

# **Responsibilities of the Parish Council**

The Parish Council has a number of responsibilities in West Winch, some of them advisory within the local government structure and some direct.

## **Planning**

All planning applications are assessed by the Parish Council and their views are taken into account when the Borough Council, as the responsible planning authority, makes its decision. The Parish Council has a committee of 4 members who decide on planning issues, their decisions being brought before the whole council for endorsement.

## **Play Areas**



The Council is responsible for the play equipment in both the Recreation also the Skateboard Park. The Council must ensure that the equipment is regularly inspected, including a professional annual inspection. Daily inspections are carried out by Handyman and Groundsman and action taken if necessary.

## **Footpaths and Footways**

The Council makes regular inspections of the footpaths and footways in the village any problems are reported to County Council Highways Department for further action

## **Highways**

Norfolk County Council is the highways authority, although the Council can put funds towards any new footways or traffic calming measures. Any highways project has to be approved by NCC and the level of funding by the Parish Council can be anywhere between 0% and 100% depending on a NCC standard assessment scheme. Highways problems can be reported through the Parish Council. Recent highway projects carried out in partnership between the Parish Council and the County Council include a new bus shelter at Setchey and a TROD at Setchey. If you find a pothole on any adopted road this is the responsibility of the County Council. An online reporting form can be found at:

[http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/Travel\\_and\\_transport/Roads/Road\\_maintenance/Potholes/index.htm](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/Travel_and_transport/Roads/Road_maintenance/Potholes/index.htm)

## **Grants and Donations**

The Council has powers to give grants and donations to such bodies as Citizens Advice, the annual Poppy Appeal or village groups. There are strict rules limiting the total amount of donations made in each financial year. The Council also pays the local Parochial Church Council a sum each year for the maintenance of the churchyard.

## **Lighting**

The Council is responsible for many of the street lights in the village, mostly in non-estate areas. Costs are involved in paying for power and maintenance on these lights. Street lights on the A10 and the Oak Avenue area are the responsibility of the County Council. To report a County Council light use the online webform-

[http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/Travel\\_and\\_transport/Roads/Road\\_maintenance/Street\\_lighting/index.htm](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/Travel_and_transport/Roads/Road_maintenance/Street_lighting/index.htm)

Most of the others are the responsibility of the Parish Council. Email the Clerk

[clerk.westwinchpc@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.westwinchpc@gmail.com) to report a parish council owned faulty light and our contractor will be asked to repair it.

## **Litter**

The Council employs a Groundsman for a total of 5 hours a week. Their duties are to work their way around play area, play field, etc, clearing any dropped litter. The Council also has to fund any public litter bins in the village, although the cost of emptying these is met in part by the borough council.

## **Dog Litter**

There are 8 dog litter bins in the village. Each has been purchased out of parish funds and the parish is charged approximately £650 a year by the Borough Council for each bin to be emptied.

## **Community Projects**

The Council also assess projects that may be started by non-council bodies and can agree to fund and/or take over the ongoing maintenance of the project on completion

## **Consultation**

The Council as the local representative body is also asked for the views on a wide range of issues that are decided by other bodies. This could include, for example, public transport, regional planning or community safety. At the beginning of every Council meeting there is a Public Participation item where you can come along and raise any parish matter. During the rest of the meeting only councillors may speak.

## **Village Hall**

Although the Village Hall has its own Management Committee the Council are the trustees of the Village Hall and can have two representatives on the Committee.

## **William Burt Centre Car Park**

The car park is the responsibility of the Parish Council but used regularly by the Social Club members and Village Hall users as well as the Bowls Club and Football Teams. Any repairs and maintenance costs are discussed with the Chairmen of the Village Hall and Social Club and usually split 3 ways.

## **The Meadow, Coronation Avenue**

This meadow land is owned by the Parish Council and currently is leased to a local man for the grazing of ponies and horses. The field has been fenced off into 2 halves with stiles to allow residents to still access the land. A dog waste litter bin has been installed at the boundary to the land.