

**STALMINE WITH STAYNALL PARISH
COUNCIL**

ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

Chairman's Report

I am pleased to provide this report for the year 2017/18, having being elected chairman of the Parish Council for the 2017/18 Civic Year at the May Annual Meeting of Stalmine with Staynall Parish Council.

Overview

It's been a busy year and a challenging one, particularly after losing June, who was our village history expert as well as a valued and very experienced council colleague. The council has worked very hard on a number of topics; the first was to build a good working relationship with Wyre Planning, as we believe it's a subject close to all residents' hearts as we witness our semi-rural location changing before our very eyes. The team of councillors have studied the planning process to ensure we understand fully and thus assess planning applications logically and within the process guidance. During the year the Parish Council dealt with 40 planning applications, supporting 26 of them and opposing 14.

In February the head of planning at Wyre Council addressed a meeting for our residents. Whilst it may not have served to allay our fears, it did give a very good insight in to how Wyre Borough Council is governed by the planning process.

We have welcomed two new members to the parish council and with that comes new ideas for the PC to embrace.

In September the council saw the retirement of its clerk of five years – Jan Finch - and welcomed a new clerk – Alison May.

We have also worked on a number of projects, paid for by successful grant applications.

Budget

The Parish Council relies on the precept, which is set each January, as its 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 2018/2019

Added to the earmarked reserve for the provision of a new bus shelter,
Added to reserves for gate - insufficient funds for metal gate but will put up a quality wooden gate with appropriate carving.

Funds for additional litter bin on playing field (£250)

Funds for flower bed once licence agreed by LCC (£250)

Funds towards a map noticeboard (£200)

Representing the Parish Council

LALC Wyre Area Committee (2) – currently Cllrs Forshaw and Pelham

Wyre Flood Forum (2) – currently Cllrs Forshaw and Pelham

Planning Ambassador (1) – Cllr Forshaw

SSRA (1) – Cllr Haydock

Older children's play facilities

Play facilities now completed, additional landscaping and fencing over the summer months. Not awarded Walney grant funding for the whole site, therefore £34,324 spent on the equipment in place.

Grants received

Lancashire Environmental Fund - £21,124 towards play facilities
Parish champion £350 towards signage and guided walk
PROW £250

Grants made

North West Air Ambulance £100
3rd party contribution to receive LEF monies £2324

Pedestrian crossing

The Parish Council has continued to press for this much needed crossing.

Staff

Clerk, Alison May; two Lengthsmen, Les Needham and Brian Hutchinson.

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.

Any local issue causing concern to residents

No issues have been raised by the public for inclusion on the agenda.

Councillor Debra Forshaw
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	2017/2018		Payments
Balances brought forward (inc. reserves)	£25451		
Precept	£23406	£14078	Staff Costs
Bank Interest	£20	£1362	Office Costs
VAT Refund	£772	£41660	Community Expenditure
Grants	£6005	£769	Parish Maintenance
PROW	£250	£200	Accommodation
Miscellaneous	£69	£1451	Governance
Short term loan	£16000	£2441	Grants
	£71973	£61961	

Balance carried forward as at 31st March 2018 - £10,012. The Parish Council accounts are to be audited in June, 2018.

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 2017/2018 our precept was £23,406.

Alison May
Responsible Financial Officer

Your Councillors**Chairman**

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