



WPC update to WCAT Final meeting Thurs 27 July 2023
Emma Freemantle, Clerk to Wroughton Parish Council

Historically there has been a lot of support from WPC to the WCAT and it has been evident that there is a desire to keep the library open.

From 2017 – 2022 (5 years) WPC have invested £271,000 to keep the library running.

Currently the parish council spend 6.7% of its precept on the library and its staffing so the statistics which have been mentioned previously are very positive to read.

WPC note that now the trusts final accounts will now be approved, and that any unspent grant funds will be returned to the parish council.

The latest changes with taking over the staffing from SBC make the library's position more secure as it is now wholly managed by WPC. WPC have been fully funding all staff and rental costs via a grant for some years and this now forms part of WPCs annual budgeting process.

WPC are working closely with Sally and Paula in delivering library services to the Community.

A Christmas Storywalk is planned and hopefully a new Storywalk to be explored at the Moat Pond area in the future.

WPC staff have been able to cover library staff absence in a more flexible staffing model. WPC are actively looking to recruit volunteers to supplement the library offering eg support clubs, support the summer reading challenge and address loneliness and isolation too.

There are paid staff on board to help with holiday / sick cover when the permanent staff however the aim and current efforts are being spent to recruit volunteers which will ultimately keep costs down, and form a more manageable budget for the parish council.

WPC staff will continue to support the library staff and work with the newly constituted "friends' group" to ensure the library services with offer consistent value for money and added benefits to our community. WPC continue to encourage inclusion, fun, literacy and support those in need through avenues such as Citizen's Advice sessions and the Warm and Welcome provision.

On behalf of WPC I would like to thank the WCAT Trustees both past and present for keeping the library within our community.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Emma Freemantle", with a horizontal line underneath.

Emma Freemantle
Clerk to Wroughton Parish Council