

Waterbeach Parish Council News

July 2007

Annual Parish Meeting

The attendance at this year's Annual Parish meeting was not enormous, but it was good to see more people than usual. This meeting is the opportunity for all who live in the village to find out what the Parish Council has been doing during the year and to ask questions. The money the Parish Council spends is **your** money. Part of the Council Tax bill you pay each year is for the Parish Council precept. This is a small amount in comparison with what is paid to the County Council, South Cambridgeshire District council and the Police and Fire authorities, but it is important for the village. It is spent on maintaining our open spaces, the Recreation Ground, Green, Gault, Cemetery and one or two other small areas. It pays for our Parish Council Clerk and for the team who manage and look after the open spaces. The Clerk and her team do a tremendous amount of work to keep our village running smoothly. The village has been looking lovely this year and this is thanks in a large part to them.

New Officers

The first meeting of the Parish Council in May is the annual Parish Council meeting. Adrian Wright stood down after three years as chairman. Thank you Adrian for your hard work during this time. Jane Williamson was elected as Chair for 2007-8 and Will Grant was elected Vice Chair. Membership of the Planning, Finance, Recreation Ground Users and Highways committees was also decided. Chairs of these committees will be elected at the first meetings of the respective committees.

Parish Council meetings are usually public meetings which members of the public are welcome to attend. There is an opportunity to speak during the first fifteen minutes before the formal business starts. Details of forthcoming meetings and Minutes of recent meetings can be found on the Parish

Introducing your Parish Councillors



Council notice board by the bus stop on the Green and on the website at www.waterbeach.org.uk

Anti social behaviour

It is a great shame that the good work of the groundsman is so often spoilt by acts of vandalism. Recently there has been a spate of incidents with broken glass on the Recreation Ground. The police have been involved and someone has been apprehended which is encouraging, but it would better still if there were not a problem in the first place.

General litter can also be a problem. Many people are very good about using the bins provided or taking their litter home and it is a great shame that a few people can create a lot of unpleasant mess which has to be cleared up by the groundsman who is much more usefully employed to do the work for which he is well qualified in maintaining the playing fields and other spaces in the village.

Dog Fouling

Most dog walkers are extremely conscientious about keeping their dogs on a lead and clearing up after them when they are walked on the Rec. Sadly there are still a few people who let their dogs run free and leave dog mess on the playing fields

The Recreation Ground is used by a large number of people, including lots of children, for various sports activities. It is not pleasant to discover dog mess on football pitches or play areas. There are also serious health hazards connected with it.. It should be also be pointed out that it is an offence for which the owner can be fined.

THANK YOU to all those people who respect the request to keep their dogs on a lead

PLEASE, to those few who have been letting their dogs run free, keep your lead attached to your dog while you are on the Recreation Ground.

Seen in this picture taken at the last Parish Council meeting in the new Pavilion are, from left to right, Gabrielle Smith, Jenny Dunnett, Bill Saberton, Janet Cornwell, Sarah Smart (Clerk), Jane Williamson (Chairman), Adrian Wright, Will Grant (vice Chairman), Christine Smith and Michael Williamson.

Those unable to attend the meeting and not pictured are Alan Ball, David Black, Kate Grant, Terry Gilzean, Peter Johnson and Maurice Leeke.

Jointly Funded Highways Scheme

In previous newsletters and on the web-site, we have talked about the Jointly Funded Minor Highways Improvement (JFMHI) scheme run by South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council. Last year we were successful in our bids to this scheme, and were given the choice of either a crossing on the High Street or a 'Give Way' feature on Denny End Road. The Parish Council discussed this at length, and felt that a crossing on the High Street would be of most benefit to Waterbeach.

Unfortunately, because of the requirements of the County Council

traffic engineers, it seems that it is impossible to have a zebra crossing installed so we have been given the option of an 'informal' crossing point or reconsider the Give Way feature (a narrowing of the road like that on the entrance to Milton).

We would very much appreciate your views and ask you to contact any Parish Councillor or one of our District or County Councillors to let them know what you think. There is more information on the web-site (www.waterbeach.org.uk). This is an important issue for our village and we want to get the best possible solution.

Annual Parish Meeting 2008

It is a long way ahead but the date of next year's Annual Parish Meeting has been fixed for Wednesday, 21st May, 2008. It would be good if community groups in the village tried to keep that evening free and even encouraged their members to attend!

Recreation Ground

Within the next few weeks, dependent upon the weather, parts of the Recreation Ground will be sprayed to help with weed control. Please observe any 'Keep Off' signs during this period.

Our finances. We were hoping to include an article about Parish Council finances in this Newsletter. However, lack of space means we have to hold it over until next time. Meanwhile, visit our web-site for an overview.

Contacting the Council

Your Parish Councillors are:

Jane Williamson (Chairman - 440751)

William Grant (vice-Chairman)

Alan Ball
Jennifer Dunnett
Peter Johnson
Christine Smith

David Black
Terry Gilzean
Maurice Leeke
Gabrielle Smith
Adrian Wright

Janet Cornwell
Kate Grant
Bill Saberton
Michael Williamson

Councillors can be contacted via 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

Cambridgeshire County Council is responsible, among other matters, for education, highways, libraries and social services.

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

South Cambridgeshire District Council is responsible, among other matters, for planning, environmental services (refuse collection, etc.), licensing and council housing.

This publication is one of a series of Newsletters produced by Waterbeach Parish Council aiming to tell residents about what the Council does. Thanks to Waterbeach Community Association and the distribution team of Beach News for ensuring this publication gets to every house in the village. Any views expressed are those of the Parish Council and not of Waterbeach Community Association nor of the Beach News editorial team .