

WEEDON BEC PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

Year Ending
31st March 2010



PARISH COUNCILLORS

Chairman: Mr George Newbrook—01327 341052
(magirus@btinternet.com)

Vice Chairman: Mrs Andrea Raymond - 01327 341046
(andrearaymond@btinternet.com)

Councillors:

Ms Sue Butler (suebutler@hotmail.com)

Mrs Rosemary Cox (roseandmervyn@hotmail.co.uk)

Mr Neville Griffiths (nevillegriffiths@talk21.com)

Miss Kit Harris (kit.edwards@wnaa.co.uk)

Miss Libby Hart (libby.hart@virgin.net)

Mrs Louise Haynes (tilerwhite@aol.com)

Mrs Carolyn Matthews (carolyn.matthews2@btinternet.com)

Mr Bruce Nichols (brucenichols50@hotmail.com)

All Councillors are contactable through the Parish Clerk

Clerk: Mrs Susan Halkett, 16, St Mary's Way, Weedon Bec, NN7 4QL

Tel: 01327 341057

Email: weedonbecpc@btinternet.com

Council website: www.weedonbec-pc.gov.uk

Parish Council meetings are held in the Village Hall Annex, West Street, Weedon Bec, on the first Tuesday of every month, commencing at 7.30pm, unless otherwise advertised.

Members of the public and press are invited to attend all meetings. Although the majority of the meeting is formal there is a period during the meeting where people can address the Council. Please call the clerk for further information.

Some items contained in this report were presented at the Annual Parish Meeting which was held on Tuesday 20th April 2010. A summary of the draft minutes of this meeting are available on request. Please contact the Parish Clerk.

Photographs: Adrian Higman, Tony Johns, Jo Marks



Chairman's Report

After another challenging year, with the Council sometimes under strength, we are still committed to working with the parish to improve our economical and environmental wellbeing. One of our main achievements of 2009/2010



was the accreditation of Quality Council Status. The granting of this gives the Parish Council additional creditability in the local community and also projects a more businesslike approach to our work.



The Village Vision (Parish Plan) document was presented to the Parish Council at the Village Vision exhibition in May 2009. This outlines residents' aims and wishes for the village over the next 10-15 years. It was adopted by the Council in June. The Village Design Statement has been completed and is with Daventry District Council for consultation prior to adoption.

After consulting with the County Council, dropped kerbs were installed to facilitate easier access to the shops for motorised wheelchair users from Riverside Drive. Another achievement brought about by consulting with outside agencies was the gravelling of part of Puddlebank footpath to enable a cleaner pathway to the Cemetery from the Church. For this we thank British Waterways.



Ongoing Projects include:

- Playing Fields. The Sports Association have proposals to replace the existing changing rooms at Jubilee Field for two new, modern units. The area will be enclosed and the car park extended. New play equipment is to be installed in Jubilee Field and Croft Way playing field, following grants received from Awards 4 All and Daventry District Housing.
- We are designing and producing a village map to be placed at Jubilee Field together with local walk leaflets to encourage tourism, with the help of local artist Lynda Talbott and our Path Warden Chris Buesnel.
- Complete refurbishments of all bus shelters.
 - Consultation on parking issues in two areas of the village.

Finally, I would like to thank all Councillors, past and present, the Clerk and most of all the residents in Weedon Bec without whose input and help the Council would struggle to carry out all its duties.

George Newbrook,
Chairman, Weedon Bec Parish Council

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR Ending 31st March 2010

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
Precept	74,193.00	General Admin. Incl. Salaries	26,823.74
Allotment Rents	631.00	S.137 Payments	69.00
Cemetery Fees	3,075.00	Bank Charges	15.00
Highways & Wayleaves	1,083.77	Subscriptions	789.79
Playing Fields rent	376.00	Environment/ Highways	27,683.63
VAT refund	6,864.34	Play Areas	9,859.84
Bank Interest	101.94	Allotments	1,538.88
Other receipts	0	Cemetery	10,421.47
Grants	19,395.00	Community Liaison	300.00
		Grant spend— Youth Shelter	9,395.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	105,720.05	TOTAL PAYMENTS	86,896.35

BALANCES AT 31st March 2010

Current Account	20,399.30
Reserve Account	53,755.26
Bond Account	50,000.00
TOTAL	124,154.56

Events in the Village during 2009/2010

Pocket Park

After two public meetings a committee was formed to identify a site for a pocket park in Weedon Bec. After 12 suggested sites the group whittled it down to the final two. Both sites are very different, one open farm land with marshy area, reservoir and river running through. The other a narrow pathway between the railway and canal embankments.

Negotiations are continuing for the preferred site. For more information visit www.weedonbecpocketpark.co.uk.

Weedon Bec Village Fete

The Fete was held on Saturday 19th September and was once again blessed with good weather, sunshine and crowds of people from the village and surrounding areas. David Fletcher, an antiques expert, opened the fete and spent the time afternoon assessing people's antiques and valuables. A total of £4,000 was donated towards groups in the village.



Quilting Display

During the last weekend in September Weedon Bec Parish Church was beautifully decorated with quilts, lace, cross stitch and floral displays. The items were produced by ladies from the two quilt groups that meet regularly in the Chapter House and the floral displays were presented by ladies from the Church and two professional florists.



The unbelievable sum of £2570 was raised and presented to the Church for use towards the repair of the outside window sills. The winner of the raffle draw was Mr John Shortland. The quilt for the 2011 raffle draw is nearly finished. The groups would like to say a 'big thank you' to all villagers and visitors who attended the show and look forward to doing it again in 2011. The picture displayed was voted the "most popular" by visitors.

Cycling Proficiency Day

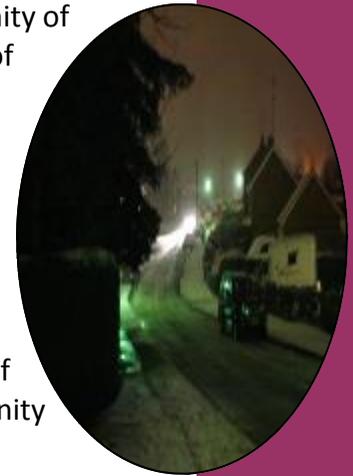
PSCO Kev Thompson organized a cycling proficiency afternoon to focus attention on safety, bike maintenance and cycling skills. A number of young people turned up and all had a good time.



Weedon Bec Parish Council represents the community of Weedon Bec which has an electorate, for 2009/10 of 2152 people residing in 1251 dwellings. The community also supports light industry situated in the Cavalry Fields Industrial Park and the Old Royal Ordnance Depot.

The Parish Council's aims are:

- to protect the rural character and environment of the village and to actively encourage the community to act in a manner to sustain and enhance these characteristics;
- to be the champion of the community and to act on their behalf on all matters relating to the village and its surrounds;
- to continually improve the quality and range of services provided to the community
- to encourage and support the local community groups where possible;
- to be informative and proactive in our approach to the community and village issues by transparency at the Parish Council meetings, through the website and the newsletter.



ENVIRONMENT & PLAYING FIELDS, TASK GROUP:

Chairman – Sue Butler: Rosemary Cox, Kit Harris, Libby Hart, Louise Haynes, Bruce Nichols, Andrea Raymond

The older street lights around the village have been replaced and a full audit including safety check was carried out on all lights. New dog bins have been installed at High Street and New Croft. After receiving concerns raised by residents regarding ducklings trying to get over the weir at Bridge Street, a local resident designed a duckling bridge. Permission was received from the Environment Agency to install and a local company constructed and placed the bridge in position.

Contracts for the grass cutting in the village were awarded to Stanley Jupp Landscapes for highways and verges and Nicenstripy for the playing fields. Yates Landscapes were awarded the general maintenance contract for the second time.

A natural BMX track has been established along the north side of Jubilee Playing Field. A Grant from Money 4 Youth was obtained for the youth shelter which has been erected at Jubilee Fields.

CEMETERY & ALLOTMENTS TASK GROUP:

Chairman – Bruce Nichols: Neville Griffiths, Libby Hart, Louise Haynes

All the large laurels either side of the gate house have been cut back allowing light to the area. Part of the rough piece of ground along the east side of the cemetery has been re-turfed, the cemetery shed door has been repaired and repainted and some of the older, sunken, graves have been levelled.

There were two break-ins at Church Street allotments: access gained by cutting through the wire of the gate and the second time cutting the chain to the gate – one shed's lock was damaged but nothing reported as missing. At Riverside Allotments three sheds were damaged - one had to be demolished - tools thrown about and plants pulled up. Police were informed on all occasions.

We are hoping to increase the number of allotment plots this year and are also on the lookout for another site due to a long waiting list.

PLANNING COMMITTEE:

Chairman – Carolyn Matthews: Rosemary Cox, Sue Butler, Neville Griffiths, Louise Haynes,

Major planning issues this year have mainly revolved around the effect of the proposed Daventry Development and their impact on our village, particularly the A5/A45 crossroads.

We participated, within the Daventry Villages Together (DVT) Group and through monthly meetings with West Northamptonshire Development Corporation (WNDC), put forward our concerns. At the Major Development Inquiry our points were considered by the Inspector as being valid to his overall decision for the planning refusal for the Danetre Village and Church Fields proposals

The Parish Council also rejected the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) proposals for new building sites identified around the built areas of Weedon Bec village.

COMMUNITY LIAISON TASK GROUP:

Chairman – Andrea Raymond: Sue Butler, Kit Harris, Libby Hart,

Mobile speed cameras operated by local volunteers were provided by the Police Safety team. The Police have also been involved, along with Highways, with the plans to make the Plume Crossroads safer. There is currently a consultation going on throughout the village.

The Council have an ongoing programme of works with the County Council which included painting "Slow" on the road outside the school, re-marking the white lines around the village, installing and/or repositioning metric height restrictions signs for bridges etc. Flashings have been put around the bridges. The pavement leading from the junction of Cavalry Hill along the A45 has been improved and also extended to provide a continuous walkway along to Harman's Way.

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSE TASK GROUP:

Chairman – George Newbrook: Sue Butler, Carolyn Matthews, Bruce Nichols, Andrea Raymond

The Council has supported the duckling bridge and a Remembrance Day wreath under Section 137.