



Annual Report

March 2023

Great Wilbraham, Great Community

wilbrahams.co.uk/gwpc-annual-report-2023

Message from the Parish Council chairman

This is my first year as Parish Council Chairman, having taken on the role following the resignation of Councillor Sally Ramus in September 2022. It has been a very busy year, and my four fellow Parish Councillors, have faced the many tasks with energy, judgement, kindness, and good humour. We are all committed to making Great Wilbraham a better place for all its residents.

We would like to thank Councillors Sally Ramus, Roddy Tippen and Claire Jackman, who stepped down in September 2022, for their many years of service to the village.

In writing this Annual Report, it has been good to reflect on the amount we have achieved. But the future is even more exciting. We want to tap into the skills and energy of many more residents as we explore ideas and develop programmes that will both benefit our village community and contribute to the wider good.

In this report I have provided a brief overview of our various activities. I hope you enjoy reading it – and have lots of questions and ideas to contribute.

Hilary Burton

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1 Village Life

Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We provided financial support for celebration in Memorial Hall and presented all village children with a commemorative coin.

Death of HM Queen Elizabeth. We coordinated village events and held a Proclamation for the new King on 10th September 2022.

Ukrainian families. We supported a village group (Wilbrahams Refugee Support) giving help to residents hosting Ukrainian refugees and supporting a family living in the village by providing a grant and allowing the group to run their finances through the Parish Council Unity Bank Account whilst their own account was being set up.

Liaison with village groups including Well-brahams, WEG and Memorial Hall.

Grants. We have provided grants to village initiatives including the Memorial Hall children's Christmas party; Jubilee celebrations, lighting of the star near the village green; Transport Working Group, distribution of 20mph leaflets.

Support for **Warbler magazine.**

Support for the Memorial Hall – including financially through payment of the Public Works Loan that paid for the new building.

We plan to pursue projects that engage the youth and teens in our village on community matters.

2 Trees and Biodiversity

Tree Warden. We have appointed Nigel Start as our new Tree Warden.

Community Orchard. We have worked with the Well-brahams to prune the fruit trees and have undertaken routine maintenance of the hedges and ditches,

Management of trees and hedges on footpaths and verges, including carrying out inspections of footpaths and roads and working with Highways for major tree works.

We have developed closer working relationships with the Wilbrahams Environment Group (WEG).

3 Highways, Transport and Cycleways

Local Highways Improvement (LHI). We developed a successful application to the County Council, achieving £15,000 support for new traffic calming measures (40mph buffer zones and gates) at the village entrances. These are expected to be installed in Spring 2023.

Speed monitoring devices. We have supported the Transport Working Group in their successful application for a grant for 3 new ‘mobile vehicle-activated signs’ (MVAS) units. These have now been delivered, volunteers have been trained and the units will be sited in Spring 2023.

Cycling. We are working with Little Wilbraham, WEG and County Councillor Claire Daunton to investigate the possibility of having a bicycle path from our communities to Cambridge.

Carpenters Arms parking. We have worked with the Carpenters Arms to address the problems of parking on the road directly outside the pub.

20mph speed limit. We are developing an application for the introduction of a 20mph speed limit in the village.

4 Planning

Planning applications. We have looked at and commented on 22 planning applications including major proposals related to the use of the chalk quarry site at the top of Mill Road, a possible solar farm at Nine Mile Hill, applications related to listed buildings, and tree works within the village conservation area.

5 Communications

Farmers Markets. We have attended three Farmers Markets which have given us an opportunity to meet and listen to residents and provide information about the Council's work. We plan to attend regularly throughout 2023.

Warbler reports. We have reported to all four editions of the Warbler, providing clear information about our major achievements and our areas of work, and listing upcoming events.

Website and notice boards. Our agendas are always displayed on the Wilbrahams website and on the village noticeboard at least 3 working days before our meetings. We have ensured that key information such as road closures and emergency events are posted on the Wilbrahams website.

Know your Parish Councillors. We have created a page with Parish Councillor photographs and profiles, so that village residents can get to know us better.

WhatsApp communities. We are trialling *WhatsApp Communities* which would enable instant updates and notification from the Parish Council to village residents.

Mobile phone signal. We have provided advice on the website for residents who want to find out about a better mobile phone signal.

Improvements to IT structure. We have begun to investigate improvements in our IT systems to give us better functioning emails and improved document storage.

Business listings. Residents of Great Wilbraham, Little Wilbraham and Six Mile Bottom will soon have the option to list their business for free on the

Communications...

Wilbrahams website. This is to allow us to develop a local marketplace and make residents aware of what local businesses and services are available.

6 Wider involvement

Commenting on GCP We have commented in detail on the GCP ‘Making Connections’ consultations and attended seminars and meetings to discuss, develop and share views.

We have engaged with **A to B1102**, including meetings in Burwell on proposed improvements along the B1102, making representations about travel requirements for the Wilbrahams and traffic problems through the village.

Eastern Access. We have attended meetings and submitted responses about the proposal for the improved Eastern Access (Newmarket Road) to Cambridge including siting of the Newmarket Road Park and Ride.

7 Governance

Parish Councillors

Hilary Burton (Chairman)	James Harmer
Christine Page (Vice Chairman)	Jens Kolind
Sam Dhaliwal	2 vacancies

Parish Clerk

Our Parish Clerk, Samantha Chambers-Turner was appointed in May 2022. She has now completed her Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) – a sector specific qualification. This will allow the Parish Council to adopt the General Power of Competence.

Tree Warden

Nigel Start

Policies adopted and updated

ADOPTED

Code of Conduct
Complaints Procedure
Standing Orders
Financial Regulations
Publication Scheme

Terms of Reference for
Highways, Transport and Cycleways
Committee

Under review

Grant Awarding
Cemetery Rules and Regulations

Governance...

To Review and Adopt

Communications

Equal Opportunities

Grievance Policy

Committees and working parties

We have set up the following committees, working groups, and liaison arrangements:

Committees

Finance	Councillors Burton, Dhaliwal and Page
Highways, Transport & Cycleways	Councillors Dhaliwal, Page and Burton
Human Resources	Councillors Page, Harmer and Dhaliwal
Trees & Biodiversity	Councillors Harmer and Burton

Working Groups

Communication	Councillors Dhaliwal and Harmer
Parish plan	Councillors Burton and Page
Common Rights Holders	Councillors Page and Harmer

Representatives to other groups

Memorial Hall	Councillor Burton
Well-brahams	Councillor Burton
Wilbrahams Environment Group	Councillor Harmer
Transport Working Group	Councillor Dhaliwal

Our training

Councillors have undertaken training as follows:

Councillor Burton	Councillor Training, Chairman, Planning, Code of Conduct, Understanding the AGAR
Councillor Page	Planning, Code of Conduct, Councillor Training (previously)
Councillor Dhaliwal	Councillor Training (previously), Planning, Code of Conduct, Understanding the AGAR
Councillor Harmer	Councillor Training, Code of Conduct
Councillor Kolind	Still to be booked
Sam Chambers-Turner (Clerk)	Cemetery Management & Maintenance, Understanding the AGAR (previously), Planning, CiLCA, The Knowledge (previously), GDPR, Understanding Elections (previously)

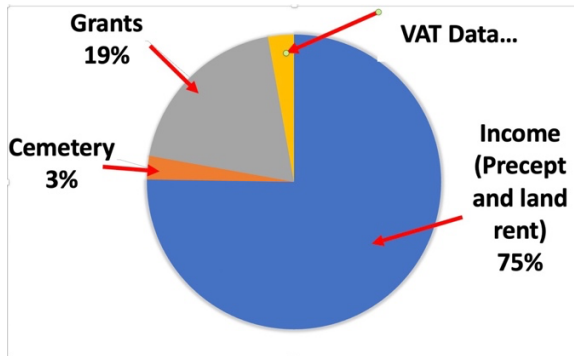
Number of meetings

We have held 9 full Parish Council meetings and discussed 183 agenda items.

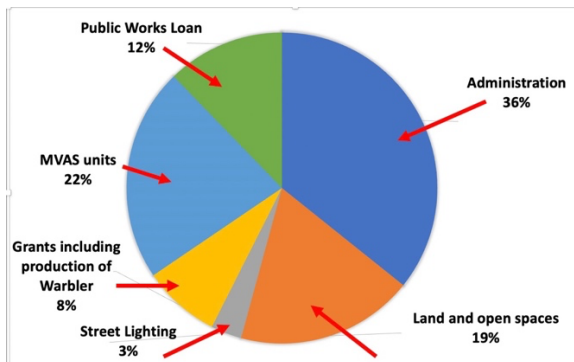
8 Finance

Our financial statement is provided in an accompanying document. The charts below provide a brief visual summary, showing that 75% of our income is from the precept (£41,784.93). Expenditure is more widely spread including that required for the work of our Clerk and other administration, maintenance of our open spaces, providing grants to various village activities, and the cost of our Public Works loan for the rebuilding of the Memorial Hall.

Our income: operating income is £55,522.43



Our expenditure: Total £39,879.85



9 Get involved

We are looking for more Parish Councillors and volunteers to help on our various Committees and Working Groups. If you are interested, particularly if you have a special skill or passion or just want to understand more about the village and get to know people, please contact any of the Parish Councillors or our Clerk for an informal chat.

Contact details:

Hilary Burton (Chairman): gwcllrburton@wilbrahams.co.uk

Sam Chambers-Turner (Clerk): clerkgw@wilbrahams.co.uk

This report is available for download from the Wilbrahams website.