

# Waterbeach Parish Council News

September 2007

## Our Parish Council Finances

**Do you ever look at your Council Tax bill in detail? If you do so, you will see that part of it goes to fund the work we do on your behalf. How much do we spend, and what do we spend it on?**

In the financial year 2007-2008, we plan to spend £102,450 in providing services for you. Most of this is the money we raise from the Council Tax amounting to £96,500. Out of a total Council Tax bill of £1,297 for a band D house this sum, when distributed among all the Council Tax payers in Waterbeach, represents £60.49 or just over 4.6% of the total bill. Looking at this in another way, the total cost to a Band D Council Tax payer is just £1.17 each week.

Comparing Waterbeach with the surrounding villages, this is rather more than Landbeach (£40.62), a little bit more than Milton (£59.80) and less than Horningsea (£65.15).

In addition to the money we get from Council Tax, we also get some additional income. This comes from fees we charge to the sports clubs for using our sports facilities, from burial fees in the Cemetery, from interest on deposits and on a small number of additional items such as rents for the fair on the village green. All in all our income for 2007-2008 is planned to be

Council tax	£96,500
Sports clubs fees	£3,884
Burial fees	£500
Interest	£1,100
Other income	£466
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£102,450</b>

As a Parish Council we have a number of responsibilities. One of the most important is the open spaces in the village, and it is our job to look after these. We get no help from either the District or County Councils for this important work.

We care for the Green (including the Gault), the Recreation Ground, the Cemetery and a few other areas within the Parish including the small play area at Chittering. In order to do this, we employ a full-time Groundsman and two other part-time people. This year we are planning to spend £48,053 on this aspect of our responsibilities which includes payments to our staff, maintenance of paths on the Recreation Ground and Green, essential work on our trees,

maintenance of equipment and other work to keep our facilities in good condition and safe for all to use.

As a Parish Council we represent you on many local issues. One of the most important is that we are asked to comment on all planning applications within the Parish. It takes time and money just to run the operation of the Council, and for this we employ a Clerk who works for 20 hours per week. Her responsibilities include looking after our meetings, managing our finances and generally dealing with a myriad of issues that come up on a regular basis. Our budget for running the administration of the Council is £28,797 this year and this includes our Clerk's salary as well as all the incidental expenses of running an efficient administration.

There are a number of other expenses that go to make up our total expenditure. In particular, we are paying off the interest and capital of a loan we took out some years ago to partly finance the building of the new pavilion on the Recreation Ground, we support the Library Access Point (WILL), we contribute to the costs of the youth work in the village, we pay for provision of some street lighting (that formerly looked after by South Cambridgeshire District Council) and we make various other payments.

Here is a summary of the total amount we are planning to spend this year

Open spaces (Green, Gault, Recreation Ground and Cemetery)	£48,053
Administration	£28,797
Loan repayments	£5,500
Library access point	£3,000
Contribution to youth work	£2,000
Street lights	£600
Other payments	£1,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£89,450</b>

Prudent budgeting means that we have to plan for the future. This is why our income is £13,000 larger than our expenditure. We hold a number of reserves for future costs, and we plan to add to some of those

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this year by transferring that £13,000 to reserves as follows

Vehicle reserve (for future replacement of tractor, mowers, etc.)	£6,000
Road improvements in the village	£3,500
Play area equipment	£1,000
Youth and community building	£2,500
TOTAL	£13,000

I hope this brief summary of our finances helps you to understand just how the Parish Council spends your money on maintaining our village and its amenities. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions on the detail of our finances.

## 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, 21<sup>st</sup> 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!

## Contacting the Parish 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](mailto:council@waterbeach.org.uk)

## Parish Council Meetings

These are held in the New pavilion at 7.30pm on the first Tuesday of each month. Agendas are posted on the Parish council noticeboards on the Green in Waterbeach and in Chittering. The minutes of each meeting are also displayed there. Additional meetings to consider planning, finance, highways and recreation ground matters are also held and notices of these meetings are also posted on the noticeboards. All these meetings are open and all are welcome to attend and observe the meetings. At the beginning of Parish Council meetings members of the public have an opportunity to raise issues of concern.

## Your County and District Councillors

Cambridgeshire County Councillor (also represents Landbeach and Milton)

Michael Williamson. Tel: 01223 860899 email: [michael.williamson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto:cllr.hockney@scambs.gov.uk)

Peter Johnson Tel: 01223 560918 email: [cllr.johnson@scambs.gov.uk](mailto: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.

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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 .