provision of a new bus shelter, councillors resolved that they would also budget for a new gate into the parish wood on Hallgate Lane to commemorate the end of World War I. The current wood gate is only being kept together at present by the attentions of our very able Lengthsman. The new gate will be of wrought iron incorporating heavy glass poppies designed and donated by Daedalian Glass. Our thanks go to Davia Walmsley for this kind offer. We hope this will be a fitting tribute to those who gave so much in the service of our country.

Representing the Parish Council

I would like to thank Councillor Ken Jenkinson for his support as vice chairman. Ken is vital to the Parish Council's Christmas Tree Switch-On Ceremony as he and my husband erect the tree and install the lights. Ken also lays the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council at the Remembrance Day Service. I would like to thank Cllr Debra Forshaw, our new councillor, for the offer of plants for the two new planters at Staynall. I hope the people who smashed the original planters (which had been donated by a former councillor) feel ashamed of themselves. I continue to send reports to the Wyre Flood Forum and our newest Councillor Terry Williams recently had some success in getting the Environment Agency to clean out a dyke that was causing problems. I would like to welcome Debra Forshaw and Terry Williams to the Council and I'm sure that I speak for my fellow councillors when thanking Davia Walmsley (retiring councillor) for her service on the council. My thanks go to all my fellow parish councillors for their commitment to the parish and giving their time so freely.

Older Children's Play Facilities

Last year, I announced that the Parish Council was looking into the feasibility of extending the play area to provide additional equipment more suitable for older children. We have since consulted with children's groups in the village regarding the type of equipment they would prefer. The Council

considered 4 designs based on the ideas put forward in the survey and have opted for the design by Playdale at a cost of £68,602. The Council has raised the matched funding of 20% required in order to be eligible for a grant from the Walney Community Fund.

Grants

The Council successfully applied for and received the following grants:

RV,E and H Moon Charitable Trust £1,000

LCC Parish Champion £300

Big Lottery Fund Awards for All £9,800

Duchy of Lancaster Benevolent Fund £500

Transparency Fund for the purchase of a new lap top and new printer scanner £470

Pedestrian Crossing

The Parish Council has continued to press for this much needed crossing. At the invitation of the Parish Council, Ben Wallace MP came in September to see for himself the difficulties experienced by residents crossing the A588. We were joined by our local Beaver Group who did a very good job in explaining why we need a pedestrian crossing.

Stalmine Gala

Councillors agreed to a request by the Stalmine Gala Committee to use the playing field and car park once again for the event. The Parish Council has also awarded a grant of £100 to the Gala. We wish them every success in keeping alive this village tradition.

Staff

On behalf of the council, I would like to thank our Clerk, Jan Finch for all her hard work during the past year. I would also like to thank our two Lengthsmen, Les Needham and Brian Hutchinson who contribute so much to keeping the area neat and tidy.

Contacting the Parish Council

There are a number of ways in which you can contact the Parish Council. There is a dedicated mobile phone number 07880 657761 and an email address stalminepc@gmail.com . The Clerk will endeavour to respond to phone calls and emails within 48 hours. You can also contact any Parish Councillor and their contact details are below as well as being on the website www.stalmineparishcouncil.org .

Councillor June Jackson
Chairman

Finance

The Parish Council is responsible for proper accounting records, safeguarding the assets and taking steps to prevent fraud and other irregularities. There are accounting policies and procedures in place to mitigate exposure to major risk, which are reviewed annually. The Councillors believe they make reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates. The accounts are a matter of public information and can be viewed at any time.

Receipts and Payments Account for Stalmine with Staynall Parish Council

Receipts	2016/2017		Payments
Balances brought forward (including reserves)	£11153		
Precept	£21010	£13551	Staff Costs
Bank Interest	£24	£1035	Office Costs
VAT Refund	£488	£2749	Community Expenditure
Grants	£11665	£726	Parish Maintenance
PROW	£250	£340	Accommodation
Miscellaneous	£310	£1048	Governance
	44900	19449	

Balance carried forward as at 31st March 2017 - £25,451. The Parish Council accounts are due to be audited in June, 2017.

The Parish Precept

The Parish Precept is the amount of money which the Parish Council receives from Wyre Council to pay for the services it provides. This amount is raised by Wyre Council as that part of your Council Tax relating directly to the Parish Council area. In other words, Wyre Council collects this on our behalf. The way we calculate the precept is as follows:

Each year, just before Christmas, the Parish Council produces an estimate of its likely **expenditure** for the forthcoming year (eg Staff costs, parish maintenance, community projects). This will also include an amount to cover the costs of any urgent projects that may be required in the area.

We also estimate our likely **income** for the same period (eg VAT refund, bank interest). The difference between these two figures forms the basis of our precept calculation, which we submit to Wyre Council. In 2016/2017 our Precept was £21,010.

Jan Finch

Responsible Financial Officer

Your Councillors

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