

Wymondham Town Council

Annual Report 2020-21



What the Town Council has been doing for Wymondham in the past year **June 2021**

An Indifferent First Term and Second Year for Mayor

I was delighted and honoured to be re-elected as Mayor of Wymondham for a second term at the Town Council AGM held on 4th May, even though my first term began in May 2019!

Because of Covid-19 restrictions imposed as part of the lockdown during the spring of 2020 it was not possible for councils to hold meetings and therefore the current administration was allowed to continue for a second year, so whilst this is my second term, it is my third year as Mayor.

The first nine months of my first term of office were very busy, attending meetings, functions and events almost on a weekly basis. This was a wonderful experience and allowed my wife and I to meet many people and make a lot of new friends as we became part of 'the chain gang' an amusing term often used to describe Mayors and dignitaries for obvious reasons.

Then in March 2020 the whole world turned upside down as the Covid-19 pandemic struck and we were plunged into a situation unprecedented during peace time. The whole country ground to a halt with the exception of our amazing doctors, nurses and healthcare professionals, to whom we owe a massive debt of gratitude for what they have done throughout the pandemic.

Our whole family felt so proud to stand on our doorstep every Thursday evening to clap for the NHS, along with neighbours and families all around Wymondham.

In 2019 I was extremely proud of Wymondham and the Wymondham in Bloom team as they rallied around so many businesses, care homes and schools in Wymondham to encourage them to create a Wymondham in Bloom tour. Walking the tour on a glorious June day was a great experience, and to learn that the team achieved a Silver Gilt Award in year one was a fantastic achievement.

The team behind Wymondham in Bloom are in full flow again this year, so you should start to see lovely floral displays appearing around the town over the coming weeks.

I did not get to attend many meetings or functions during the year May 2020 – May 2021, however one thing I did become very good at was staring at a computer screen! This was because we learned to conduct meetings remotely via Zoom. This enabled councils to continue to function, but it is not the same as meeting in person, especially as I enjoy meeting other people and learning about them.

I did get to attend a few events in person; most notably to present a civic award to Mr Peter Parke, the town butcher who retired after serving the town for three score years and 10 (70 for any younger readers!) years, presenting bouquets from Wymondham Town Council to two ladies in Wymondham who celebrated their 100th birthday, attending the memorial service to HRH Prince Philip at Wymondham Abbey and laying a wreath on Armistice Day.

Some projects include the completion of the new Town Council offices, conversion of all the street lights for which the council are responsible to low energy LED units, and progressing the Neighbourhood Plan for Wymondham.

The Town Council has continued to support voluntary groups within the town, and will continue to do so by awarding grants to local organisations. This helps them to provide facilities for the benefit of all residents of Wymondham.

I am looking forward to the coming year as Mayor, and hoping for a gradual return to normality as the year unfolds.

I hope that by the time we reach the council AGM in 2022 that the Neighbourhood Plan will be completed and adopted, and work will be well underway for the design of the new cemetery for Wymondham.

Cllr Kevin Hurn

Town Councillors who served this year

After four years the Town Council ended its 2015/19 term with the local Government elections in May 2019. A new Council was elected for a four year period 2019/23, and the following councillors served in the 2020/21 year. We thank them for their work in the community.

Central Ward

K Hurn
R Savage
W Batchelor
I Flatt
P Travis

East Ward

P Broome

North Ward

Y Astley
A Holden
J Hornby
P Hubble
D Roberts

South Ward

J Halls
S Nuri-Nixon
A James

The Town Council offices are situated at:

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01953 603302**

Email: office@wymondhamtc.co.uk

**Office opening hours:
Monday to Friday
9.30am to 4pm**

Wymondham Town Council

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

How does your Town Council work for you?

The 14 members of Wymondham Town Council are all unpaid volunteers, elected by Wymondham people every four years. Elections took place in May 2019 so that 2020-21 was the second 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 on the council website. Each committee consists of five members who elect their own chair and vice chair. These committees are:

Leisure, Environment, Enterprise and Tourism, which supervises the maintenance, upkeep and improvement of the Council's recreation areas such as Ketts Park and 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 & 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 charter Friday market. It 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 meetings 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 through the South Norfolk Council website, and considered at a council or committee meeting where they are discussed.

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.



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Precepts, grants, income and expenditure - council finance 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 2020-21 financial year was £536,833 which was received. For the present 2021-22 financial year the precept

has been set at £561,621.

Expenditure included the costs of maintaining the council offices at Ketts Park 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 2020-21 as shown in the box to the right.

Grants 2020/21

Wymondham Community Kitchen	500.00
Wymondham Baptist Church	500.00
Wymondham Doorstop Helpers	250.00
Hub Community Project	500.00
Wymondham Dementia Group	434.80
Total	2,184.80

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Civic Award for Peter Parkes

To celebrate his retirement after 72 years of serving the residents of Wymondham in his butchers shop the Town Mayor, Cllr. Kevin Hurn presented Peter Parkes with a well-deserved Civic award.

Well known to customers for his cheery smile and happy disposition Peter has served generations of the same family and has been a community stalwart.



Current news

Following recent by-elections, the Town Council is pleased to welcome the following who will be representing you until the next elections which are scheduled for May 2023.

Central Ward: Richard Elliott

North Ward: Kathryn Cross and Jordan Murrell

The following are your Councillors and full details can be found on the respective Council's websites.

Wymondham Town Council

Central Ward	East Ward	North Ward	South Ward
Cllr. R Elliott	Cllr. P Broome	Cllr. Y Astley	Cllr. J Halls
Cllr. I Flatt		Cllr. K Cross	Cllr. A James
Cllr. K Hurn		Cllr. A Holden	Cllr. S Nuri-Nixon
Cllr. R Savage		Cllr. P Hubble	
Cllr. P Travis		Cllr. J Murrell	

South Norfolk Council

Central Ward	North Ward	South Ward (includes East ward)
Cllr. K Hurn	Cllr. A Holden	Cllr. J Halls
Cllr. R Savage	Cllr. J Hornby	Cllr. S Nuri-Nixon

Norfolk County Council

Wymondham Division	Forehoe Division (South Ward)
Cllr. R Savage	Cllr. D Elmer

