

Waterbeach Parish Council News

Spring 2010

Community and Youth Building (the Tillage Hall)

The contract has now been signed with the contractors and building work should start in earnest in March once Building Regulations have been approved. It is anticipated that it will be ready for occupation by the end of the year. A working party has now been set up to look at the way the new building will be managed. It has representatives from the Parish Council, the Community Association and WAY. The Mission Statement for the new building is that it will be:

"a busy, sustainable community and youth facility, used by a diverse range of people and benefiting the community as a whole."

It is intended that the building will be available for community use every day during the week in term time and for some of the school holidays and for four evenings a week (when it is not being used by the Youth Club).

The Parish Survey carried out a couple of years ago suggested that while existing groups in the village already have meeting places which are well suited to their purpose, a new village facility was needed to enable new activities to be introduced which cannot be accommodated by the existing premises. It is intended that Tillage Hall should satisfy this need and it will be particularly useful for daytime activities when the school is not available.

Parish Council elections

The Parish Council is due for elections this year. All councillors step down and if they wish to continue they must stand for re-election. At the time of writing this the date of the elections is not certain. Usually they are held on the first Thursday in May which would be May 6th this year. However, if the General Election is called for that date then Parish Council elections will be deferred for three weeks until May 27th. There is no election if the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, in which case all those who have been nominated are automatically appointed.

What does your Parish Council do?

Waterbeach Parish Council is responsible for management of the Recreation Ground, Cemetery, Gault, Green and a few other small areas round the village. It is also consulted on planning applications and on other important proposals which might have an impact on us. Many other things which affect our lives such as Highways and Environmental health are the responsibility of the County or District Council and the Parish Council works closely with the District and County Councillors on these issues. It supports WAY, the village youth club and WILL, the Independent Lending Library.

How is your Parish Council financed?

Part of your Council tax bill is the Parish Precept. The money is used for both the basic running costs of the Parish Council - salaries, maintenance, insurance etc. - and for capital projects. The Parish Council also receives an income from the sports groups who use the recreation ground; this helps to pay for specialist maintenance. Burial fees contribute towards the cost of running of the cemetery. Grant funding for larger projects is obtained where possible. For example South Cambridgeshire District Council contributed towards the cost of the new cricket square and the fencing around the five-a-side court.

A small amount of money has been put aside for the new Community building each year for the past few years. The amount is less than 5% of the total cost of the building and it has been necessary to have this allocation to satisfy a number of grant funders who have a condition that there is some funding from the Parish.

Annual Parish Meeting A Date for your Diary

**Wednesday 31st March,
8.00pm**

in the Community Room (the library) on the school grounds.

How many Parish Councillors are there?

Waterbeach Parish Council has 15 members. The chairman is elected each year at the annual meeting of the Parish Council which is usually held in May (it may have to be June this year if the election is held on May 26th).

Who can be a Parish Councillor?

Anyone who is on the electoral roll of Waterbeach or who works in Waterbeach may stand for election. No particular skills are required although there have been times when someone's specialist knowledge has been very helpful. What is needed is a commitment to the community, and a willingness to discuss issues objectively. Training is available and it is hoped that all new councillors will undertake this. Managing the sometimes conflicting needs of the parishioners is not always easy but being a Parish Councillor gives people who feel a strong commitment to their village a chance to shape its future.

What is the time commitment?

The Full Council meets on the first Tuesday of every month and there are occasional extra meetings. There are also four committees, Planning meets monthly and Highways, Finance and Recreation Ground meet quarterly

What is the procedure for standing for election?

Once the date of the election has been announced nomination forms can be obtained from the Clerk to the Parish Council or from South Cambridgeshire District Council.

For more information see www.waterbeach.org.uk and follow the link to Becoming a Parish Councillor or contact the Clerk Mrs Sarah Smart on 01223 440018

Please spend some time thinking whether you or someone you know who could stand for election. Even if you do not stand, please vote! The Parish Council represent everyone in the village and this is your chance to have a say in important village matters.

Contacting the Council

www.waterbeach.org.uk

Your Parish Councillors are:

Jane Williamson (Chairman - 440751)		
Janet Cornwell (vice-Chairman - 861276)		
Alan Ball (570814)	Bill Bullivant	Sam Edwards (07904 389064)
Kate Grant (511455)	Will Grant	Peter Johnson (560918)
Norma Kay (862937)	Maurice Leeke (441562)	Paul Mabbs
Christine Smith (507087)	Gabrielle Smith (511492)	Michael Williamson (860899)
	Adrian Wright (861846)	

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