

WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL *NEWSLETTER*



Spring/Summer 2006

*Chairman's Report to Annual Parish Meeting
16 May 2006*

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

Elean Power Station Open Days for Witcham

residents - 29 and 31 August 2006, 7.00 pm. Contact Clerk urgently for details and tickets (limited spaces).

Planning

The Council has been reviewing the documents for the Local Development Framework for East Cambridgeshire as part of an ongoing consultation process. Details of the Core Strategy Preferred Options Paper, and Option papers on housing, employment, retail and gypsy site provision, together with Sustainability Appraisal documentation are available at www.eastcambs.gov.uk These documents will form part of a raft of documents which will identify new sites for housing, employment etc and will set out policies against which planning applications will be assessed. It will govern how the District will develop over the period up to 2021. Proposed main centres for development are Ely, Soham and Littleport with some development at Sutton.

The proposed Mereham development between Wilburton and Stretham which was recently refused by East Cambs District Council has gone to Appeal.

Police

The Community Beat Policeman is still holding surgeries in the village. Details on the noticeboard.

Cambridge Youth Services

Courses will be run using the recreation ground for sport leadership training during the summer and possibly autumn months.

STREET CLEANING - proposed dates
(early Friday mornings)

30 June 2006	4 August 2006
8 September 2006	13 October 2006

RECYCLING COLLECTIONS (Tuesdays)

25 July 2006	8 August 2006
22 August 2006	5 September 2006
19 September 2006	3 October 2006
17 October 2006	31 October 2006

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings are held in the Village Hall, normally on the 2nd Tuesday in the month, but please note the changes over the summer holiday period and December.

19 June 2006 (Monday)	25 July 2006
15 August 2006	12 September 2006
10 October 2006	14 November 2006
5 December 2006	9 January 2007
13 February 2007	13 March 2007

There is an opportunity for the electorate to attend these meetings and provision for public participation/question time commencing at 7.15 pm. Council business commences at 7.30 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.

NAME	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

