

**STALMINE WITH STAYNALL PARISH
COUNCIL**

ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

Chairman's Report

I am pleased to provide this report for the year 2018/19, having being elected chairman of the Parish Council for the 2018/1 Civic Year at the May Annual Meeting of Stalmine-with-Staynall Parish Council.

Overview

This has been another busy year for the council with a number of initiatives throughout the year.

April saw the completion of the older children's play area, followed by the installation of two new bus shelters in May and June. The council also commemorated 100 years of the RAF by arranging for the cart flower bed to be painted in red white and blue. A new litter bin was also installed on the playing field, which, if the amount of litter that is removed from it is anything to go by, has proved to have been very well received.

The council was sad to report the resignation of its extra lengthsman in July after almost 12 years of service. These guys do a great job and the council has now recruited a part-time plantsman who is already preparing the pots for this year's summer planting.

Also, in July, the council agreed to take part in an initiative by the Garstang and District Heritage Society to commemorate the centenary of the end of WW1 by remembering the fallen of the old Garstang District Rural Council. A poppy plaque was purchased for siting at St. James's church - which already has a Burma Star Association plaque - as part of the poppy trail.

In November the council marked the centenary of the end of the First World War by installing new gates and a commemorative plaque at the Hall Gate Lane entrance to Stalmine wood.

The wood posed significant challenges in November with the exceptionally warm and dry summer having caused some of the crack willows to fail. The planned schedule of maintenance for the wood had to be put on hold, with resources being directed to the pollarding and removal of the trees posing a health and safety risk.

In December the council was pleased to donate the Christmas tree sited at St. James's Church, with many councillors and the clerk taking part in the well-attended tree lighting service.

March saw the resignation of the council's hard-working chairman Debra Forshaw who had been with the council since May 2016. The chairman thanked her for her time as chairman, her service to the parish and the contribution she made to the community.

Planning applications have continued to be prominent, with the team of councillors assessing planning applications logically and within the process lines. During the year the parish council dealt with 41 planning applications, supporting 26 of them, opposing 11 and being unable to decide on four as councillors living on the road were unable to vote on the application.

Rally

The council was pleased to give its support to the successful event staged in March this year by Legend Fires North West, which was enjoyed by many, both within and outside the community. The chairman thanked the organisers for their £500 donation to the council for it to distribute to charities of its choosing.

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 2019/2020

Added to the earmarked reserve for the provision of noticeboards,
 Added to reserves for gate - insufficient funds for metal gate but will put up a quality wooden gate with appropriate carving.
 Funds for memorial at play area (£1000)
 Funds for fencing at playground (£1000)
 Funds for handrail on Smithy Lane (£1000)
 Additional funds for woodland maintenance (£1500) to help us develop and utilise the wood. This is a great asset for the community that will hopefully be used more by residents/schools etc.

Representing the Parish Council

LALC Wyre Area Committee (2) – currently Cllr Pelham
 Wyre Flood Forum (2) – currently Cllr Haydock and Cllr Pelham
 Planning Ambassador (1) – to be appointed
 SSRA (1) – Cllr Haydock

Grants received

Lancashire Environmental Fund £15874 towards play facilities
 PROW £250 towards keeping public rights of way clear
 NW Rally £500 towards charitable donations

Grants made

North West Air Ambulance £100
 Royal British Legion £17
 Over Wyre Brass £50

Speed restrictions

With the help of County Cllr Shedwick, the Parish Council has continued to press for speed limits to be reduced along the A588 and the lanes entering and exiting this route. Development within the community means more properties near to and using the A588. We also continue to support the need for a pedestrian crossing.

Staff

I would like to thank our Clerk, Alison May, and our Lengthsman, Les Needham, for their hard work over the past year.

End of an era

It is with great sadness that the council reports that its longest-standing member - Councillor Ken Jenkinson - has decided to retire from the council. Cllr Jenkinson has contributed many years of dedicated service to the council and his knowledge of the area, the people and his unassuming manner in getting things done will be greatly missed. He is central to the parish council's Christmas tree switch-on ceremony as he helps to install the tree and lights (something he is willing to continue doing) and has also laid the wreath on behalf of the parish council at the Remembrance Day service.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Cllr Jenkinson on behalf of the residents of Stalmine-with-Staynall and councillors past and present for his dedication and hard work in serving this community.

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 Terry Williams
Deputy 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	2018/2019		Payments
Balances brought forward (inc. reserves)	£10012		
Precept	£25305	£15957	Staff Costs
Bank Interest	£16	£840	Office Costs
VAT Refund	£8944	£8273	Community Expenditure
Grants	£15874	£2163	Parish Maintenance
PROW	£250	£280	Accommodation
Miscellaneous	£60	£1479	Governance
		£167	Grants
		£16000	Sort term loan
	£60460	£45159	

Balance carried forward as at 31st March 2019 - £15301. The Parish Council accounts are to be audited in June, 2019.

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 2018/2019 our precept was £25305.

Alison May
Responsible Financial Officer

Your Councillors

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