

Wymondham Town Council

Annual Report 2018-19



What the Town Council has been doing for Wymondham in the past year

June 2019

Busy year for Mayor

Being elected Mayor is just about the greatest local honour anyone can receive and I was delighted when the council chose me for the role. In accepting I outlined my plans to revitalise our markets, and develop better communications with residents. I am proud to say that during my term of office we have found ways to help the markets, and with the launch of the Town Councils' new website we have the means not only to communicate better but also to promote our town to the wider world.

Looking back, I am amazed at how much can happen in just 12 months. Working together with South Norfolk Council we have seen Kett's Park upgraded and the very successful artificial grass pitch opened. Work is under way on the construction of the new Council offices and I look forward to them being opened soon. As a forward-looking council it is absolutely imperative that we have offices accessible to everyone, and we have achieved this at no extra cost to council tax payers.

I am very grateful to our volunteer groups who continued to work hard on events and projects throughout the year, and the council is as always ready to help where possible through our grants scheme. However we know that we can't leave all the work to the volunteers, so with this in mind we constructed a path across Becketswell to give better access to this gem in Wymondham's' crown.

A few highlights stand out for me. Accepting a trophy from the Lions on behalf of the council in recognition of the support that we have given the group over the years seemed ironic as I am so very grateful for the work that the Lions do. I felt that we should have been giving them an award not them giving it to us! I was very proud to lay the wreath on Remembrance Day particularly as this was the 100th anniversary of the Armistice. Many of you will have seen the bench that the council placed at the war memorial to commemorate this and I find it an ideal spot for quiet reflection.

During my year in office we raised money for my chosen charities, the Talking Newspaper and the Wymondham access group. At the annual reception I presented the Civic Award to Barry Rook for his work in establishing the men's shed on Ayton road, and I have carried out many other duties.

A very busy year! I hope that the new Mayor, Cllr Kevin Hurn, has a successful year and enjoys the role as much as I did.

Tony Holden, Town Mayor



Mayor's Fund presentation: (L-R) David Roberts, Joy Batley and Georgette Vale receive a cheque from Town Mayor Tony Holden on behalf of their organisations

Town Councillors who served this year

After four years, the current Town Council ended its 2015/19 term with the local government elections in May. The following councillors finished their period of office, and we thank them for their work for the community.

Abbey Ward

K Hurn
R Savage
P Stearn

Cromwells Ward

J Halls
J Hornby
A Osborne/S Nuri

Northfields Ward

C Longhurst
J Mooney
D Underwood

Rustens Ward

P Broome
A Holden
S Sayer

Town Ward

I Flatt
L Hornby
S Wyer

Wymondham Town Council

How it works, what it does, where your money is spent

How does your Town Council work for you?

The 15 members of Wymondham Town Council are all unpaid volunteers, elected by Wymondham people every four years. Elections took place in May 2015 so that 2018-19 was the fourth year of office for the council. Each year the councillors elect a Mayor and Deputy Mayor from among their members.

The full Town Council meets on the first Tuesday of every month. It takes questions from the public, notes minutes from its committees and receives reports from representatives on outside bodies. It also approves all payments to suppliers from the preceding month and discusses issues relevant to the town.

Some of the Town Council's functions are delegated to three main committees and these meet on Tuesdays in accordance with the schedule published in 'About Wymondham' and on the council website. Each committee consists of five members who elect their own chair and vice chair. These committees are:

Leisure & Environment, which supervises the maintenance, upkeep and improvement of the Council's recreation areas such as Ketts Park, Browick Road recreation ground. It is responsible for ensuring that play equipment meets health and safety requirements and that residents have access to leisure facilities. It is also

responsible for other open spaces such as the Tolls Meadow nature reserve, the Becketswell amenity area and the allotments.

Planning Lighting and Highways liaises closely with Norfolk County Council and South Norfolk Council on all road, pavement and lighting issues affecting the Wymondham parish. It takes a strategic planning overview for the town and works in conjunction with the county and district councils. While it does not grant planning approvals (normally the responsibility of South Norfolk Council) the Town Council is consulted on all applications affecting Wymondham.

Finance & General Purposes manages property owned or leased by the Council including the cemetery and the chartered Friday market. It is also allocates funds under the Council's small grants scheme and is responsible for machinery purchases and the Council's administration team. Its remit also includes the Grade 1 listed Market Cross and the provision of Tourist Information Centre facilities provided by the council staff.

Agendas are posted on the Town Council notice board and agendas and minutes for council meetings are published on the council website, and these indicate the starting time. Public participation is allowed at all meetings at the allocated time.

A closer look at planning

Planning can be a complex and often contentious matter. The Town Council's Planning Lighting and Highways Committee works within a planning policy framework which explains how planning applications are dealt with, and how decisions are made.

South Norfolk Council has the final say in planning matters. Sometimes its Planning Committee will delegate decisions on appropriate cases to planning officers in consultation with local members. All applications are forwarded first to the Town Council for comment, and details of applications are posted on the council

noticeboard. Plans are available for consultation in the office, or through the South Norfolk Council website, and considered at a council or committee meeting where they are on display for discussion.

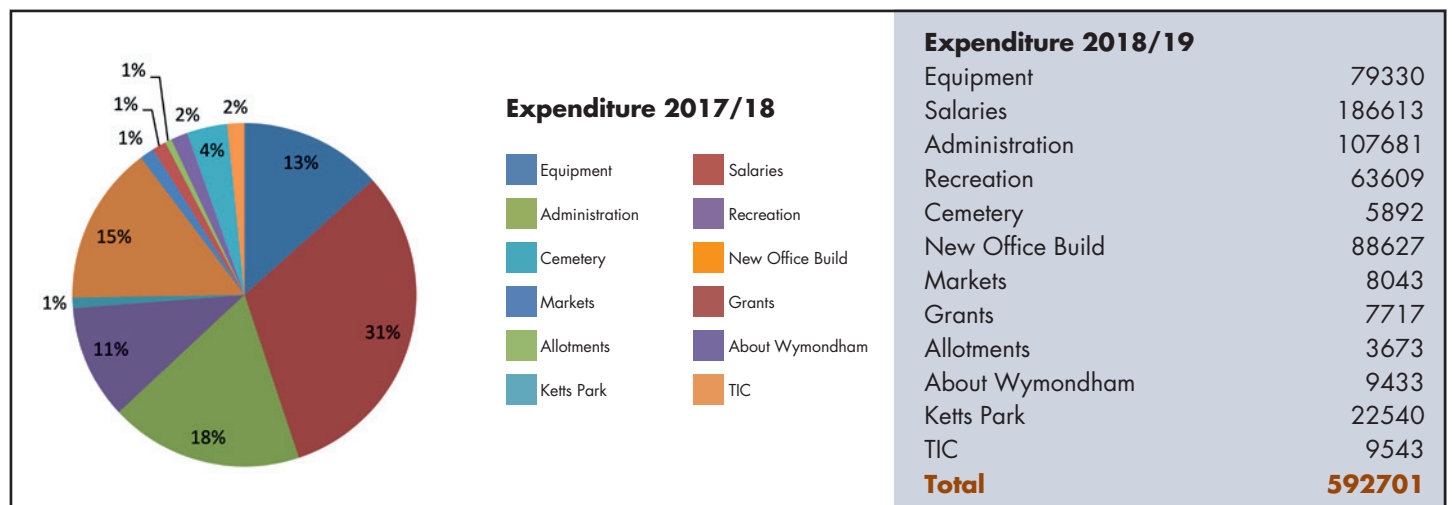
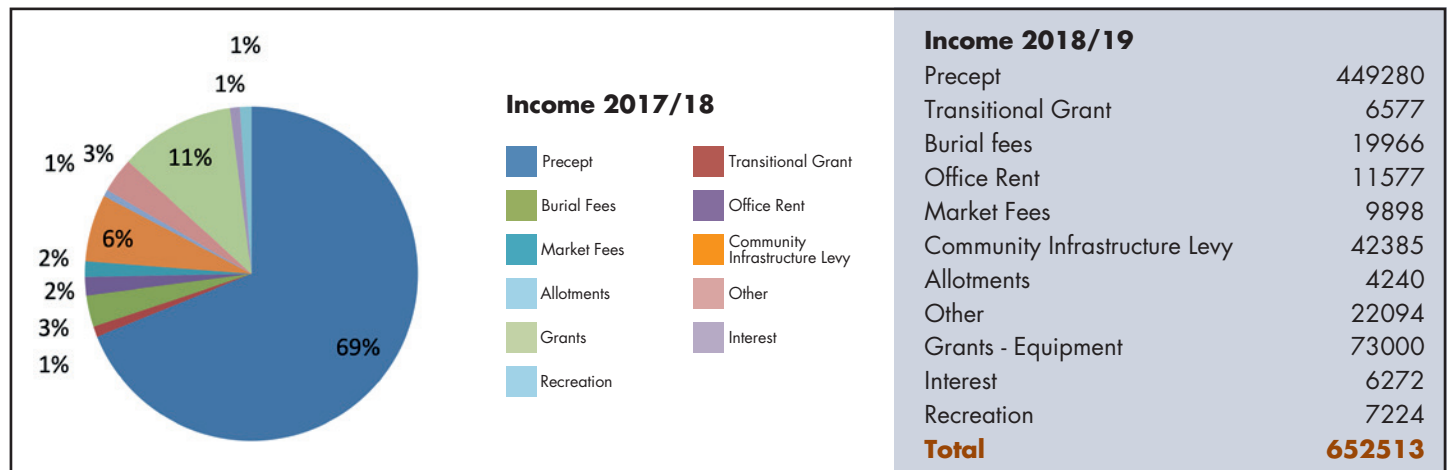
Letters from the public commenting on applications are welcome, and time is always allowed at the start of meetings for public comments to be made in person. The Town Council will then comment to the district council in the light of the local plan and other policy guidance, taking into account any public comments and the considered views of its members.

Spooner Row Community Council

From 1 April 2019, with the formation of the new Spooner Row Community Council, Spooner Row became no longer a part of Wymondham, breaking a tradition which extends back hundreds of years.

Precepts, grants, income and expenditure – council finances explained

Where the money comes from, and where it goes, are set out in these two diagrams:



The Town Council is required by law to set a budget each year, which then determines how it is financed for that year.

Income is obtained from a number of sources such as market fees, leisure activity fees, burials, rents, grants and income on investments. It is also prudent for the Council to maintain a general reserve to cover emergencies together with earmarked reserves for specific projects.

The largest source of income is the precept, which in the 2018-19 financial year was £449,280 which was received with a reduced transitional grant of £6,577 from Central Government. For the present 2019-20 financial year the precept has been set

at £492,565 with no transitional grant.

Expenditure included the costs of maintaining the council offices at 14 Middleton Street and the salaries of the Town Clerk, administration support staff and groundsmen as well as the Tourist Information staff. The Town Council also maintains various amenity and play areas such as Tolls Meadow, Bellrope Lane and the Cemetery.

Another important part of the council's work is in supporting local groups through our grants scheme. Each year the Town Council makes grants to local organisations to help with projects. Grants were awarded in 2018-19 as shown in the box to the right.

Grants List 2017/18

Heritage Museum	417.50
Citizens Advice	3,000.00
Ashleigh School	300.00
Wymondham Academy	500.00
Nth Wymondham Community Centre	2,000.00
Wymondham Town Football Club	1,500.00
Total	7,717.50

Civic Award for Barry Rooks

Following the unanimous decision of the Council at its January meeting, Barry Rooks has been awarded the Civic Award 2019 for his work with The Shed on Ayton Road.

The Shed is a place for men to go to form friendships and learn new skills while sharing the skills they already have with others. In The Shed are to be found amongst other things a well-equipped wood working shop complete with lathe, a media room with computers and a warm welcome from some of the friendliest men around. Mayor Tony Holden said "With the suicide rate among men being around four times that of women, projects like The Shed are hugely important to our community. I am very pleased that the Council has recognised the hard work that Barry and his team have put into helping the men of Wymondham.



Floodlit 3G pitch leads Kett's Park improvement



Work is complete on a £1.2 million improvement project for Wymondham's Kett's Park recreation area. The project includes the installation of a full size 3G Floodlit pitch.

South Norfolk Council was awarded a grant of £394,292 from the Premier League and the FA Facilities Fund, and a further £250,000 from the Community Infrastructure Levy, via the Greater Norwich Growth Board towards this state-of-the-art facility.

The new facility comprises a full-size, floodlit, fenced all weather 3G facility with spectator viewing attached to the existing sports community pavilion and changing rooms.

The grant will also be used to improve the Kett's Park grass pitch complex that, along with other grass pitches in the town and surrounding area, has been prone to waterlogging, resulting in lost games and frustrated footballers.

And lots more!

Many other Town Council activities during the year included providing a new website for the Town Council, supporting work on river flow and fish monitoring at Becketswell and the provision of a surfaced footpath there. Back copies of 'About Wymondham' may be found on the Town Council website at wymondhamtowncouncil.org

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