



Whatton Village News

April 2009

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Issue 1

PARISH COUNCIL WEB SITE LAUNCHED

As part of our commitment to improving communication with residents the Parish Council has launched its own website.

The website will complement *Whatton Village News* and will provide up-to-date access to issues affecting the parish.

You can access the website at www.whatton.org

PRECEPT FOR 2009/10

Despite increases in some costs and the need to maintain services the Parish Council has resolved to hold the precept at last year's level.

Details of the Parish Council budget for 2009/10 are shown on page 2.

APPEAL DISMISSED

The appeal by RH Developments has been dismissed by the Planning Inspector.

The application for 11 dwellings on the White Villa site was refused by Rushcliffe Borough Council and then appealed by the developer. In his decision the planning inspector stated:

'The height and massing of the proposed development would be in marked contrast to that which characterises the adjacent housing areas. In particular, the intensity and scale of the proposal would have an urbanising effect on an important site at the entrance to Aslockton, unsuited to its rural setting.'

The application and subsequent appeal was vigorously opposed by Whatton-in-the-Vale Parish Council and local residents.

PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET 2009/10

The Parish Council is funded almost entirely by the Parish Precept. The precept makes up part of the Council Tax charged to residents of Whatton-in-the-Vale, alongside the charges levied by Rushcliffe Borough Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, Combined Fire Authority and the Nottinghamshire Police Authority.

In setting the precept for 2000/10 the Parish Council has had to consider a number of factors:

- advice from the District Auditor as to the level of the general reserve
- the level of the Playing Field reserve
- the need for a Capital Reserve
- maintaining and improving services to our residents

In setting the precept members also considered the current financial situation.

The budget for 2009/10 is show below:

Admin (Audit Fee, Salaries, Insurances, Subscriptions and Admin expenses)	£4,475
Newsletter and Communications	£200
Grass Cutting	£1,800
Playing Field	£1,000
Grants	£600
Reserves & Provisions	£2,630
TOTAL	£10,705

Analysis of Reserves & Provisions

Election Reserve	£200
Playing Field Reserve	£1,000
Capital Reserve	£500
General Reserve	£930
TOTAL	£2,630

River Smite Duck Race

The Jubilee Hall committee is looking into the possibility of using a different stretch of the river for the River Smite duck race. The race has been held on Easter Monday over the past few years but the committee is currently experiencing difficulties with access over privately owned land beside the river. It is hoped that another stretch of the river can be found so the public can continue to enjoy watching the progress of the ducks. If the Duck Race does go ahead it will be held on Monday 4th May, May Day.

Whatton Art Festival

The second Whatton Art Festival at the Jubilee hall has been planned for the weekend of 13th and 14th June. Local artists will exhibit their work, most of which will be for sale. Entry will be free to the public from 10am to 5pm on both Saturday and Sunday and a preview evening will be held on Friday 12th. Tickets for the preview evening will be on sale nearer the time.

Volunteers Wanted

Volunteers are being sought to monitor day-to-day life at Whatton gaol.

The Independent Monitoring Board is looking for volunteers willing to visit the gaol to monitor different ideas including the kitchen facilities, exercise space and prison cells.

Anyone over the age of 18 can apply and no experience is necessary.

It is not a paid role.

A spokesman for the Board said: 'We want as many people to volunteer as possible'.

After the monitoring process, volunteers will be expected to write a report of their experience to the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Ministry of Justice, Mr Shahid Malik.

Quiz Night

Owing to popular demand a third Fish 'n' Chips Quiz night has been arranged for Saturday 9th May at the Jubilee Hall.

Affordable Shared Housing

THE Parish Council has assisted in the village survey being undertaken by Midlands Rural Housing aimed at ascertaining the need or otherwise for affordable shared housing in the village.

If a scheme went ahead it would be provided along the same lines as the one recently established in neighbouring Aslockton.

The Parish Council has said they are concerned that there may be a lack of varied affordable housing in the village and that this may cause both young and old people to have to move elsewhere to find suitable accommodation.

The Parish Council has supported the survey which the Housing Association is undertaking and in which they say before any remedial action can be taken it is necessary to establish whether or not there is a need for such affordable housing in the Parish.

Everyone in the village is being asked to take part in the survey which is being delivered door to door by members of the Parish Council. An envelope requiring no postage stamp is being provided for returns.

A spokesman for the Housing Association says that the survey does not only apply to people who are on housing need and questions on pages one and four will help Rushcliffe Borough Council, who are also involved in the project, to compile a detailed profile of Whatton residents, migration patterns and also some general points regarding life in the village.

‘If the survey shows there is a need for affordable housing, and there is support from the village, we shall work closely with the Borough Council to see how this can be addressed,’ added the Housing spokesman.

Affordable housing is for people already living in, or having strong connections through work or family, with the Parish. Any developments carried out are small and any housing provided will be available in perpetuity for local people.

Play day under consideration

Now that the play equipment for younger children has been installed it is hoped that a Play Day on the playing field can be organised for children and their carers to enjoy. If it can be arranged Play Workers from Nottinghamshire County Council will come to the playing field to lead children in play. It is hoped this will take place sometime after the Easter holidays.

Unacceptable behaviour continues

Teenagers using the new youngster's play area shared by Whatton and Aslockton are causing concern because of the nuisance they are creating for local residents. The Parish Council is working with the police to combat the problem and is asking any resident with information as to whom the culprits are to let the chairman, Greg Redford, or the clerk, Mike Elliott, know, so that the names can be passed onto the police.

A number of residents attended the last meeting of the Parish Council and expressed their strong concerns over the nuisance. The noise they create late at night and the constant swearing that can be heard were among the concerns as well as the vandalism being caused.

Parish clerk Mike Elliott says that residents need to be aware that the cost of repair of some of the vandalism is very expensive and parents have it in their own interests to insist that their youngsters do not carryout these acts. 'It hits their pockets every time damage is caused,' he explained.

The Parish Council has said it will not hesitate to prosecute through the courts when they have evidence of those responsible for damage caused.

Notts County Council member Martin Suthers told the Council that he wanted to urge everyone to continue to report all incidents they knew of so that the authorities were fully aware of what was happening and the concerns felt locally. Coun. Suthers said the police should be asked to log all the complaints made.

STOP THE DROP AND LITTER PICK DAY

The Parish Council has agreed to organise a litter pick day in Whatton and is asking for support for the event from residents.

It will take place on Saturday May 30 and those supporting the effort are asked to report to the village Jubilee Hall at 1pm. Litter-snatcher tools, gloves and black plastic sacks for the litter will be available to those taking part.

The event is being organised as part of the ‘Stop the drop’ campaign being staged nationally by the Campaign to Protect Rural England.

Help Scheme

A request has been made to the Parish Council to back an idea to form a Voluntary Help scheme for the village.

The Council has asked for further information on what a local resident is suggesting but have said they are willing to assist if it is at all practical.

It is envisaged that a record would be held by the organisers -- a village group or the Parish Council – of people living in the village who may be in need of help in very bad weather or some type of emergency, and they could then be contacted to see if they needed help in such circumstances.

Help for Heroes

Chairman Greg Redford reported to the meeting that the revised date for the fundraising effort for the Help the Heroes fund was August 23 and it had been confirmed that the event will include a cricket match between a combined Aslockton and Whatton side and one from the TV soap serial Emmerdale.

Further details of the event, which is being organised by Peter and Angela Berry of Aslockton, will be published as soon as they become available.

BITS & BOBS

Rushcliffe Borough Council has given planning permission for a vehicular access with timber gates maximum height 1.8m – at Scylla House on Grantham Road and also for the erection of a two storey side extension and a single storey front and rear extension and a porch at 12 Dark Lane. Permission has also been given for a single storey rear extension at Gables Cottage on Burton Lane.

Members agreed to make a £400 grant to the Whatton Jubilee Hall Management Committee towards the cost of replacement guttering needed for the building.

A request for financial help from Aslockton Cranmers Football Club was not supported, the Council saying that the scheme was for a project in Orston and therefore they felt it prudent to spend any money they had for grants in their own parish. The club said they needed to raise £300,000 for a new club pavilion.

The Council is to look at an application for funding from the Belvoir HeartBeat group at their next meeting after clerk Mike Elliott has obtained more information on the work they carry out.

Confirmation has been given that responsibility for the telephone kiosk in the village near the village hall has passed to the Parish Council who has agreed to adopt the structure for £1. The kiosk will not have a telephone but the Council felt it was part of the way of life in by-gone England and should be retained.

A request has been made by the Parish Council to Police Inspector Jeff Hayward at Bingham for a strong police presence in the village and for more effective policing from the officers, particularly in regard to vandalism and hooliganism.

MORE BITS & BOBS

Concerns of the Council in regard to the untidy appearance of the grounds of a property on Green Walk have been passed onto Rushcliffe Borough Council with a request they take action to ensure the owner carried out work to improve the situation. The Council has agreed to the provision of a doggy bin on Green Walk. There was also concern at the appearance of the site at the White Villa property and the fact the site is insecure. A photograph showing the problems is being forwarded to the Borough.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

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WHATTON-IN-THE-VALE

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