

WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL *NEWSLETTER*



September 2008

PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

As some of you will already know Jackie Anderson of the White Horse PH has moved to pastures new and in leaving the village has resigned as Parish Councillor. We shall be looking to fill the vacancy in the near future. Details are published on the noticeboard. Further details obtainable from the Clerk on 01353 778147.

We would like to thank Jackie for all her work and support over the past 12 months and wish her well in her new life.

Speedwatch

The Council would like to hear from anyone interested in supporting this scheme by monitoring the speed of traffic through the village. People who break the speed limit will be receiving a letter from the police. In conjunction with other Parish Councils in the area we have approved and made a contribution to the purchase of equipment for use by trained volunteers, all we need now is to identify people from the village willing to undergo training and to spend some time at the side of the road monitoring the speed of the traffic.

If you are interested and willing to give up a few hours of your time for the benefit of the community, please contact Ashley Bamforth on 01353 777453

Bus Shelter

We are pleased to report that the people responsible for the graffiti damage to the recently repainted bus shelter have been identified and one person from Peterborough is due to be interviewed by the police. The likely outcome is a police caution, which means that that person will now have a police record. The Parish Council is not seeking financial compensation as the damage was easily rectified by another layer of paint. We are however asking that a letter of apology is received by the Councillors who originally repainted the shelter and who repaired the damage.

Mepal & Witcham Primary School

The school is looking for someone from Witcham to join the Board of Governors. Is there anybody out there who would be interested in helping the school? There are no special qualifications required for the post but the Governors would prefer someone with children at the school or with experience of the education scene or who possesses business skills. If you think you can make a positive contribution to the life of our local school then please contact the Parish Clerk in the first instance. School Governors are volunteers and are not paid for their work.

SAVE THIS DATE IN YOUR DIARY!

Irish Harp & Guitar Concert
Witcham Village Hall
At 7.30pm on Sunday 16 NOVEMBER 2008

The programme includes an addictive cocktail of powerhouse Irish dance-music, gorgeous airs, evocative old songs and striking new compositions – with shots of hot jazz and bluegrass thrown in! The ‘blazing guitar and dancing harp coupled with subversively witty introduction guarantee a unique and captivating evening’.

*Please come and listen to this concert, which is provided for you by the Village Hall Committee.
Licensed bar and light refreshments. Raffle tickets at the door.*

*Advance tickets Adult £5, Child £3,
 Family £15 (2 adults + 2 children)
On the door Adult £6, Child £3
Available from Ashley Bamforth, 4 Silver Street 777453
 Joy Walker, Windrush, High Street 778657
 White Horse PH Silver Street 778298
 Mepal Stores, High Street Mepal 778275*

Recreation Ground

The Council has recently purchased some new 7-aside goals and these will be erected at the close of the cricket season. We have purchased posts with sockets so that the stability of the posts will not depend on the use of sandbags. We have purchased 3 sets of sockets so that the posts can be located on differing sides of the recreation ground. We are looking for volunteers to dig holes and mix concrete to secure the posts in place. If you are willing to help one Saturday in the not too distant future please contact Ashley Bamforth on 01353 777453. If any local organisation is able to make use of the old goals, please contact Ashley as above.

Best Kept Garden Competition 2008

*Best Vegetable Mr & Mrs D Scotting
Best Flower Mr & Mrs L Youngman
Best Overall Mr & Mrs R Blahj
Highly Commended*

*Best small garden
Mrs F Mydatt
Best flowers in small garden
Mr & Mrs S Philips
Best garden for children
Mrs Bariando
Best new/establishing garden
Mr & Mrs K Mackender*

Our special thanks to the judges, Mr and Mrs Marshall, and well done to our winners and all those who participated.

Year-End Accounts 2007/8

The External Audit has been completed and a copy has been posted on the noticeboard.

2009/10 Budget

The Council is about to set its budget for 2009/10. We shall be looking at implementing more of the issues raised in the Parish Plan last year (copy available from the Clerk) and the Council is committed to supporting the Village Hall Committee and Cricket Club in efforts to improve facilities at the Village Hall and ensure its future sustainability. Funds for this have been put aside for some time in order to attract match funding from other grant sources. We also have to think about the future of the cemetery. We welcome parishioner's views on these issues. Parishioners have the opportunity to express their views at the open forum session of each Council meeting. See noticeboard for details each month.

Neighbourhood Panels

Future meetings: Monday 28 October 2008 at 7.00pm at the The Glebe Hall (rear of Church), High Street, Sutton. Members of the public always welcome.

As the evenings draw in, we once again remind everyone to be more vigilant and ensure property, including sheds, vehicles etc are properly secured. Also beware of rogue traders. To report a non-emergency incident to the Police call: **0845 456 4564**

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings are held in the Village Hall, normally on the 2nd Tuesday in the month

- 14 October 2008
- 11 November 2008
- 2 December 2008 (1st Tuesday of month)
- 13 January 2009

Any items for the agenda should be placed with the Clerk at least **1 week prior to the scheduled meeting.**

There is an opportunity for the electorate to attend these meetings and provision for public participation/question time commencing at **7.30 pm**. Council business commences at 7.45 pm.

Please see the noticeboard to view agendas and minutes, and any changes to proposed meeting dates.

Additional meetings may be called to consider planning applications as required by the planning authority.

Clerk: Susan Bell
17 Astley Close, Sutton,
Ely, Cambs CB6 2PG
Tel: 01353 778147

Doggy Bins

A waste bin has been installed by the bus shelter, which the District Council will empty for us on a regular basis. We hope this will make life more pleasant and easier for everyone. We also have supplies of poop-scoop bags – contact the Ashley Bamforth (777453). Please remember no dogs allowed on the recreation ground, even on a lead.

Droves

Reminder – some of the byways, the droves, will be closed to vehicles from 1 October to 31 March each winter, except to registered keyholders. Details from the Clerk or Cambridgeshire County Council. The aim is to protect the droves from damage over the winter months to the detriment of walkers and horseriders.

RECYCLING COLLECTIONS

Please put your refuse and recycling items out by 7.00am on day of collection. (please be aware the earliest is the evening before, otherwise you are deemed to be committing an offence!)

Additional bags available – phone VEOLIA 01353 863864 (Max 4 brown garden bags will be replenished per household, may use cardboard box for grass cuttings)

NAME	CONTACT
CHAIRMAN	
Ashley Bamforth	01353 777453
VICE-CHAIRMAN	
David Saberton	01353 777423
COUNCILLORS	
Chris Watson	01353 776394
Allistair Berry	01353 778081
Karl Mackender	01353 777640
COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS	
Philip Read Cambridgeshire County Council	01353 778603
Anna Bailey East Cambridgeshire District Council	01353 663253
Tony Goodge East Cambridgeshire District Council	01353 664491