

Garstang Town Council

Annual Report 2018-19

Date of Review: N/a

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Mayor's Report

The Town Council have had another interesting year and hopefully my report will give you a flavour of what has been going on. We have also had a busy year with a full team of 12 Cllrs. Cllrs Hesketh and Cllr Cornthwaithe have stepped down this year, we as a town council would like to thank you both for all your time and dedication you have put in over the years, and just to mention Cllr Cornthwaite was Mayor back in 1989-1990 and again in 2017-2018 so he has been with us for a long long time. Wishing you both all the best with your future adventures.

If you are interested in becoming a Town Councillor, then 2 places will be coming available very shortly. To find out more information contact our clerk Edwina and look out for details which will put on our website. We are a vibrant and proactive team, so look forward to welcoming new Cllrs onto our team, we are a very friendly bunch!

There was concerns earlier on in the year that the neighbourhood policing team was withdrawing from Garstang, this has certainly NOT been the case, there is now more of a police presence in Garstang...24/7 as officers are now working on the emergency response teams. There are 3 PCSO's led by PC Chris Banks liaising and working with the town council and residents & traders of Garstang.

Recently the town council gave approval to pilot a new uniformed community champion volunteer to work at the heart of our local community and be a point of contact for the town council. We have some leaflets here if you would like more information and you can also get in touch with Edwina.

On the 28 February 2019 Wyre council adopted the Wyre local plan 2011–2031 (the local plan). Wyre's new local plan sets out a vision for growth and development of the entire borough to 2031, including where new homes, employment and shops will be located as well as which areas will be protected.

Cllrs Brooks, Allen and Cornthwaite are working with the neighbouring parishes to see if they have any interest in forming a local group to discuss matters of mutual interest arising out of the Local Plan.

The latest position of the community centre development is that the proposed development to allow the full demolition of the building, including the existing front and side facades, was refused as it would result in unacceptable harm to the heritage value of Garstang Conservation Area. A working party has been formed to look at developing a working relationship with Keyworker Homes to ensure that, where possible, the TC can maximise any benefits for Garstang.

The war memorial had a much needed and improved facelift last year, trees cutting back, new paving and garden area, the erection of a new flag pole and a memorial bench. All this was ready in time for remembrance Sunday. In the evening, the town council held a beacon of light ceremony to commemorate the end of WW1. A very talented local girl Elizabeth Singleton, led the singing of war time songs, readings were read out and then the lighting of the beacon took place at 7pm.

Myself and Cllr Ryder have been working hard in the background to improve Moss Lane Play Park, we have been successful in now securing this funding and works on the play area will hopefully commence in September this year after the school holidays.

The town council organised its first ever scarecrow festival back in July 2018 led by Cllrs Webster and cllr Leech, this was a huge success, it was so lovely to see the community come together especially hearing about the residents in station way, some did not know their neighbours but by making their scarecrows and showcasing them in their gardens it brought them together.

Another first event that took place which was organised by the IGT was the Ice cream festival, wow it couldn't of been timed better, it was the hottest day of the year, the cars were queued all the way down the A6 trying to get into our town, what a fantastic day to be had by everyone.

Another first event that myself and Cllr Allan were involved with was the North West Stages car rally ceremonial night which took place on the High Street, the organisers were overwhelmed with the crowds that attended, and some of the Rally drivers had mentioned they had never experienced a welcome like it. From this event they kindly donated £1000 to my Mayors charity Garstang Memory Café which supports people living with dementia.

I'd like to thank all the other community groups and IGT who work so hard to provide the festivals and events in our town. A special thanks to the Garstang in Bloom team who work tirelessly to keep our town looking so magnificent. By working altogether Garstang is enjoyed by the locals and visitors alike.

The Town Council is increasingly embracing social media and better ways of communicating with residents. We have 500 followers on Facebook, we will continue to push this forward, Cllr Ryder set up a Mayors blog which posts out to the council Facebook page. To find out the latest news, follow your town council on Facebook and sign up for the mayors blog.

Our Youth Council continues to flourish which is a credit to our town and the youth of our town.

Finally, I would like to thank Edwina, our Town Clerk, for her advice and guidance and keeping us all, especially me, on the straight and narrow; Martyn, our Lengthsman, for keeping the town looking neat and tidy and Hilary, our Town Crier, who attends many functions throughout the year letting everyone know what is going on locally and promoting the town.

Last but not least, I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their support and dedication over the last year.

Cllr Leah Hynes
Mayor

Financial Report

1 April 2018 - 31 March 2019 (the last financial year).

The figures are yet to be approved by the Council, which will take place at May's Council meeting, and are still subject to audit.

Income

The Council set a precept of £72,692. The precept allows the Council to carry out its functions and services for the year. Other sources of income for the Council, included:

- a) A payment of £213 from Simmons Construction which allowed the Town's Lengthsman to carry out grass cutting duties at Fell View, in addition to his normal duties.
- b) Rent from the Scout Hut of £60.
- c) Rent from the 3 allotment tenants of £39 each making a total of £117.

Expenditure

A budget is set in November/December prior to the financial year to determine what costs the Council are likely to face in the following financial year.

The Council decided to support the following projects in the town:

- a) Kepple Lane playing field project -This project is being led by the Kepple Lane Park Trust, whereby Cllr Harter is a trustee. Since April 2008 the Council has approved

- b) £4,000 each year for the project. A Kepple Lane Trust report will be presented later. At 31 March, the funds for the project amounted to £7,286.
- c) Moss Lane playing field project – this project is being led by Cllrs Ryder and Hynes. At 31 March, the TC funds for the project amounted to £6,228.
- d) Other secured funds, for the project, include Garstang & District Partnership £8,000, Garstang lions £350, LCC £1,350, Lancashire Environment fund £27,000.
- e) Renovation of the War Memorial. £8,445 was spent repaving, landscaping, restoring the link chain at the front, flag pole and memorial bench. All works were completed to coincide with the commemoration, to mark the end of the First World War. £970 was spent on the 'Lighting of the beacon' event on the evening of 11/11/2019.
- f) £2,500 was donated to the Chamber of Trade towards the finances of the Christmas Lights.
- g) £368 was donated to the Scarecrow Festival Committee, for first aid cover, for their festival that was held in July 2018.
- h) £399 was spent to support the NW stages car rally held in March of this year.
- i) Also included is the grants budget. By using Section 137, LGA 1972, councils can fund expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or any part of it or all or some inhabitants. The Council awarded money to the following community groups and projects
 - Children's Festival – providing a storage container on the scout hut car park, Kepple Lane
 - £200 for the Academy Pitch In (astro turf pitch) project

Other expenditure of the Council relates to salaries (the Clerk and Lengthsman) and for the administrative running costs of the Town Council. Maintenance of the two playing fields – Kepple Lane and Moss Lane, is paid for by the Town Council and carried out by Wyre Council. Additional maintenance is carried out for the sensory garden at Kepple Lane Park.

The Finance Committee of the Council meets quarterly and enables the six Councillors to study the finances of the Council in detail and make recommendations to Full Council.

As Responsible Finance Officer to the Council, I carried out the book keeping for the Christmas Lights account on behalf of the Chamber of Trade. This allows the Town Council to bid for grant monies from Wyre Council and reclaim the VAT spent, on behalf of the community organization.

Once approved, the accounts will be detailed on the TC website - www.garstangtowncouncil.gov.uk. These accounts are prepared in accordance with the Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England, March 2018. Members of the public are always welcome to inspect the books!

Edwina Parry, Town Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer

Garstang Town Trust Report 2019

Garstang Town Trust is made up of eleven Trustees' all of whom live within a two-and-a-half-mile radius of Garstang Town centre.

The Trustees are:

- Wyre Borough Council Representative Trustees Lady Dulcie Atkins and Councillor Tom Balmain.
- Garstang Town Council Representative Trustees are: Councillor Gordon Harter who is the Vice Chairman this year and will take over as Chairman at the AGM next month, Councillor Michael Halford who was Chairman for the year 2017- 18, and fairly new to the Town Trust is Councillor Sandra D. Perkins.
- Co-opted Trustees: Mrs. Lyn Nickson who is our current Chairman until next month, Mr. David Carr, Mr. Tom Ibison, Mr. David Lewis and Mr. Eddie Livesey.

Sadly, at the end of last year we lost valued and active Trustee Mrs. Tessa Ferguson when she passed away on 1 December 2018.

The remit of the Town Trust is to run the markets in Garstang, both the indoor Market House and the Thursday street market. All the money raised from the running of the markets and the rental from certain buildings remains within the town. It is used to fund the upkeep of several prominent listed buildings that are under the guardianship of the Trust, these being the old Town Hall, the Market House, the Old Grammar School and slaughter house which is one of the oldest buildings in the town and has now been renamed 'Butchers Court'. The Trust is also responsible for the Market Cross, which was first listed as an historical monument on 27th February 1957.

The Town Hall and the Market House between them provide premises for seven businesses, three of which have changed hands in the last year. Late in 2018 Mrs. Siobhan Savage who ran her business Vintage Chic Co., from South Shop, in the Town Hall decided to return to teaching and South Shop was taken over by local lady Mrs. Deborah Taylor who refurbished the shop beautifully and now runs her business 'Dapper & Dainty', a children's wear shop

for 0-9 year olds. Mrs. Taylor stocks some gorgeous children's clothes and has recently introduced a selection of occasion wear for children.

Mr. & Mrs. Roy & Ann Scott were very familiar faces whom had been running the butchers stall in the Market House for 35. They were presented with a gift of a crystal bowl up on their retirement by Chairman Trustee Mrs. Lyn Nickson. The butchers stall is now run by brothers Richard and Andrew Cardwell, farmers from Stalmine whom, between them, have a wealth of knowledge in the butchering industry having worked at various markets and Butchers shops over many years. They have called their business 'Garstang Quality Meats' and are proving very popular with locals and visitors alike.

Earlier in the year the fruit & veg stall changed hands to become a pet supplies still run by Mr. Steve Cook. Steve had been trading on the outdoor market for a number of years and decided to expand his business by moving indoors.

Unfortunately, the tenant of North Shop Mrs. Gill Bradshaw has been seriously ill and therefore her chiropody business has been closed for four months now but we are hopeful that Mrs. Bradshaw will be back with us soon.

The old Grammar School which is better known as Garstang Arts Centre continues to be a thriving community hub for continuous vocational adult learning and social groups ranging from art and crafts, singing and music to playing Bridge. Most months the Arts Centre hosts an exhibition of artwork by a visiting artist. There are also regular craft fairs where local groups exhibit and sell their creations. Work on the buildings this year has seen repairs to the Arts Centre roof, which included removal of an old fan and the filling in of a roof light, both of which were no longer used and were leaking in. A new WC has been created on the ground

floor of the Town Hall for the use of the two shops. All the fluorescent lighting in Market House has recently been replaced with new L.E.D. fittings to make the market brighter and save on energy. The area to the rear of the Town Hall and Butchers Court has been tidied up and the flagged area extended. This work is not quite finished yet but already has hugely improved the look and usability of the area. This should please the Royal British Legion Club on the upper floor of the Town Hall as it will give them a larger outdoor seating area, which hopefully will attract more members. This area is a fantastic suntrap during the summer months.

Planned work on the Town Hall has been given the go ahead covering replacement windows to the rear South side, and the painting of the interior communal areas of the Town Hall which will be followed by the external painting this summer.

If there is surplus revenue then it is also within the remit of the Town Trust and at the discretion of the Trustees' to award grants to local Community groups that ask for help with funding. This year the Trust has awarded a grant to the new Christmas Lights scheme, to the Garstang in Bloom for a new strimmer and to help construct the new Norah Hoyles Memorial Gardens, plus a small donation to Bowland Village Trust in memory of Trustee Mrs. Tessa Ferguson.

The Facebook pages that were set up for both the indoor and outdoor markets have proved popular and successful, statistics are improving month on month. Now the weather is improving we are seeing an influx of new traders to the outdoor market as happens at this time every year. Hopefully some will become regulars and stay with us for a few years.

Promoting the market is still ongoing and we are hoping to get some fliers out to coach companies and caravan parks etc ... very soon.

Millennium Green Trust Report

Fortunately, the weather this last year has been better than previous year. Although wet, the flood gates have not operated which has been a relief, as flooding leaves the ground saturated and debris and silt on the paths. Manually clearing this is physically demanding and quite exhaustive for the volunteers endeavouring to bring the Green back to its pristine standard.

Last year's Youth Mayor Nathan Halford chose the Garstang Millennium Green as his charity for the year. He raised £1,358.30 and will present a cheque to us at this year's May AGM. A fantastic sum raised through different activities including a pillory at the Ice Cream Festival where the Millennium Green Trust Chairman (that's me) as soaked ... mainly by my wife and son other fundraising activities included a Family

Quiz, and a Raffle with the Garstang Indoor Market. Great to see the young of Garstang involved with sustainment of Garstang's Little Jewel.

I am pleased to announce the Millennium Green also won awards in both the National & Regional Parks Category of Britain in Bloom. It's encouraging to see the continued use of the Green by local schools and collages for educational purposes. Other events hosted on the Green include the Garstang Walking Festival, St Johns Hospice Colour Run, children's Teddy Bears Picnic to name a few, illustrating the diversity of user the Green attracts.

The Millennium Green was successful in an application to the Foyle Foundation for a grant to replace three of the old grass cutters which will improve reliability and reduce maintenance costs.

Thanks also goes to the continued support of Green Management Team & Friends of the Green for the organised talks. 'Bat Talk' and 'Wyre River Trust' to name a couple, coffee mornings and charity stalls. All of which continue to increase the profile of the Millennium Green and raise the needed funds, without which the Green would not be maintained in its splendour for all who visit and enjoy it.

We owe our gratitude to the Trustees, Green Management Team, Green Works, Friends of the Green and the Rangers who all give their time for free to ensure the Green is kept in its highly acclaimed state. In the last 12 months over 500hrs of voluntary work have been completed for the residents of Garstang and visitors from near and afar.

Cllr Mike Halford

Garstang Town Council representative to the Garstang Millennium Green Trust and Chairman of the Garstang Millennium Green Trust

Kepple Lane Park Trust

The Trust has continued to make good progress and had a successful year once again despite a pretty miserable Fun Day in September.

Once again there has been very little vandalism, The lengthsman's container continues to prove an "attraction" although there have to date been no successful break-ins.

The Trust is Sainsbury's charity of the year for a second year; they have supported the Trust throughout the year both in-store, donations towards new seating and help on the Fun Day.

The Northwest RHS Awards were tremendously successful again for the Park this year with 3 awards being received:

- a) Gold Medal Award for Parks;
- b) Distinction for Parks;
- c) Community – Neighbourhood Award Level 5 - Outstanding

During the year new flower beds, including one commemorating 100 years of the RAF were established, with further new beds planned for this year. We would like to thank Wyre Rangers for their help on the Park with the projects and also thanks to Martyn the town's Lengthsman for his tremendous work on the Park.

The worn out football goal area has been refreshed including re-turfing the area and installation of new goalposts. This will allow the goalposts to be moved around the area periodically in order to reduce wear and tear. (Hopefully!).

This September there will not be a Fun Day.....it is felt it now needs a fresh look, however will be back in 2020.

Finally the Trust is looking to recruit at least one new Trustee, who would possibly bring new ideas, but from a more practical point is able to use a spade and a strimmer!!!

**Gordon Harter,
Chair/Trustee Kepple Lane Park Trust**

Town Council Community Awards 2019 - Results

Community Team of the Year

Garstang & District Arts Centre,
Garstang in Bloom,
Garstang Millennium Green maintenance team,
Garstang Running club at Myerscough,
Garstang Scarecrow Festival,
Garstang GP Wren Team,
Garstang Lions,
Team ShazzAnn, **WINNER**

Good Citizen of the Year

Anthony Coppin,
Bernadette Robinson,
Emma Hardcastle,
David Brewin,
Gordon Harter,
Graham Coupe,
Helen Kerrigan Hawkes, **WINNER**
Luke Pollard,
Mike Coleran,
Paula Hesmondhalgh,
Sandra Mckean/Sue Roome,
Sue Mahen,
Joe Walmsley,

Sports Team of the Year

Garstang Hockey Club, **WINNER**
Garstang Table Tennis Academy,
Garstang Running Club,
Garstang & District Tennis Club,

Garstang Giants (Basketball),

Business in the Community,

Azcent Fitness,
Barkers Pet Store,
Best Wishes,
Booths Garstang,
Bowland Care, **WINNER**
Creative Thread Workshops,
Ctrl Alt Del,
Garstang Deli Cafe,
Jelly Beans pre school,
Marrick Group,
Sweets,
Zoe Edmonson,

Youth Group,

1st Garstang Rangers, **WINNER**
Garstang Amateur Swimming Club,
Great Minds Youth Group,
St Thomas Church Youth Group,

Junior Citizen of the Year,

Erin Pierce-Jones, **WINNER**
Maya Iden,

Young Citizen of the Year,

Mathew Wareing,
Chloe Bush, **WINNER**

Mayors Trophy Award

Sue Mahen school crossing patrol lady at Community Primary school, **WINNER**

Council Contact Details

Mrs Edwina Parry,
Town Clerk
Garstang Town Council
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Town Councillors 25 April 2019

Cllrs Cornthwaite and Hesketh did not stand for re-election at the elections in May 2019 and retired on 7/5/2019.



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