

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Chairman: Mr George Newbrook—01327 341052
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Vice Chairman: Mr Stuart Jacks - 01327 341811
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Councillors:

Ms Sue Butler (suebutler@hotmail.com)

Mr David Charnock (mail@davidcharnock.co.uk)

Mrs Kit Edwards (kit@thephotographykit.co.uk)

Mr Richard Ferguson (richardferguson@hotmail.com)

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)

Mrs Ginette Pilkington (gpilks@btinternet.com)

Mrs Ann Ranshaw (ann@nbdoha.co.uk)

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

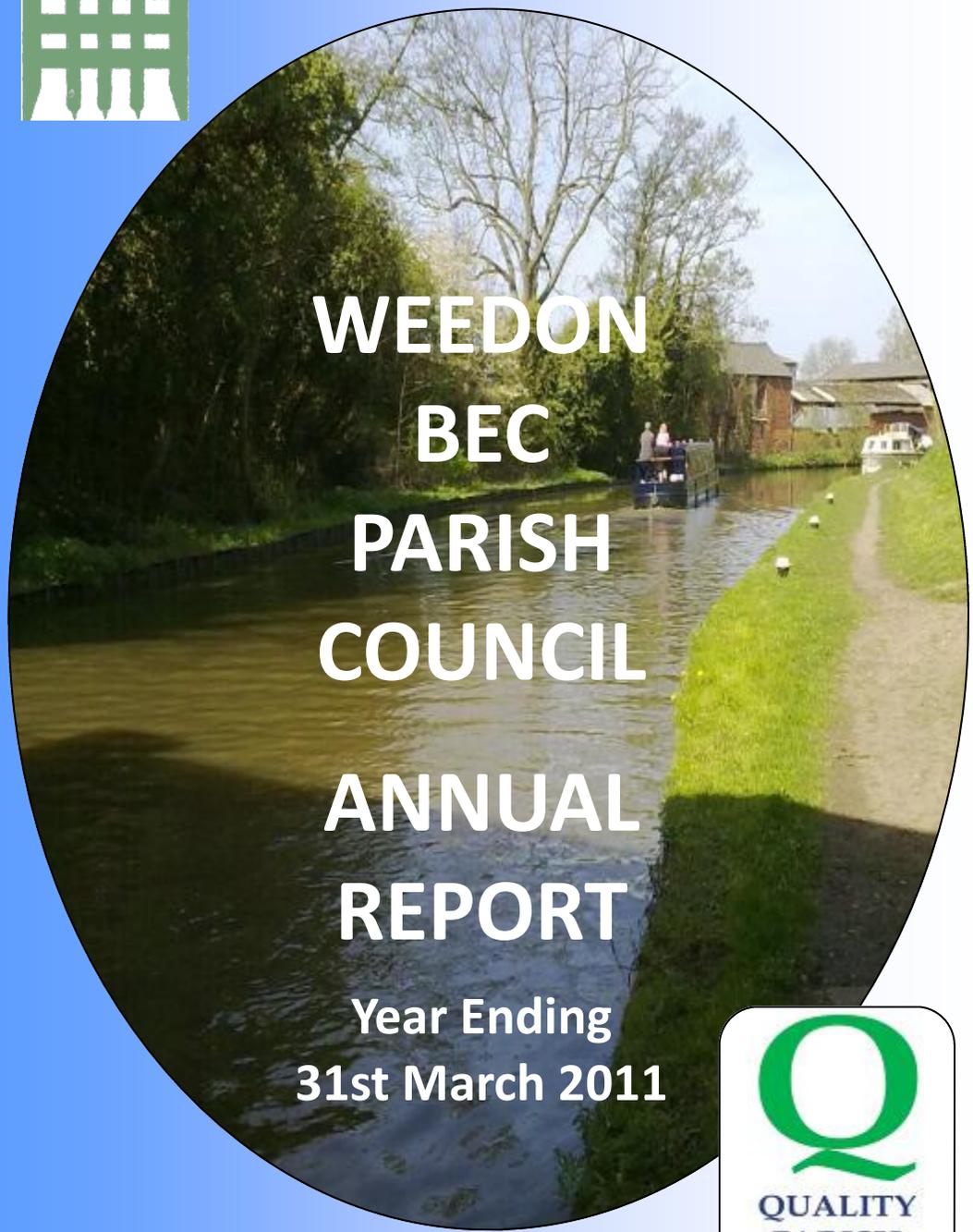
Parish Council meetings are held in the Village Hall Annex, West Street, Weedon Bec, on the first Tuesday of every month, commencing at 7.30pm, unless otherwise advertised. The exception to this is January where the meeting is to be held on the second Tuesday in the month.

Members of the public and press are invited to attend all meetings.

Although the majority of the meeting is formal there is a period 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 19th April 2011. A summary of the draft minutes of this meeting are available on request. Please contact the Parish Clerk.

Photographs: Kit Edwards (www.thephotographykit.doc.uk) Tony Johns, Adrian Higman, Richard Ferguson and Sue Halkett



WEEDON BEC PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

Year Ending
31st March 2011



Chairman's Report

This year has been one of satisfaction, although at times difficult for me personally. My thanks go to all Parish Councillors for their extra efforts, which have seen some of the projects mentioned in my last report coming to fruition.



Your council members attended several varied training courses provided by NCALC (Northampton County Association of Local Councils) to keep themselves abreast of the changing face of their role in the Parish Council. Councillors also attended many other meetings in and around the County ensuring that we have a say in the changes, which are currently being discussed, that may affect Weedon Bec.

Looking back over the last year I can count over 40 changes/improvements in the village, an achievement that endorses the hard work that all the Parish Councillors can be proud of.

I am also pleased to report that we have maintained our precept figure for 2011/12 at last year's level, whilst not cutting back any of the services we provide and, we are setting aside funds for the Diamond Jubilee celebrations in 2012.

Ongoing Projects

The renovation of Jubilee Field car park
 The Plume Crossroads, yellow line markings
 The publication of the Village Design Statement
 The erection of the Village Map at Jubilee Field and also smaller versions on the canal towpath
 A Village Walks booklet, and
 A Pocket Park at Puddlebank



Finally, I would like to thank Mr Peter Gilbert for doing such a splendid job in clearing the litter around the village, 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 2011

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
Precept	76381.00	General Admin. Incl. Salaries	27301.92
Allotment Rents	661.00	S.137 Payments	169.00
Cemetery Fees	2957.73	Bank Charges	15.00
Highways & Wayleaves	2847.83	Insurance	3633.02
Playing Fields rent	360.00	Environment/Highways	27484.31
VAT refund	11525.50	Play Areas	67078.14
Bank Interest	151.97	Allotments	3662.38
Other receipts		Cemetery	13260.95
Grants	7846.00	Community Liaison	200.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	102731.03	TOTAL PAYMENTS	142804.72

BALANCES AT 31 st March 2011	
Current Account	15173.64
Reserve Account	18795.04
Bond Account	50112.19
TOTAL	84080.87

Events in the Village during 2010/2011

Weedon Bec Village Fete

The Fete held on Saturday 18th September had slightly cooler weather than previous years but the sun did shine and the field and hall were busy all afternoon. Our two main attractions, Dunchurch Brass Band and the display by Pacesetters Dog Team received many compliments from residents. The turnout of classic cars, bikes and scooters was very impressive.



Village Spring Clean

On a dry and sunny day in April a group of adults and children, including Weedon Brownies and Weedon Women's Institute met at the Chapter House to collect bags, tools and clothing and set off around the village picking up all the litter in regions that our litter picker cannot cover. These include Lovers Lane, Farthingstone Road, Puddlebank and surrounding roads into the village. Bags of rubbish (and other items) were collected and piled up ready for the District Council to pick up. Our thanks go to all those volunteers, the Parochial Church Council for allowing us the use of the Chapter House and the District Council who provided all the equipment.



Christmas Tree Festival

What a fantastic display of Christmas trees in the Church during December. The bi-annual tree festival was 'switched on' by the children from the primary school. This year the event was open for two weekends during the month and approximately £2000 was raised towards the repair bills for the stonework and roof. The Visitors Choice Plate was awarded to 'Post Man Pat' tree decorated by Lynn and Adrian at the Post Office with the 'Not all Jam and Jerusalem' tree decorated by Weedon Women's Institute coming in in second place.



Weedon Bec Parish Council represents the community of Weedon Bec which has an electorate, for 2011/12 of 2167 people residing in 1252 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 local community groups where possible;
- to be informative and proactive in our approach to community and village issues by transparency at the Parish Council meetings, through the website and the newsletter.

The Village Website, run by the Parish Council is at www.weedonbec-pc.gov.uk. This website is updated regularly and contains information on the Council, its Councillors and relevant documents as well as information on all groups and activities in the community.



ENVIRONMENT & PLAYING FIELDS, (INC COMMUNITY LIAISON) TASK GROUP:

Chairman – Sue Butler: David Charnock, Kit Edwards, Richard Ferguson, Libby Hart, Bruce Nichols, Ginette Pilkington



The new play equipment has been installed in Croft Way and was officially opened in June by the Primary School's Year 2 pupils. £10,000 was provided by Awards 4 All with the remainder of the costs being borne by the Parish Council. The play equipment includes a roundabout, see-saw, twister, Dragons Canyon, a new set of swings, a picnic table and some benches both inside and outside the play area. Jubilee Field also saw new play equipment installed, this came about after a donation of £7,000 from Daventry District Housing who officially opened the area in July. This area includes: swings, zip wire, pendulum swing, mini football goals, twister and the basket ball hoop moved to join the new equipment.



New highways grass cutting contractors, Stanley Jupp Landscapes, received numerous favourable comments on the tidiness of the verges around the village.

Village Centre Improvements are underway to include: The installation of yellow lines at the Plume Crossroads which follows consultation with the whole village early in 2010, a new three headed street light has been installed to increase safety and security at Jubilee Field Car Park, pending car park refurbishment.

Cavalry Field Industrial Park sees the new 7pm to 7am parking restrictions to prevent overnight parking from HGV's. There are 3 new street lights installed in the pathway from Cavalry Fields to Equestrian Way making this walkway much brighter and safer for everyone to use.

The 30mph speed limit is extended out to Village Gateway on Ellands Lane after working with NCC Highways to get agreement. This as a direct result of complaints from residents about their own safety when walking under the Church Street Canal bridge and from Puddlebank.



CEMETERY & ALLOTMENTS TASK GROUP:

Chairman – Bruce Nichols: Richard Ferguson, Libby Hart, Louise Haynes, Stuart Jacks, Ginette Pilkington

The laurel trees at the front of the cemetery have been heavily pruned, opening up a space which is being used to establish a wild flower garden.



Cemetery & Allotments continued:

Further pruning of the trees on the bank between the old and new sections of the cemetery has also been carried out. The cenotaph has been cleaned and given a protective coating of microcrystalline hard wax to protect it for the future. The grass cutting contract was up for tender and, after careful consideration of the many bids it was decided to stick with Nicenstripy for the next 3 years.

Three new plots have been provided at Riverside Allotments in an effort to shorten the waiting list and some of the larger plots, split into 2 enabling starter allotment plots.

PLANNING COMMITTEE:

Chairman – Carolyn Matthews: Sue Butler, David Charnock, Louise Haynes, Stuart Jacks, Ann Ranshaw

This year has seen a slowing down in planning applications for new dwellings in the village, which tends to reflect the general trend to 'tighten the belt' and, as a consequence, we have received more applications for alterations/ extensions / conservatories / porches and small extensions to increase the footprint of properties as well as other sundry works which require planning permission.



Works to renovate Manor Farm have been at a standstill although we understand that there are now new owners and we would hope that development will recommence shortly.



The Planning Committee has been involved in preparing responses to many consultations received including Electoral Review of Daventry District Council, Planning Obligation Framework, Town & Country Planning Acts and the WNDC Code of Practice, to name but a few.

Through Daventry Villages Together, we are still active in making representations on any large developments around this side of the County and through that we now have a ruling that before the habitation of the first 2500 properties in the Daventry area happens then the Flore/Weedon bypass must be in place. There is currently a proposition being muted about the bypass coming around the back of Flore to a point on the A5, north of Weedon Bec. The hardest bit is going to be from that point up to the A45 as it will have to cross both the canal and the railway.

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSE TASK GROUP:

Chairman – George Newbrook: Sue Butler, Libby Hart, Stuart Jacks, Carolyn Matthews, Bruce Nichols,

The Council has supported the travel club and a Remembrance Day wreath under Section 137.