

Landbeach Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday 29th April 2010

Chairman's Report

Parish Council News

I would like to begin by thanking all parish councillors for their efforts and contribution to council decision-making over the past year. We seem to have covered a fair bit of ground - as you can see from the list of 'What we did 2009/10' on the handout. This has always been done in the spirit of cooperation and goodwill, with every councillor naturally giving of their time and expertise when required. Thank you Alan, Ray, Ged, Tracy, Trevor, Jackie, Helen and Brian.

Thank you also to our County Councillor, Michael Williamson, and our District Councillors, Peter Johnson and James Hockney for their support and work on our behalf.

We have also been enormously fortunate to have such a well-organised and supportive clerk who has ensured the smooth-running of meetings, correspondence and pretty much everything else. Thank you, Maria.

In the last year, the Parish Council has seen a number of changes.

Firstly, following James Hockney's resignation earlier in 2009 following a move to Waterbeach, we were happy to welcome Brian Marshall as a new Parish Councillor. Brian also agreed to take on the role of Treasurer of the Widows Trust.

If I could stop here I'd be happy!

Unfortunately, we are now losing three councillors, two of them – Helen Boysen and Brian Marshall, both rather recent additions - due to moving outside the village and not therefore being eligible for re-election this year. The third councillor we are sadly losing is Jackie Gregg who having spent a number of years on the council is now concentrating on the Event Committee. I would like to thank all three retiring councillors for all their hard work and contributions. In particular, thanks to Helen for being the Parish Council representative on the Village Hall Committee and to Jackie for being the Tree Officer. Fortunately, Brian will be continuing as Treasurer of the Widow's Trust.

As a result of this, we are now looking for some new councillors to join the team - you may have seen the mention in the Parish magazine. Happily, we have already had some interest (and we welcome more) and hope to fill the vacancies by co-option very soon.

Village Caretaker

Other recent changes have included the resignation of our long-term village caretaker, Geoff Setchell, and the appointment of his successor, Neville Diver. We would like to offer many thanks and best wishes to Geoff and a warm welcome to Neville.

Neville has been liaising with Ged Hinkins and together they have sorted out the Bus Shelter light which is now working again. Neville has also undertaken repairs to the guttering and cleaned the walls and windows.

Additionally, Neville has cleared the ditch and gullies in Spaldings Lane.

Change of PCSO

We also have another PCSO. Claire Whiteman has changed beats to Swavesey, Longstanton, Over and Willingham and we welcome John Mason as our new PCSO.

Recreation Ground

Purchase from SCDC

This year saw the successful purchase of the recreation ground from South Cambridgeshire District Council with a covenant preventing any possibility of building development taking place on the land. This was the culmination of 42 years persistence by Alan Wyatt who joined the Parish Council in 1967 and was instrumental in the original securing and levelling of the field, previously used for grazing, back in the early 1970s.

Thank you to The Lynn Fund for the contribution of £1000 to legal costs incurred in effecting the transfer.

Recreation Ground Improvements

Security camera system

A new security camera system was purchased last August. Money for this came from the Lynn Landbeach Trust Fund and South Cambridgeshire Local Strategic Partnership.

New white lines have been painted on the Village Hall car park.

MUGA equipment: The old basketball rings and damaged backboard/s have been replaced.

Activities for older children: We would like to see improved play facilities for older children. We are now considering the installation of a Zip Wire which we believe would appeal to children of all ages.

Highways

Road repairs

The cold winter caused all sorts of problems for local roads but Highways Maintenance teams are doing their best to fix things up wherever there is a need. It's good to see the improvements to the Cottenham road.

Speedwatch

A group of volunteers were trained in the use of Speedwatch equipment last May and this has been deployed several times in the village. We would like to enlist additional volunteers and will then organise another training session to get them up-to-speed.

Litter Picking

The last village litter pick, on Sunday 13th September at 11am with the Rotary Club, was a success in terms of number of bags of litter collected (25 I think!) but not so successful in terms of village volunteers.

We plan to do another litter pick soon and hope to attract more villagers. Watch out for advertisements on the notice board and in the parish magazine.

In addition, groups of parishioners may wish to do their own litter pick at a time to suit them. We now have some litter-picking sticks, rings to hold the bags open and fluorescent vests which can be borrowed as required. I will keep them in my barn so just phone me (C. 441522) if you would like to borrow the equipment.

Village Hall

The Village Hall had their AGM last Monday (19th) and several Parish Councillors attended. We would like to thank all the members of the Village Hall Committee, especially the chairman, Colleen Dell, and the Treasurer, Brian Marshall, for all their hard work looking after this valuable village resource.

Landbeach Parish Council fully supports the plans for a significant Village Hall extension. The Village Hall Committee hope to keep any inconvenience while the works take place to a minimum; the result should be a much improved facility for everyone in the village.

Parish Action Plan

The current Parish Action Plan is included in the APM handout. This should reflect our priorities for the coming year. Every parishioner is welcome to comment on this and make suggestions for additional activities.

Affordable Housing

The Landbeach Housing Needs Survey and Housing Register show a continuing need with demand for 18 affordable homes in the village, either to rent or to be available to buy in shared ownership.

We believe that the plans for Walnut Farm drawn up by Iceni Homes and Hill Residential (as outlined at the beginning of this meeting by Nick Parkinson, Hill Residential) go some way to addressing this need.

Worts Meadow

I think this has already been covered by Charlotte Lowry (Greenspaces & Community Officer, CCC).

The Parish Council is happy with the recent work which has included replacing gates, re-doing the surfacing at the gateways, replacing the bridge over the internal drain and constructing a cattle pen next to the moat. The newts are happy with the extra pond and an Open Day is planned for the summer.

Village Activities

The Village Guide (thanks to James Hockney and Ray Gambell) gives an indication of all the things that take place within the village.

The unofficial village website (thanks to Jeff Bronks) is also a good place to look. See <http://www.landbeach.org.uk/>.

As far as major village events go, a successful village fete was held on 18th July 2009 and this year we look forward to another Party in the Park on 17 July. Thanks to the Event Committee for these great inclusive get-togethers.

Finally, thank you all for coming. We struggled to avoid date clashes with the WI and the Village Hall committee but didn't reckon on the timing of the final televised debate in the search for our new leader.

Melanie Hale
Landbeach Parish Council