Introduction
This report summarises the key activities and events over the past financial year.

Council Meetings
The Parish Council has met, as scheduled, on 6 occasions this year. It is pleasing to note that a small number of parishioners continue to attend each council meeting. The parish council would encourage all parishioners to come along to future meetings and to express their views in relation to how our parish should be managed.

Parish Clerk
Our Parish Clerk, Gill Mason, has been with us for just over a year. During that period Gill has made a significant and positive impact upon the running of the Parish Council. Regrettably, Gill has decided to resign her role after this meeting. On behalf of the parish council I would like to take this opportunity to thank Gill for all the good work that she has done in her relatively short tenure. We wish her all the best in her future ventures.

Parish Councillor
Paul Whatmough became a parish councillor in May 2015. Since then Paul has been a very active member of the parish council has made a very positive impact of the running of the council. However, Paul decided to step down as councillor in January 2019. On behalf of the parish council I would like to take this opportunity to thank Paul for all the good work he has done in during his 4 year tenure. We wish him all the best for the future.

Finances
Our primary source of income is the Lancaster City Council Precept which forms part of the Council Tax that we all pay. On average, each household in the parish pays £1 per week towards the village precept. The Parish Council has managed to maintain this level of payment (i.e. 0% increase) for the year 2019-20.

During 2018-19 the Parish Council successfully bid for £2,545.00 to support the production of our Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). All this money was spent, as planned, within the financial year and successfully signed off by Groundwork UK, the organisation that manage NDP funding on behalf of the Government.
Each year the Parish Council’s annual return is audited by an auditor approved by the Audit Commission. Any interested person has the right to inspect the accounts. The accounts will be available for inspection from July 2018 onwards. Anyone wishing to inspect the accounts should contact Carl Hunter, Chairman. Further details will be published on the parish council website.

**Village Greens and Woodlands**

Over 50% of our annual expenditure goes towards maintaining the village greens and ensuring the trees within the village are safe and/or in good condition. The contract for maintaining the village greens was reviewed this year and, again, awarded to the local contractor (Andrew Tennant) who continues to deliver an excellent value for money service. The parish council has also put in place arrangements to ensure all the trees on council land are monitored and reviewed every other year and any appropriate action or intervention taken.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the parish council, to express our thanks to:

- The numerous parishioners who maintain their gardens and the roadside greens, in front of their houses, to such a high standard
- Tom Herd for maintaining the hedgerow and path on the B6480 from the Boat House to the bottom of Spout Lane
- Everyone involved in the installation of a Christmas tree on the village green for the fourth year running. In particular, Trevor Sykes, Tony Metcalfe and Graham Atkinson for re-erecting the tree after it snapped and fell over in the high winds. Thanks also go to the Wenning Voices for organising another excellent Christmas social event (carol singing and good cheer) on the village green. Thanks must also go to Tony Metcalfe who provided all the lighting for this event. Feedback from parishioners and others has again been unequivocally positive.

**Neighbourhood Development Plan**

The Parish Council has continued in its commitment to developing its Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). The sub-group of council has worked tirelessly for 2½ years to complete this significant and important piece of work. During 2018-19 there were further rounds of formal consultation. Following this, our NDP was also subject to independent examination the outcome of which was that, subject to a number of minor amendments, our NDP successfully met all the basic conditions and, therefore, it should proceed to referendum. A referendum was held on the 14th February 2019. Over 60% of the voters in Wennington turned out to show their unanimous (i.e. 100%) support for our NDP.

Our NDP was formally adopted by Lancaster City Council on the 10th April 2019. This means that the local planning authority (i.e. Lancaster City Council) must now take into account all
the policies within our NDP when deciding each future planning application. Wennington is the first parish, within the district, to successfully develop a Neighbourhood Development Plan. The rural character and natural landscape of Wennington is now much better protected, than it ever has been, as a consequence of developing this plan.

On behalf of the parish council I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank members of the sub group for their outstanding efforts in developing our NDP and, in particular, all the parishioners who made the effort to vote and demonstrate their support for our NDP.

Community Emergency Plan
The Parish Council has made a clear commitment to fully support the work of Richard Gargini and his Working Group (i.e. Cllr Sophie Ridsdale, Jim & Rita Murphy, Linda Ashworth, Ian Wood and Richard Parsons) in the development and adoption (by Lancaster City Council) of a Community Emergency Plan (CEP) for the Wennington area.

In a very short period of time, this group has developed and published a comprehensive CEP which has also been adopted by Lancaster City Council. Furthermore, Richard Gargini has been successful in securing a grant of £1,250.00 from the Community Foundation for Lancashire to enable the purchase of equipment and resources.

Further details about the Community Emergency Plan can be found on the parish council website.

Highways
The Parish Council are continually liaising with the Highways Department in an effort to ensure that the conditions of the roads and, in particular, the drains throughout the village are maintained and/or repaired. The parish council has significant concerns about a number of highway issues and will continue to express its concerns to the relevant authorities.

The Parish Council is pleased to report that it was successful in its request to the Highways Department to install a new drainage system on Lodge Lane. Although the scheme has not been fully completed (as originally planned by Highways) we have been assured that it will be completed as soon as further monies become available. A special note of thanks goes to Sue O’Brien and Heather Brindley for commissioning a very detailed and valuable survey into the flood risk on Lodge Lane. This report was, without doubt, a significant factor in persuading Highways to install new drains on Lodge Lane.

The Parish Council has negotiated an arrangement with Caton & Littledale Parish Council to use one of the Speed Indication Devices (SpIDs) on a bi-monthly basis. When the SpID is in use it undoubtedly has a calming effect on the speed of traffic through the village.
Wennington Wombles

The parish council is very appreciative of, and pleased to support, the activities of the now well established group of volunteer parishioners (i.e. the ‘Wennington Wombles’), who have significantly reduced the amount of litter on our roads and lanes as a result of regular litter picking activities. The Wennington Wombles were also successful in securing a new waste bin, half way up Spout Lane, which is now well used by local dog walkers. Special thanks go to Linda Ashworth for continuing to coordinate the group’s activities and providing monthly updates on the Parish Council website.

Newsletter

In July 2018 the Parish Council issued its first ‘Newsletter’. The purpose of the newsletter is to update parishioners on key issues and decisions from a parish council perspective. It is anticipated that the newsletter will be published on a quarterly basis. It is distributed, via email, to almost every household within the parish and a number of people outside the parish boundary. Feedback from parishioners has been extremely positive, indicating that the frequency and tone of the newsletter is just right. Anyone can subscribe to the newsletter, simply visit our website for details.

Parish Council website

The Parish Council has its own website (www.wenningtonparishcouncil.wordpress.com/) and, on behalf of the council, I would urge people within the village to have a look at it. It contains a wealth of information, including:

- Who your Parish Councillors are
- When and where the Parish Council meet
- The Minutes of previous meetings and the Agenda for the next meeting
- Information and details related to our Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)
- Planning Applications and Planning Decisions within the parish
- Information and details related to our Community Emergency Plan (CEP)
- Information regarding the activities of the Wennington Wombles

A final Thank You

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow councillors for all their support and commitment during my fifth year as Chairman.

Carl Hunter
Chairman - Wennington Parish Council