**Wing Parish Council**

**Minutes of the Wing Annual Parish Meeting**

**held on Wednesday 29th May 7.30pm Wing Community Centre**

APM/01: Attendance: Cllr. Siddle, Cllr. Oakley, Cllr. Fish, Cllr. Reilly, C. Cllr. Clifton. 1 member of the public. Parish Clerk.

APM/02: Apologies – Cllr. Chandler, C. Cllr. Johnson, Cllr. Adams.

APM/03: To approve the minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 9th May 2023 – these were approved.

APM/04: Parish Council Chairman’s Report:

Following the elections for a new Council a year ago, it was disappointing that only 4 positions were filled, but pleasing that within a few months the 3 vacancies had been filled by co-option, since when the Council has been at full strength.

The last year has been notable for the completion, and adoption by RCC, of the Wing Neighbourhood Plan. Thanks, and congratulations are due to Nicky Lyttelton and all the members of the NP Steering Group for giving so much of their time and expertise (especially David Seviour, John Dejardin and Joanne Beaver as working group leads), and also to Gary Kirk and colleagues at Your Locale for their expert professional advice.

On other fronts, there has been some frustration at the pace of progress, and our inability to resolve issues of concern in a timely manner (though not for want of trying). The condition of the verges in Middle Street is the prime example, where we continue to press RCC for an affordable and mutually acceptable solution.

It was unfortunately necessary to raise the annual Parish precept by approx. 14% to cover anticipated expenditure on tree works and other items over the coming year.

The Council is grateful to Wendy Dalton, Ceri Williams and Ian Cairns for agreeing to coordinate the Wing Allotment Group and doing so very successfully.

Among matters that were outstanding at this time last year, the commemoration of the Platinum Jubilee of the late Queen Elizabeth and Coronation of King Charles still awaits action.

In its capacity as Trustee of the Wing Community Centre charity, the Council as usual oversaw the work of the Village Hall Management Committee, which has made great strides in reinstating the Hall at the centre of community life. Special thanks are due to Sally Cox, David Wood and Paul Comben in their key roles of Chair, Treasurer and Secretary, and to all who have joined the Committee and participated in the organisation and delivery of events.

My sincere thanks go to all my fellow councillors for their commitment and diligence throughout the year, and especially to Helen Duckering for her unfailing support and professionalism as Clerk. Thanks also to our new Ward Councillors, Andrew Johnson and Giles Clifton, for their interest and support.

Kenneth Siddle (Chairman, Wing PC)

APM/05: Reports from Wing community organisations:

**Wing Community Centre Committee (‘Wing Village Hall’)**

The past year has been positive in terms of bookings and also composition and management of the committee.  There has been a fresh input of new volunteers on the committee which has improved the compliance and provided variety of ideas for fundraising and events.

The hall is a great resource for the village, and hirers regularly comment that it is one of the nicest halls around.

This positive situation is in large measure due to the efforts of the committee who generously volunteer time and expertise to keep the hall running and we are always keen to hear from new village volunteers.

There are many individuals to thank and to list them all here would be time consuming but as chair I would like to thank you all, whether on the committee or helping behind the scenes.

Sally Cox (Chair of the Management Committee)

**Wing Women’s Institute**

Wing WI is now in its 98th year of meeting on the same premises which is now Wing Village Hall. In 2026 Wing WI will be celebrating a milestone - what is that? It is our Centenary! How will it be celebrated – watch this space!

The membership for 2023/2024 is 21, and new members are very welcome.

A wide variety of interesting speakers has meant some enjoyable meetings. Jeanette Warner from Rutland4Rutland was our most recent and she left the members very aware of the valuable work it does in Rutland. The next meeting is a presentation about Thomas Cook, followed by a visit to Oakham Fire Station. The Leicester Belly Dancer is making a return visit, with Marc Oxley from Uppingham completing our year with a talk about Christies.

The Francis Barnett Motorcycle Club has booked for a 3rd visit, August 4th and has requested that the WI will again provide a buffet for them – we obviously haven’t lost our ‘touch’.

The meetings are very relaxed, there is absolutely no need for baking or preserving abilities!

Judith Oakley

**Wing Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**

The referendum for the Wing Neighbourhood Plan (NP) was held on February 29th 2024. There was a 46% turnout and 82% were in favour of the plan which was formally adopted by RCC on the 18th March.

The task for the Parish Council is to use the plan when assessing applications made to RCC. These are mainly planning applications and David Saviour has put together a guide for the PC about how it should be applied. Many thanks to David.

Please, also do not forget that there is a raft of evidence in the environmental section of the Plan that should determine how Wing conserves and enhances the environment in the future as well as evidence on businesses and infrastructure.

We very much hope that all the PC members will find the plan helpful in carrying out their commitments.

The Neighbourhood plan is normally approved for 5 years after which it needs to be reviewed and renewed.

Once again many thanks to the team who have made this all possible.

Nicky Lyttelton (Chair of the NP steering group)

**Wing Allotment Group**

The Wing Allotment Group (WAG) is organised by Ian Cairns, Wendy Dalton and Ceri Williams and its aim is to encourage people to benefit from growing fruit, veg and flowers.

Last year all 33 plots were let, and 18 of the 29 plot holders were residents of Wing.   We had 4 people on the waiting list, there is currently only one remaining, who is not resident in Wing.  Our aim is to let to Wing residents first before offering to the wider community.

In October we sent out our first newsletter which was well received.  In this we congratulated the plot holders on a successful growing season and reminded them of the WAG Guidelines.

We reported some gate issues to the Parish Council who have promised to do the necessary repairs.

The majority of plot holders maintained their allotments well however we do have a few repeat offenders who do not visit or work their allotments.  In order to address this, we have doubled the cost of the annual subscription and have set in place a review system.

Wendy Dalton

**Village Communications Database**

There are currently 134 members of the database, including 3 members who have moved away from Wing but maintain a connection with the village. 30 households receive hand delivered copies of communications. 72 messages were circulated in the last year, and all appear well received.

Susannah Fish

**Wing Draws Wing**

The group continues to meet weekly in the Village Hall, from October through to May and is hugely enjoyed by all participants. Attendance ranges from 8 to 16 per week, spanning an age range from 16 to 86! A successful exhibition of portrait work was held in the Village Hall, where drawings continue to be displayed. Work is to be entered in a competition organised by Rural Connect.

Wendy Dalton

**Defibrillator**

The Parish Council continues to pay an annual subscription to the Community Heartbeat Trust for provision and maintenance of a defibrillator, that is housed in the old telephone kiosk on Top Street close to the Kings Arms Pub.

The equipment and instructions for its use are secured in a cabinet that can be opened using a key code. The key code can be obtained by dialling 999 and giving the location.

A list of local volunteers who have received emergency training is now badly out of date and a call for new volunteers to attend a training session will be issued shortly.

Ken Siddle

**Wing Craft Club**

This is an open club and welcomes anyone who is looking for company and a chat on Wednesday mornings 10 am to 12 noon, in the Village Hall. A small fee is charged that is paid to the village hall. You don’t have to do a craft but you can always learn! It is a very relaxed atmosphere and good for your mental health!

Judith Oakley

APM/06: Questions from members of the public: none.

APM/07: The meeting closed at 8pm

Helen Duckering

Parish Clerk

29th May 2024