

Whatton-in-the-Vale Parish Council - Annual Report 2009-2010

Introduction

The 2009/2010 financial year was my third year as Chairman; I would like to thank my fellow members for their help and support during the last year. All members approach their duties as parish councillors with professionalism and commitment and they deserve a vote of thanks for the work and effort they have put into their council responsibilities during the past year. We are fortunate in having the services of our qualified Clerk, whose wealth of experience has once again been of substantial benefit to the council.

Communications and Community Engagement

Your parish council continues to recognise the importance of communication, involvement and transparency in the work of the council and we continue to build on the initiatives introduced in the previous years of this council. As I reported last year:

- Every meeting includes an open session where members of the public can voice their concerns or suggestions on issues affecting the parish.
- We continue to publish the Whatton-in-the-Vale News to keep residents about the work of the Parish Council and issues affecting the parish.
- The Parish Councils web site www.whatton.org or www.whatton.org.uk is updated on a regular basis and contact form is available on-line for you to bring any matter affecting the parish to the notice of the parish council.

I would encourage residents to attend at least one parish council meeting. The dates for the forthcoming meetings are published on the web site and in the Whatton Village News.

Precept and Budget

We published the 'headline' Precept figure for 2010/2011 in the March edition of Whatton Village News. The precept is the Parish Council's only source of income and in setting the precept we have to consider a number of factors:

- Advice from the District Auditor as to the level of the council's General Reserve.
- The need for a Capital Reserve. We have continued to build the reserve further by allocating £500.
- The current financial situation.
- The need to maintain and where possible improve services to our residents.

A number of costs have increased, not at least an increase of £600 in the grass and verge maintenance programme. Despite the increase in costs the outcome for 2009/2010 was better than anticipate and the precept for 2010/2011 was set at £10,035. We will continue to lobby Nottinghamshire County Council for a contribution towards the cost of the work we undertake in maintaining the verges within the 30 mph limit.

Planning

The local planning authority is only obliged to 'take note' of our comments or objections. We take planning applications very seriously and encourage residents to attend our meetings when planning applications are discussed. Where we object to planning applications we have do so purely on established planning grounds.

Playing Field

The Parish Council jointly owns the Playing Field with Aslockton Parish Council and in May 2006 signed a deed of dedication with the National Playing Fields Association (now Fields in Trust) effectively creating a trust and ensuring that the Playing Field remained a recreational facility in perpetuity. Whatton-in-the-Vale Parish Council and Aslockton Parish Council is the sole trustee and day to day management of the facility is devolved to the Whatton and Aslockton Playing Field Committee, to which the Parish Council has a right to appoint two members.

The Council resolved to appoint three of its members to form a 'joint' Trustee sub-committee with three members from Aslockton Parish Council. Application was made to the Charity Commission for the Whatton and Aslockton Playing Field Trust to be registered as a charity. The Charity Commission confirmed on the 7th April 2010 that the application had been approved.

The Parish Council supported the 'Help for Heroes' event on the Playing Field. The event raised in excess of £11,000 for the charity.

Green and Verge Maintenance

Following the clearing of the wide verge on the Grantham Road by Nottinghamshire County Council, the parish council had added that area and the area around Whatton Bridge to the schedule. The Parish Council essentially maintains all the roadside verges within the 30 mph are of the parish. We continue to lobby Nottinghamshire County Council for a contribution towards the cost.

Public Rights of Way

The Parish Council do not have many powers in respect of Rights of Way; they are owned and maintained by the Local Highways Authority (Nottinghamshire County Council). The Parish Council have resolved to survey all the public rights of way in the parish. Councillors Redford and Seagrave will undertake the survey during 2010/2011 and produce a report for the Parish Council to consider.

Power of Well-being

As reported in my report last year, Whatton-in-the-Vale did meet the criteria for adopting the 'Power of Well-being' save for the training of Parish Councillors in its use.

Six councillors (one being absent through illness) attended the training session. All the criteria being met the Parish Council adopted the Power of Well-being on the 21st September 2009.

Whatton-in-the-Vale Parish Council was the second Parish or Town Council in Nottinghamshire to adopt the power.

Improved Rail Services from Aslockton Station

East Midland Trains announced an improvement to the timetable from 13th December 2009. The improved timetable was the result of an intensive campaign by Whatton-in-the-Vale and Aslockton Parish Councils and individual residents. Your Parish Council took the lead role in the analysis and development of the report on the results of the survey that was conducted by both Parish Councils. East Midlands Trains confirmed that the decision was greatly influenced by the quality and professionalism of that report .

GR Redford

Chairman

19th May 2010

Annual Return for the Year-ended 31st March 2010

Description	Receipts and payments		Variance on prior year	
	2008/2009	2009/2010	Amount	%
Balances brought forward	<i>£6,311.47</i>	£2,757.25	(£3,554.22)	(56.3)
Annual precept	<i>£10,705.00</i>	£10,705.00	£-	25.7
Total other receipts ¹	<i>£26,208.86¹</i>	£2,467.65	(£23,741) ¹	(90.6)
Staff costs	<i>£3,240.00</i>	£3,510.00	£270.00	8.3
Loan interest/Capital repayments	<i>0.00</i>	0.00	£-	0.0
Total other payments ²	<i>£37,228.08²</i>	£7,029.71	(£30,198.37)	(81.1)
Balances carried forward ³	<i>£2,757.25³</i>	£5,390.19	£2,632.94	95.5

¹Total other receipts for 2008/2009 include £22,957 grants in respect of children's play equipment on the playing field.

²Total other payments for 2008/2009 include £26,424.94 in respect of the purchase of children's play equipment for the playing field.

³The Balance carried forward for 2008/2009 of £2,757.25 is net of a figure of £2,265.09 for VAT Input tax for which a claim for refund has been made to Her Majesties Customs and Inland Revenue and was refunded in 2009/2010.

Budget for 2010-2011

	Total	Revenue Expenditure	Reserves and Accruals
Audit Fee	£350	£350	
Salaries	£3,200	£3,200	
Postage/Telephone	£110	£110	
Printing	£90	£90	
Subscriptions	£220	£220	
Meeting Expenses	£180	£180	
Insurance	£440	£440	
Chairmans Fund	£25	£25	
Misc Expenses	£100	£100	
Newsletter/Website	£100	£100	
Grass Cutting Costs	£2,500	£2,500	
Playing Field Costs	£1,000	£1,000	
Grants and awards	£1,000	£1,000	
Election Cost Reserve	£100		£100
Playing Field Reserve	£-		£-
Capital Projects Reserve	£500		£500
General Reserve	£130		£130
	£10,045	£9,315	£730
Bank Interest Received	(£10)	(£10)	
Precept required	£10,035	£9,305	£730

Analysis of Reserves

Reserves	Brought forward from prior year	Allocated in Budget	Total for Budget Year	Target
Playing Field Reserve	£800	£0	£800	£-
Election Reserve	£600	£100	£700	£800
Capital Projects Reserve	£1,000	£500	£1,500	£2,000
General Reserve	£2,990	£130	£3,120	£9,305
Total	£5,390	£730	£6,120	£16,605