

Waterbeach Parish Council News

May 2009

Report for the year 2008-2009

For those of you who came to the Annual meeting in April the content of this newsletter will not be new. The meeting was very positive and there were some helpful discussions but it was a shame that more people were not there

During the year several councillors resigned mainly due to pressure of work. We thank David Black, Robert Jones and Jonathan Lewis Jones for their contributions. Sheila Burke was with us for a short period and we have welcomed Paul Mabbs, Melanie Welburn and Norma Kay.

This has been a busy year. Regular visitors to the Recreation Ground will have noticed quite a few changes. The fencing round the five a side court on the Recreation ground and at the back of the skateboard park has been replaced with something more substantial and attractive. It means that litter can no longer be posted between the old low wooden fence inside the wire one which was difficult to clear away and looked very unsightly. The fence was partly funded by a grant from South Cambridgeshire District Council who also made a contribution to the new cricket nets. The area behind the five a side court has been tidied up and fenced off to try to prevent the accumulation of broken glass and other litter which tended to build up there but this has not been altogether successful and we are still trying to decide the best way of enhancing this area.



A large new Groundsman's shed has been erected near the New Pavilion. This will allow the Parish Council to store its equipment in a much more orderly way. There is also a section in it for the Recreation Ground user groups to store their equipment.

The roundabout in the play area has been away for major refurbishment and is now back with a new safety surface round it. Two new swings have replaced a couple which were becoming unsafe. The height of the hedge has been reduced to make it easier to see who is in the play area but still keep some wind cover.



Progress with fundraising for the Youth and Community Building is encouraging. WAY worked with the Youth Club to apply for a grant from the Cambridgeshire Youth Bank through the Young Lives Project. They were awarded £100,000 which is now in the bank. An anonymous donor has promised between £100,000 and £150,000 provided certain conditions are met and a number of other sources of funding are being explored. Tender documents are now being prepared and we hope building will start in the Autumn.

A full survey of all the trees on land managed by the Parish Council was carried out and all the trees have been numbered for ease of identification. Where necessary remedial work was done. A number of new trees have been planted which will enhance the appearance of the open spaces as they grow to maturity. We are already reaping the benefit of the earlier plantings on the Recreation Ground and elsewhere as trees become fully established. There are some lovely copses growing near the south and west boundaries end, it is just a shame that a very few dog walkers feel it is acceptable to allow their dogs to foul in the grass by the hedge or under the trees down there

Very large puddles in various places in the village which quickly appear when it rains, together with waterlogged fields, including the Recreation Ground, are becoming an increasing problem. Having had little success with local agencies we wrote to James Paice about the issue. We had a meeting with a representative from the Environment Agency to explain our concerns and the matter is being taken up at a higher level.

Major repairs have been done to part of the cemetery wall including the entrance. It now looks looks very much better. However, work still remains to be done



on the remaining sections, and the lych-gate will also need work doing on it in the near future.

Parking remains a major issue in the village. Through our newsletter we have asked for suggestions for double yellow lines and following that have asked for further comments on the suggestions. We will then ask the Highways Department whether they are appropriate before a formal consultation takes places. Given budget constraints it may be necessary to prioritise, as although the paint is quite cheap, the whole process is actually quite expensive.

For the first time this year a Parish Grant scheme was advertised. Local groups were invited to apply for a grant for their organisation. A lot of applications were received, which was very encouraging but and it was a pity that they could not all be successful.

The money to pay for the staff and the maintenance and improvements to the parish facilities (Recreation Ground, Gault, Green, cemetery and other small areas) is raised through the setting of a parish precept. This year an increase of just under 5% was agreed by Parish Council.

The Parish Council meets as a full council on the first Tuesday of each month at the New Pavilion and the Planning Committee meet on the third Tuesday. Finance, Highways and Recreation Ground committees each meet approximately quarterly.

All meetings are open to members of the public who may speak during the first fifteen minutes but not take part in any debate afterwards. It has been good again this year to have had a number of members of the public attending, sometimes just to listen and sometimes to speak about an issue, and we hope that we may see more.

The Parish Council would like to thank the Clerk Sarah Smart for the enormous amount of work she does for the Parish, her absence for a few months made us appreciate this all the more. We would also like to thank our Groundsman Kevin Stublely and the assistant Groundsman Clive Rabbett who both do so much to keep our open spaces looking so good, and also David Smart who resigned during the year from his role as Open Spaces manager

Jane Williamson - Chair

Contacting the Council

www.waterbeach.org.uk

Your Parish Councillors are:

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All phone numbers (except where stated) 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

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