SHARLSTON
Parish Council



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ANNUAL REPORT 2019

SHARLSTON PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2018/19

INTRODUCTION

Once again Sharlston Parish Council has undertaken to provide an annual report, to give residents an update on its business and activities over the previous year.

Residents are also welcome to attend Parish Council meetings and can keep track of the Council's activities through the new website and on Facebook.

At the time of this report our final accounts for the financial year 2018/19 are being audited and an outline of these accounts is printed in this report.

Parish Councillors give of their time on a wholly voluntary and unpaid basis. They recognise the importance of channels of communication between the Parish Council and residents, allowing both sides to have a clear view of what is needed and how it is best achieved. A list of all the Parish Councillors and their representation on committees and outside bodies is included in the next few pages. We have been pleased to welcome three new Councillors since the last Annual Report: Councillor Paul Belbin, Councillor Susan Pollard and Councillor Stephen Goodhead. Unfortunately, because of work commitments Councillor Debra Bond has had to resign from the Parish Council and we take this opportunity to thank her for the contribution she has made.

We at present have one vacancy on the Parish Council so anyone interested in becoming a Councillor should contact the clerk in the first instance.

We hope you find this report provides a further insight into our business and activities over the year 2018/19.

I have decided after ten years in post and in my 70th year that I will retire at the end of May 2019. I have enjoyed my time as Clerk and I am sure you will still see me around in Sharlston even in retirement.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Parish Councillors and the residents, who have supported me in my time as Clerk and made the job worthwhile. Thank you all.

Hopefully by the time this Annual Report goes to print, a new Clerk will be in post.

Please feel free to contact the Clerk on any issues through the details given below.

Janet Hull
May 2019

Email: theclerk@sharlstonparishcouncil.gov.uk

THE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish councillors are available to be contacted with any problem or issue involving local residents.

MEMBERS

June Cliffe MBE	33 Clifton Road	862018
Alexandra Devey	3 The Green	860862
James Goodfellow	41 Eastville Road	865197
Kath Shingles	99 Grime Lane	862040
Julie Craig	6 Heather View	860879
Emma Stebbings-Allison	18 Colliery Street, New Sharlston	07590402070
Philip Boyes	1 Weeland Avenue	07720081967
Paul Belbin	77 Snydale Villas, Streethouse	07712779897
Susan Pollard	7 Heather Croft	07985494053
Stephen Goodhead	14 Redwood Grove	07704449978

Chair 2018/19 Councillor J Cliffe MBE

CLERK

Janet Hull	21 Wavell Grove, Sandal Wakefield	01924 255628

The Parish Council holds eleven meetings a year (there is no meeting in August). Notices of meetings appear on the notice boards and members of the public are always welcome to attend.

PARISH COUNCILLORS POSITIONS ON COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES

Planning Committee

Cllr. J. Goodfellow, Cllr.A Devey, Cllr. J Cliffe MBE, Cllr. P. Boyes, Cllr. E Stebbings-Allison

Finance Committee

Cllr. J Cliffe MBE,

Parish Plan Working Group

Cllr. J Cliffe MBE Cllr. A Devey

Allotment Committee
Cllr. J Cliffe MBE, Cllr. P Boyes,
Mr. S Hobbs (allotment holders' representative)

Sharlston Community Partnership
Cllr. A Devey, Cllr. J Goodfellow, Cllr. P Boyes, Cllr. J. Cliffe MBE

Yorkshire Local Councils Association Representatives (Wakefield Branch)

Cllr. J Cliffe MBE, Cllr. K Shingles

Sharlston Community Centre Representatives

Cllr J Goodfellow Cllr. A Devey Cllr. P. Boyes, Cllr. E. Stebbings-Allison

Town and Parish Council Liaison Group (Wakefield MDC)

The Chair The Clerk

Appointments to Committees are reviewed each year at the Annual Meeting, so the above details may change after this report has gone to press.

STATISTICS AND INFORMATION

Sharlston Parish Council is a second-tier local government authority within the Wakefield District. Wakefield Metropolitan District Council (WMDC) is the unitary authority for the area. There are some 2170 people registered as electors in Sharlston and New Sharlston[1].

The Parish Precept is collected on the Parish Council's behalf by Wakefield MDC. For the fiscal year 2018/19 it was set at £30,000. This year (2019/20) we have increased it slightly to £35,000. Due to budget constraints at WMDC the Parish Council have taken responsibility for several projects which previously were supplied by them.

The main responsibilities of the Parish Council are:

- Representing the parish with the District Council, central government and various local, regional and national bodies.
- Promoting local projects
- Dealing with residents' concerns
- Supporting local groups and organisations
- Maintaining the Weeland Road playing field
- Maintaining the footpath around Sharlston Dam and the Play Area
- Monitoring and commenting on planning applications and proposed developments
- Promoting the Parish Plan
- Acting in partnership with Wakefield MDC to deliver services
- Improving the quality of life and the environment for residents
- Owning and administering allotment land on Fernside.

[1] Source: Electoral Register Dec.2018.

THE MUNICIPAL YEAR UNDER REVIEW

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIR OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Here we are, at the end of our Parish Council year. It appears to have been a year of what may be termed “ups and downs”.

As always, we have tried, throughout the year, to complete many projects to benefit all the residents within our very wide ranging parish of Sharlston.

Despite having several of our Parish Councillors suffering again with a winter virus, with flu like symptoms, the work of the Parish Council went on and only one Parish Council meeting had to be completely rescheduled. The meeting rescheduled was the February one, which was delayed for a week. Janet, our Clerk, had gone down with the virus.

Having to delay a meeting due to the absence of the Clerk demonstrates quite well just how important the role of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer is, to uphold the legality of all business conducted.

Throughout the year we have had several important meetings, especially with outside bodies. We have met with representatives of HS2 to express to them our thoughts and concerns with regard to their possible plans for heavy traffic to trundle along our village roads. All these concerns have been put in writing and sent to their Head Offices.

After further meetings regarding our village bus services, we have been given assurances that the service we have now will continue for at least the next three years. As I have said before, “use it or lose it”. We need our connectivity with surrounding towns and villages. As we remind the authorities, our rural villages have very little, if any, connectivity with surrounding business parks. Not everyone has the luxury of a car to help their needs when searching for employment.

A further traffic issue is, of course, the very worrying speeds of some vehicles within our villages. We have requested speed checks be carried out on several occasions, both to the Highways Dept. at WMDC and the police. Speeding and illegal parking are police matters and can evoke extremely large fines, to say the least.

I am sure you will have seen the results of a further project. The defibrillator has now been placed on the outside wall of the Pharmacy building. Grateful thanks go to all who helped bring this project to fruition, especially the Pharmacy owners/management.

This is just a small glimpse of what has been quite a busy and eventful year. At the beginning of my report I said the year had its “ups and downs”. Well, the “down” is rather a large one since our Clerk Janet, for family commitments and health reasons, has decided she must now retire.

Janet has contributed ten good years to the work of our Parish Council, for which we are most grateful. We all give her our thanks and wish Janet all success and good health in the future.

Before I end my report, I would like to thank the Parish Councillors for the work they have done over the past year. My final thanks go to all our Parish residents for the appreciation you show for the work we do.

So, on behalf of the Parish Council may I now say,

Best wishes to you all.

Cllr. June Cliffe MBE

Chair of Sharlston Parish Council

BRIEF SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

Annual Parish Open Day

The Annual Parish Open Day continues to be a successful format and gives local people an opportunity to see what is happening in the Parish, to give their views and talk to Councillors.

Local groups are encouraged to provide displays. In recent years the children from the school have also taken part in this day. We also invite local organisation such as WDH, Energy Efficiency, Community Engagement, Safer Project and Library Services to make it possible for residents to gain more information and enable them to talk to these organisations directly.

The Open Day for this year is to be held on 21st May 2019.

Community Centre

The Community Centre is run by the Management Committee with representation from the Parish Council. The Parish Council continues to support this important local amenity. The current 21 year lease expired last year but the Parish Council are continuing with the lease of this important village asset.

District Councillors

The Parish Council continues to have a good working relationship with the District Councillors representing Ward 6. As a routine, one or more of the District Councillors attend Parish Council meetings to support our efforts on behalf of the local community.

Floral Displays

As in previous years, the Parish Council have paid for hanging baskets throughout Sharlston and New Sharlston. These summer baskets lift the spirits and we look forward to successful displays again this year. The Parish Council are also funding the professional planting of the four large planters situated on The Green, High Street, New Sharlston and two on Weeland Road. The Parish Council also provided bulbs for planting on the bunding on the Green.

The Dam & Common

The Parish Council manages the contract for the maintenance of the footpath and car park area, which includes grass cutting, trimming back vegetation and keeping the path weed free. This year we have replaced one of the broken benches on the Dam footpath. The major concern again this year is the setting of fires on the common and Dam. We ask residents to be vigilant and report any anti-social behaviour immediately.

Again, the Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to thank the volunteer warden for the Dam and Common, Mr. D. Lees, for his excellent work in keeping the Dam the asset it is to the community. We would also like to thank Danny for his regular supply of beautiful photographs taken in and around Sharlston.

Thanks should also go to the Angling club whose members also help in litter clearing, cutting back vegetation and maintaining seating around the Dam.

Former Library and Clinic Site

The Parish Council can report that this year we have reached the planning stage of this long running project and are optimistic that phase one of this project, to provide the access road, is beginning to take shape.

Grants to local groups

The Parish Council has continued with its policy of awarding grants. Any local group can apply by completing an application form available from the Clerk or at the Post Office.

Grants have been awarded to:

1.Yorkshire Ambulance Service, following free first aid courses to residents.

2. Old Sharlston Cricket Club

3. Sharlston School PTA

4. Community Foundation

5. Small steps Uniform Bank

The Parish Council are patrons of Sharlston Male Voice Choir

Fly Tipping/Litter/Dog Fouling

These are all important issues affecting the quality of life of all residents.

Anyone seeing instances of this antisocial behaviour can either report it to WMDC via their Call Centre, on 03458 506 506 or contact the clerk.

We understand from Wakefield Council that all dog waste should now be put into the normal litter bins. No separate dog bins will be provided.

Parish Council Web Site

We are pleased to say that this year we have a new, much improved website which can be accessed by: www.sharlstonparishcouncil.gov.uk

We also now have a Facebook page.

Both these aspects of social media enable us to let all residents know what is happening with the Parish Council, as well as other events in the two villages.

Our two new Councillors, Susan Pollard and Stephen Goodhead are responsible for administering Facebook and the website.

Playing Field – Sharlston Rovers ARLC

The Parish Council owns and maintains the playing field on Weeland Road. During 2010/11, following discussions with Sharlston Rovers ARLFC,the Parish Council had drawn up and signed a long- term lease to the club. This gives the club greater security of tenure on the site and longer-term stability for the Parish and enable the club to fund ongoing improvements to the facilities.

The Parish Council will continue to support the club by financing the ground maintenance. This year fencing was required to secure one of the boundaries and the Parish Council have funded this.

The junior sections of the Rugby club have gone from strength to strength and the Parish Council want to thank those who work so hard on this important project.

Allotments

The Parish Council own 6 allotment plots on Fernside.

There are often enquiries about the allotments from residents looking to obtain one but at present there are no plans to obtain further land.

However, there is a waiting list for available allotments and anyone wishing to be placed on this list should contact the clerk.

Grit Bins & Potholes

Along with the rest of the district, the Parish Council lobby WMDC to get all potholes filled in.

WMDC provided a bulk order of rock salt and the Parish Council would like to thank local farmer, Mr.W. Easterby for agreeing to store this salt and keep the grit bins filled. This is a big undertaking and the Parish Council are particularly grateful for his help. We have to say that this year we have not had to call on his services due to the lack of snow.

Christmas Lights

The Parish Council have undertaken to provide Christmas Trees for Sharlston and New Sharlston after Wakefield Council were no longer able to fund this.

The Council have now purchased lights for the trees and Wakefield Council are paid to install them each year.

The cost of providing the trees, lights, installation of the lights and the necessary insurance has proved to be expensive but it was felt that the two villages should be able to celebrate Christmas at least with trees in both villages.

Many villagers were delighted to see the return of Christmas Lights on the lamp standards in our two villages. This is a Parish Council project which came to fruition for the 2017/18 Christmas period and we received many positive comments. This tradition will continue in the two villages.

Advent Calendars

The Parish Council were able this year to again provide an advent calendar for every child at Sharlston School. Cllr. Cliffe went along to the school and spent a pleasant time answering pupils' questions about the Parish Council and how it works.

New Benches

It was found necessary to replace 4 benches throughout Sharlston, two on the Green, one on Weeland Road and one around the Dam.

These are made from recyclable material and as such we hope they turn out to be robust. The probation service helped with this project by taking down the old benches and providing new bases.

Keep Britain Tidy

The Parish Council joined in with this initiative this year and on April 6th/7th, litter picks were carried out in both villages with some surprising results!

The village has now had a spring clean and we hope we have encouraged all residents to take pride in their village again.

Defibrillator

The District Councillors were instrumental in the provision of the defibrillator which is situated on an outside wall of the Pharmacy building. We have to thank the Pharmacy for allowing this and Rachel Smith for agreeing to be the "guardian".

Special thanks also go to Hodgson Brook Electrical. Dan Hodgson installed the defibrillator for us free of charge.

Play Areas

The play area off Weeland Road, Sharlston has been refurbished by the Parish Council this year and a bench seat provided.

The New Sharlston Voluntary Community Group, the Parish Council, District Councillors and Wakefield Council have provided sizeable grants to enable a completely refurbished Play Area to be built on Long Row, New Sharlston. All parties are delighted to see this project now come to fruition.

PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES, 2018-2019

The income we received

Parish Council Precept (via Council Tax)	30,000.00
Allotment Rent	262.50
VAT Refund	4,076,40
Bank Interest	40.54
Grant	250.00
TOTAL	£34,629.44

How we spent the money

Audit Fees	490.00
Books & Publications	36.00
Administration	6665.78
Ground Maintenance	1482.08
Telephone/Broadband	550.53
Annual Report	115.75
Open Day	131.82
Website	1,051.07
Play Area Sharlston	4,479.56
Hanging Baskets	2,006.40
Grants	1,360.00
Section 137	70.00
Play Area New Sharlston	10,000.00
Purchases	1,458.22
Subscriptions	158.00
Christmas Lights	4798.87
Insurance	1633.18
Training	365.00
TOTAL	£36862.33

Unaudited accounts for 2018/19 will be available to the public in June 2019 and the audited figures will be available in October or November 2019

Precept 2019-20 in order of Band D charge

		Precept	band D
1	South Kirkby	842,000.00	299.96
2	Hemsworth	749,386.00	206.50
3	South Elmsall	362,000.00	188.15
4	Havercroft	65,576.00	127.09
5	Upton & N.Elmsall	248,670.00	121.13
6	Ackworth	202,830.00	74.43
7	Ryhill	54,185.00	69.74
8	South Hiendley	34,160.00	63.14
9	Woolley	32,900.00	49.40
10	Normanton	289,600.00	47.57
11	Sharlston	35,000.00	44.19
12	Warmfield cum Heath	13,260.00	41.96
13	Nostell	4,000.00	40.00
14	Thorpe Audlin	10,000.00	33.90
15	Badsworth	11,655.00	33.49
16	Walton	36,695.00	32.25
17	Sittlington	57,600.00	29.27
18	Featherstone	138,000.00	28.65
19	Crofton	55,250.00	28.07
20	West Bretton	5,400.00	24.55
21	Crigglestone	75,586.00	22.56
22	Darrington	12,664.10	20.46
23	Notton	8,000.00	18.60
24	East Hardwick	939.00	11.59



Photograph by Danny Lees.