

Whatton-in-the-Vale Parish Council

Chairman's Review 2011-2012

Introduction

2011-2012 was the first year of the Council and my fifth year as Chairman; I would like to thank my fellow members for their commitment help and support during the last year. All members deserve a vote of thanks for the work and effort they have put in to their council responsibilities this year, as does our Clerk whose wealth of experience has been a great help during the year.

As you are no doubt aware Ernest Parsons did not stand for re-election in May of last year and sadly Ernest passed away last year.

Communications and Community Engagement

This council recognises the importance of communication, public involvement and transparency in the work of your parish council:

- An open session included at every meeting where residents are able voice their concerns or suggestions on issues affecting the Parish.
- A Newsletter (Whatton Village News) to keep residents informed about the work of the Parish Council and issues affecting the Parish
- The usage of the Parish Council Web Site has increased over the year and residents are encouraged to visit it for up-to-date information on issues affecting the Parish

Precept and Budget

Our total income is derived from the precept.

In setting the precept for 2012/2013 we had to consider a number of factors:

- Advice from the District Auditor as to the level of our General Reserve – this should be equal to our annual revenue expenditure which is currently in the region of £8,500.
- The need to maintain and improve services to our residents.
- The current financial situation

The Council decided to hold the precept level at £10,885, the same as the previous year.

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 planning issues. We continue to monitor Planning Applications in the parish.

The 'Publication Version' of the Rushcliffe Core Strategy was published in March 2012. The document has now completed the consultation stage and will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for approval. Once approved the Local Plan will be used to guide planning applications. Include in the Core Strategy were the proposed areas for development. Whatton-in-the-Vale did NOT have any allocation sites.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was also published in March 2012. The NPPF replaces previously publish Planning Policy Guidelines (PPG) and Planning Policy Statements (PPS) and can into effect immediately on publication. The NPPF in conjunction with the Local Plan currently in force provides the guidelines for considering Planning Applications.

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.

In April 2010 the Whatton and Aslockton Playing Field Trust was registered with the Charity Commission and a joint Sub-Committee of Whatton-in-the-Vale Parish Council and Aslockton Parish Council was established to

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undertake the role of Trustee on behalf of both Parish Councils. The sub-Committee consists of Six Members, three appointed from each of the Parish Councils.

The management structure introduced in 2006 has reduced the level of the Parish Council contribution from a high of £1,500 to £900 in the 2012-2013 year.

Grass Cutting

Technically we are only responsible for the Green in front of Ivy Row. The verges are the responsibility of the Highways Authority and the amenity spaces (the areas at the end of Azimghur Road and Green Walk) are the responsibility of Rushcliffe Borough.

A cutting schedule was set up in 2006/07 and has been continued and allows for the cutting of the following:

- The Green in front of Ivy Row;
- The Green by Green Walk;
- Verges on Beverley's Avenue, Cottage Avenue and Green Walk;
- The Green are at the Junction of Dark Lane and Grantham Road;
- The verges at the Junction of Main Street and Grantham Road;
- The verges on the East side of Dark Lane;
- The verges along Grantham Road to Orston Lane; and
- The verges around the Green in front of Ivy Row.

Rushcliffe Borough Council continues to cut the Green on Green Walk and the land at the end of Azimghur Road twelve times a year and we continue to monitor those areas.

Power of Well-Being

The Parish Council was the second to adopt the Power of Well Being in the County in 2010/2011. In order for the new council to adopt the Power Councillor Linney will be required to attend a training course in its use (all the other eligible Councillors have already attended the course). Councillor Linney has confirmed that he is willing to attend such a course. The Council is currently waiting for the course to be organized.

Challenges for the Future

The Localism Act received the Royal Assent in December 2011 and some of the provision came into effect in January 2012.

Your Parish Council is currently reviewing the Powers available to it through the Localism Act and which of those powers can be used to benefit Whatton-in-the-Vale.

The Parish Council in conjunction with Aslockton Parish Council and Whatton and Aslockton Playing Field Trust are organizing an event in celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The organization is being undertaken by a Joint Committee of both Parish Councils. The Parish Councils have committed £1,000 each to the event which is also receiving financial support from Cllrs. Martin Suthers (Nottinghamshire County Council) and Jacqui Marshall (Rushcliffe Borough Council).

GR Redford
Chairman – Whatton-in-the-Vale Parish Council.
May 2012