

Waterbeach Parish Council News

Autumn 2010



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Well our new Community and Youth building is taking shape albeit a bit slower than we expected but a rogue water pipe and the harsh winter are the culprits for the delay, nevertheless it is happening and it will be a facility with many benefits to our community. It is hoped that groups of people who previously had nowhere to meet will now have that opportunity and we hope that new groups will form with interesting agendas previously not seen in our village. If you are interested in using Tillage Hall then helping to raise money or even to contribute money will help to ensure that this project is finished to the highest possible standard. Our parish clerk Sarah Smart is the person you need to contact.

Tillage Hall is going to require a management committee to run it so we need to see who would like to be a member of this committee, being a new venture this is quite exciting for Waterbeach and will be a challenge to the new committee so we need a variety of people from several walks of life to come forward. If you would like to be considered then please again contact Sarah Smart with brief details about yourself.

Next year we will see the new building completed and this will make the old pavilion redundant, so what are we going to use this building for? There have been a few suggestions floated around and these include a library, Parish Council office, internet cafe to list a few, what would you like to see it used for? We welcome your suggestions no matter how whacky they may be but all suggestions will be considered. Please let the clerk know any of your suggestions.

Village Litter-Pick

The Parish Council are going to organise a village wide litter-pick as there are times when there does seem to be quite a bit of litter blowing about, this is despite the best attempts of our ground staff to keep on top of this problem and also South Cambs have a litter picker who frequents our village on a regular basis. There will always be some people who persistently drop litter plus vehicles passing through our village throw rubbish out of the windows. So we have decided to have a Saturday morning to collect as much litter as we can and we would like some volunteers to help us, if you are willing and able to help please give your details to our Parish Clerk Sarah Smart.

Welcome to Robert

I am sure that most people will be aware that we have a new groundsman and have seen him going about his job, his name is



Robert Pinion and he is proving to be a major asset to our village. He very much wants to be a part of our community so if you see him about and it is safe to do so go and speak to him, he will appreciate being recognised for the good work he is doing.

Waterbeach Cemetery

This has been area requiring attention over the years but we are at last getting on top of the situation and we must say a big Thank You to our staff who work hard to maintain the Parish council property to a standard we all like to see.

Regulars to the cemetery will have seen the wall round the area is being restored to its original condition or as near as. This is quite an expensive operation but something that has to be done, so it is being tackled with the worst affected area treated first.

The Yew trees also needed attention as they had been allowed to get out of hand but here we say Thank You to Clive Rabbett for his work in cutting them back so they can grow into the beautiful trees they should be.

If you visit the cemetery you can see the trees that were cut back last year and how they are starting to flourish now; what may appear to be drastic treatment believe me, next year those trees will look better for being cut back now.



Just a few weeks ago we had an evening inspection at the cemetery and it is really looking quite good now and I hear this from visitors and that is good but we do have plans to make it even better. Ideally it would be nice if this was a grass cemetery with just headstones to commemorate our departed loved ones This would enable the lawn mower to just run along with no obstructions and if you look at the American Cemetery and how nice that looks then ours could be the

same. However we need your help to achieve that.

There are many old graves with ornamental surrounds and they were very nice in their day but when there are no relatives left to maintain these they soon start to deteriorate. The ones we have are very important to the village but it would be nice if in future all graves were just marked by a headstone. To help achieve our aims we would like to float the idea of forming a "Friends of the Cemetery" group and so over to you the residents of our village. If you are interested in being a part of this group please contact our clerk Sarah Smart.

Yew Tree wood

The yew trees at the cemetery have been trimmed and this has resulted in a quantity of wood that may appeal to wood turners, this seems to be a hobby

that has increased over the years and it would be good if someone in our village could make good use of this wood. If you are interested in this wood 'yew' should contact Sarah our Parish Clerk.

Fresh-Air Fitness

Now quite a few people are going to say "What is fresh-air fitness" and here is the answer, equipment to help people of all ages maintain their level of fitness and even to improve levels of fitness and the best bit is that this equipment is located in the great outdoors. This kind of equipment is very much what other councils are looking to install and being a forward thinking council this is something we are looking at.

But before we go spending money on this we need to know what the residents of our village think of the idea. Look at www.fresh-airfitness.co.uk. This shows the kind of equipment on offer.

The initial idea for locating this equipment is on the recreation ground but we want feedback from our parishioners regarding the equipment and possible locations so we can get it right. We understand that not everyone has access to the internet so we will have a few brochures available but of course the internet is available in the library and after surfing the web you can get a book or three to read.



No 1 Greenside.

The area outside No 1 Greenside is actually County Council land as this was part of the highway before the alterations to the road layout were made, at times we are now getting vehicles parked on this piece of land and it obscures the view of people wanting to turn right from Greenside and this creating a dangerous situation so we need to have some suggestions how this piece of should be used to the benefit of all. So we would like to hear from residents how they feel about this, please just write to the Clerk with your ideas and suggestions.

Rendezvous on the Rec

We have seen the success of the "Party in the Park" in Landbeach and it is also a good fundraiser so why don't we have our own version here in Waterbeach? If it is done on alternate years to Landbeach as we would not want to spoil their fun. Landbeach had their party this year so Waterbeach should have one next year.

I understand that several people have said they would be willing to organise an event such as this so let us all put our thinking caps on and get this idea off the ground. It would be a great way of getting the whole village together and would complement the good work that is done on Feast Day.

There could be sporting events for the children and team events for streets to compete against each other; even the pubs might like to create competitions.

Barbecues, music of course could be provided by local musicians as I am sure we have plenty of talented people in our village and this would be a good way for them to be better known. This idea is not to rival the Feast Day but to complement it and take it all to another level, so come on, share your ideas, help to form a committee and make it happen.

Names and ideas to our clerk Sarah Smart please.

Station Road Footpath

Now we all know that this footpath is in need of attention and the Parish Council have taken this to the County Council but it is proving very difficult to get remedial work done. This is where members of the public can help by writing letters to the Parish Council complaining about the state of this path. One of main issues is the very steep camber and this makes it very unstable for wheelchair users and also people pushing baby buggies so while us at the Parish council are really doing our best to get some improvements your help would be most appreciated. There is also an issue where there is no footpath from Whitmore Way to the station and it would appear that there are too many problems to create a proper footpath but we do continue to press for improvements.

Are you interested in an allotment?

As a result of people asking about the availability of allotments the Parish Council has been helping to try easing this situation by getting the Ely Diocese to release some of the land at Back Stile that a few years ago had been turned into pony paddocks. This land was originally allotments but it had become overgrown due to lack of use so it was thought that pony paddocks were a good idea. The new houses being built do not have big enough gardens to grow vegetable on so the need for allotments has increased.

Now for the good news, Alan Shipp has agreed to make some land available for allotments and these will be ready at the end of September which is a far better result than we had hoped for so we have to say a big Thank You to Alan for coming to the rescue. Quite a few people have contacted the Clerk asking for an allotment and they will be notified when the land is ready but if you haven't applied for an allotment and still want one then please contact the Clerk.

Benches for the village

Benches at various locations through the village is something that comes up on regular occasions but of course there is as always a cost implication, like all councils, Waterbeach Parish Council has a fairly tight budget but we try to accommodate most people wherever we can. On this subject we have a new idea that we feel will benefit all people and that idea is; a bench donated to the people of Waterbeach in memory of a loved one, with a suitable plaque with the name of your choice, or maybe someone might just like to donate a bench to the village. The Parish council will be drawing up a list of locations that would benefit from have a seat there so benefactors can have preferred location for a seat.

Speedwatch

Speedwatch is where members of the public are trained to use a speed gun; the scheme is run with local volunteers and the police working together. For this scheme to work you have to train to use the equipment, and undertake checks to enable this to happen. Now considering the fact that many residents do complain about speeding traffic in our village this is your chance to help resolve this issue so we are expecting a glut of volunteers, we have a few volunteers who have given their time and we are very grateful to them but we do need more so please contact the Clerk to the Council or with your details so we can get this scheme moving on.



Library

The prospects of cuts to our library service is back on the horizon and it may mean that we get fewer new books and also the mobile library service will be reduced and I am sure that regular readers do not want this to happen. Our library is reasonably well used but we would like more readers to use the facilities, this boosts our figures and shows that this is a village that does use the library and it may help to stave off some of the cuts. As a library volunteer myself I do see how many residents do come in but there are many residents I never see in the library. I know that most of us have busy lives but we should all find time to relax and what better way than to sit down with a good book.

So come on and visit our library and see the fantastic books we have waiting to be read. More volunteers are always welcome and much needed. Please call into the library and see if you could help in any way.



We are starting to find an increase in the amount of dog fouling on the Recreation ground and this has to stop. It creates a health risk to all who use the Rec especially children and our Ground Staff and is unacceptable behaviour by a few irresponsible dog owners. These few people are giving all dog owners a bad name and if it continues this will create a view that all dog owners are irresponsible and could cause bad feeling between dog owners and also other Rec users.

We as a responsible Parish council will be watching the Rec and anyone seen allowing their dog to foul and not clearing it up afterwards will be prosecuted and the fine is £1000. South Cambridgeshire District Council have promised to use all their powers to ensure the prosecution is successful so you have been warned

If you FOUL you will be FINED

Contacting the Council

www.waterbeach.org.uk

Your Parish Councillors are:

Peter Johnson (Chairman - 560918)

Alan Ball (vice-Chairman - 570814)

Barbara Bull (816774)

Kate Grant (511455)

Agnes Lloyd (862577)

Christine Smith (507087)

Bill Bullivant

Martin Howlett (861076)

Jacqui Rabbett (860993)

Jane Williamson (440751)

Adrian Wright (861846)

Janet Cornwell (861276)

Norma Kay (862937)

David Smart (861482)

Michael Williamson (860899)

All phone numbers are area code 01223. Councillors can also be contacted by a standard email address which is firstname.surname@waterbeach.org.uk. For example, alan.ball@waterbeach.org.uk. You can also contact the Clerk, Mrs. Sarah Smart at Barton Ley, Bannold Drove, Waterbeach, Cambridge, CB25 9QQ. Tel & fax: 01223 440018, email council@waterbeach.org.uk

Your County and District Councillors

Cambridgeshire County Councillor (also represents Landbeach and Milton)

Michael Williamson. Tel: 01223 860899 email: michael.williamson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

South Cambridgeshire District Councillors (also represent Landbeach)

James Hockney Tel: 01223 861419 email: cllr.hockney@scambs.gov.uk

Peter Johnson Tel: 01223 560918 email: cllr.johnson@scambs.gov.uk