



# WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## ANNUAL REPORT

Normally Parish Council business is a mixture of three things. These are:

- our direct responsibilities
- goading others into taking their responsibilities seriously
- responding to consultations by another statutory body. This is an area that seems to be growing as more and more people produce policies for others to comment upon

### QUALITY PARISH COUNCIL STATUS

In our quest to become a Quality Parish Council, (and have more control of our own affairs and make grant money more readily available), we must agree to conduct Parish business in a prescribed manner, open to public scrutiny. Our Clerk, Sue Bell, has achieved the Certificate in Local Council Administration. Well done Sue! In addition we have to prepare a new Parish Development Plan and a group is being formed to ensure the plan is driven forward by the views of residents. Any offers of help will be gladly received.

### RECREATION GROUND/VILLAGE GREEN

The outcome of the application to register the recreation ground as a 'Village Green' under Commons Registration Act 1965/SI1813 is still awaited. The Commons Registration Authority considering the application has deferred making a decision until the outcome of a court case in another part of the country is known. The Council still believes that it should not be registered and in the mean time proposes to continue to manage the area and encourage public use of the facilities as it has always done. The Council is pleased to welcome the provision of two new benches for the field, these are being placed in memory of Daniel Parish by his family.

We are also grateful for a new cherry tree donated by Mr and Mrs David Anslow to replace the large white cherry that had to be felled because of its dangerous condition.

### CEMETERY

Looking some distance in the future we shall have to make new provision for burial plots but in the short term we are looking at ideas to make maximum use of the space we do have. We removed the redundant shed and asked if the land on which it stood was consecrated or not? We discovered that only half of the cemetery was consecrated in the original 1937 Act so we have asked the Bishop of Ely to consecrate most of the remainder.

At the request of the Parish Council, the County Council has installed a parking pad for cars.

### DROVES AND FOOTPATHS

We joined the Parish Paths Scheme to work in partnership with the County Council. As a first step we surveyed all the droves and found them to be in very poor condition. They are currently classed as byways and are open to all traffic. Any vehicle using the droves must be taxed and insured just as on any public road. We criticised the County Council for spending many thousands of pounds in resurfacing a drove and replacing a bridge over the Catchwater Drain.

I hope this has given you a flavour of what we have been doing this year. If you would like more details, minutes of our meetings are on the website and placed on the noticeboard. Better still come along to the meetings, you can have your say before the meeting starts.

***Ashley Bamforth***

16 May 2006

## WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

### Balance Sheet 2005/6

<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Payments</u>			
2004/5	2005/6	2004/5		2005/6	
£	£	£	£	£	£
19428.82	Balance carried forward at 1 Apr	23248.52			
8540.00	Precept	8540.00	2690.40	Salaries Clerk & Groundsman	3435.62
25.09	Rent Eastern Electricity	25.45			
539.43	RSPB Rent	539.43		Admin	
615.00	Burials	220.00	805.31	Insurance	892.37
20.00	Donations Trees	0.00	419.90	2003/4 Audit Fees External 2	120.00
	Clerk's Training Grant	127.50	110.25	2003/4 Audit Fees Internal 20	151.75
	Parish Paths Project	50.00	411.06	Gen Admin copy, post,tel station	549.27
355.10	Interest	480.47	384.35	CALC fees, stationery, training,	266.49
902.70	VAT reclaimed	269.45	25.00	ACRE fees	25.00
			0.00	Election expenses (ECDC)	0.00
			25.00	Bank fees	36.00
			105.00	Hire of Village Hall	127.50
			0.00	Chairman's Allowance (04/05 M&A)	48.60
			2285.87		2216.98
			141.16	Grounds and Cemetery expenses	168.30
				Tree Surgery Recreation Group	750.00
			275.00	Grass Cutting Recreation Group	300.00
			66.50	ROSPA Annual Inspection	68.00
			100.00	Mowers	569.36
			582.66		1855.66
			97.18	Street Lighting Energy and Maintenance	0.00
			350.00	Replacement Street light, by Village Hall Drive	0.00
				New street lights The Slade and Martins Lane	4236.39
				Grant LGRAC 1997 Ely & Soham Dial a Ride	25.00
				Grants S142	
				What's On	168.00
				Citizen's Advice Bureau	25.00
				Best Kept Garden Trophies	38.10
				Qtly Parish Newsletter	14.00
			739.68	Village Hall: Grant Doors £370 and	0.00
			162.38	Grants S137	245.10
			269.45	VAT - reclaimable	0.00
			7177.62		313.31
					12328.06
			<b>23248.52</b>	<b>Balance to carry forward to 1 April</b>	<b>21172.76</b>
<b>£30,426.14</b>	<b>£33,500.82</b>	<b>£30,426.14</b>			<b>£33,500.82</b>
sjb 21.4.06				<i>Outstanding</i>	
				CCC street light energy and mntnce invoice not received £76.75 and £80.80 respectively	

# WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## PARISH, COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILS' REPRESENTATIVES

NAME OF REPRESENTATIVE	CONTACT (evenings preferred)
CHAIRMAN Ashley Bamforth	01353 777453
VICE-CHAIRMAN Paul Chambers	01353 778225
CLERK Susan Bell	01353 778147
COUNCILLORS	
David Saberton	01353 777423
Mark Wilkin	01353 776143
Don Saberton	01353 777093
Chris Watson	01353 776394
COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS	
Phillip Bailey Cambridgeshire County Council	2 Townsend, Little Downham, Ely, Cambs
Brenda Daters East Cambridgeshire County Council	Barton Heights, 78a Barton Road, Ely Cambs 01353 662809
Alan White East Cambridgeshire County Council	76 Ely Road, Little Downham, Ely, Cambs 01353 699295

**Next Elections: May 2007**