

**STALMINE WITH STAYNALL PARISH
COUNCIL**

ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

Chairman's Report

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I am pleased to provide this report for the year 2015/16, having being elected chairman of the Parish Council for the 2015/16 Civic Year at the May Annual Meeting of Stalmine with Staynall Parish Council.

Planning

During the year the Parish Council dealt with 25 planning applications, supporting 16 of them and opposing 9. 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. Increased traffic on single track rural lanes, due to developments, was also a cause for concern.

Budget

The Parish Council now have to rely on the precept, which is set each January, as their main source of income, as a result of the Borough Council's decision 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.

Representing the Parish Council

Councillor Ken Jenkinson represents the Parish Council at the Wyre Area Committee of the Lancashire Association of Local Councils which meets quarterly to discuss issues of concern to parish and town councils. I would also like to thank Ken for his support as vice chairman. Ken also is vital to the Parish Council's Christmas Tree Switch On Ceremony. He and my husband erect the tree and install the lights - not the easiest of jobs in last winter's weather conditions. I think that they did a remarkable job ensuring that the tree survived the gales. I attend the quarterly meetings of the Wyre Flood Forum. The Flood Forum brings together the agencies responsible for flood prevention. I am also the Parish Council's Planning Ambassador who is called on from time to time by Wyre Council to help shape planning policy. I would like to welcome Sue Pelham to the council and I am sure I speak for my fellow councillors when thanking Sue Carrington and Ailsa Wallace (retiring councillors) for their 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.

Play area

I am delighted to announce that the children's playground has been re-furbished. Wyre Council appointed a contractor to carry out the £18,000 upgrade which included replacing all the current poor rubber tile surfacing, replacing the free standing play panel and the existing swing and see-saw with new equipment. The Parish Council are looking into the feasibility of extending the play area to provide additional equipment more suitable for older children. We are now consulting with children's groups in the village regarding the type of equipment they would prefer.

Grants

The Parish Council has been awarded a grant of £150 by LCC's Parish Champion towards upgrading the Parish Council website. This is in line with our community engagement strategy. The website is now four years old and, whilst it works well on laptops and desktop computers, it does not always display well on newer tablets and smartphones. The upgrade to the website will enable residents to have a better experience when using the website.

Transparency Code

The government has introduced a new transparency code which will apply to parish councils with a turnover of £ 25,000 or less. The Parish Council applied to the Transparency Fund and received a grant of £564 to ease the financial effects of complying with the new code.

Flood Resilience

The Parish Council made a successful application to the Shaping Your Neighbourhood Fund for a grant for a container in which to store flood resilience equipment. The Parish Council was given to understand that this could be placed on derelict land at the Village Hall but the area where the container was to be sited is now required by the Village Hall for additional parking space. Despite an extensive search by LCC's Emergency Planning Team, no suitable location can be found to site a container within the parish or within a mile radius. This could have a detrimental effect on local properties in the event of flooding. We regret that we had to decline the offer of the grant funding and are now making enquiries as to whether neighbouring Flood Groups have any available space to accommodate our equipment.

Pedestrian Crossing

The Parish Council has continued to press for this much needed crossing. At the Council's request Ben Wallis MP contacted the Head of Highways at LCC, who responded that LCC was still in the process of carrying out traffic assessments and investigations to determine whether a zebra crossing should be put forward in the centre of the village. LCC subsequently contacted Ben advising that officers cannot support the request, stating that the location does have a good accident rate and it would be difficult to justify any significant improvement scheme here. The Parish Council has invited Ben to see for himself the difficulties residents are experiencing crossing this busy road. This will be an opportunity for residents to express their concerns in person.

LCC Proposed Cuts

The Parish Council was concerned by the cuts proposed by the County Council, including withdrawing funding from the Knott End to Fleetwood Ferry, the closure of Knott End library and the withdrawal of bus subsidies. The Parish Council responded to the consultation pointing out the serious impact that these cuts would have on rural residents, their effect on rural isolation and residents' health and well-being.

Stalmine Gala

Councillors agreed to a request by the Stalmine Gala Committee to use the playing field and car park for the event. The Parish Council has also awarded a grant of £100 to the gala.

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 lengthsman, Les Needham and Brian Hutchinson, who contribute so much to keeping the area neat and tidy.

Contacting the Parish Council

You can contact the Parish Council in the following ways. 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	2015/2016		Payments
Balances brought forward (including reserves)	£7731		
Precept	£18509	£13104	Staff Costs
Bank Interest	£24	£658	Office Costs
VAT Refund	£1243	£2300	Community Expenditure
Grants	£1014	£506	Parish Maintenance
PROW	£300	£220	Accommodation
Miscellaneous	£12	£892	Governance
	28833	17680	

Balance carried forward as at 31st March 2016 - £11,153. The Parish Council accounts are due to be audited in June, 2016.

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 2015/2016 our Precept was £18,509.

Jan Finch

Responsible Financial Officer

Your Councillors

Cllr Ken Jenkinson, Pump House, Moss Side Lane

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