

PARISH REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2001/2002

The Parish Council met eleven times in the last financial year.

The Parish Council operates three sub-committees. The Recreation and Amenities sub-committee, chaired by John Meischke, the Budget and Finance Committee chaired by Helen McCash and Denis Filer and the Environment sub-committee chaired by David Stock.

These sub-committees met as and when necessary, discussed issues and made recommendations to the full council.

SQ Environmental Trust made a grant of £6000 towards the re-surfacing of the multi-purpose Play Area. This meant that the £6000 the Parish Council had allocated towards this project could be used for new play equipment on the Sports Field. The project was to remove the old slide which was deemed to be a health and safety hazard, erect two sit on spring pieces of equipment and erect a new multi climbing frame with safety surface. Total cost of the project was £12,500. The balance of the monies was £250 from Camstead Homes and £6250 from East Herts District Council. Thanks to Sarah Davies who organised this scheme

A new sign has been erected on the High Street giving directions to the Community Hall.

At Watton Green a new information board has been erected.

On the Lammas the cleavers have been sprayed and Countryside Management Service and helpers have undertaken a tree planting and clearance of shrubs. Thanks to Vernon Dunhill for arranging this work.

The Parish council has been trying to solve the problem of rabbit infestation on the Lammas. Various meetings have taken place with consultants and contractors. The Council has commissioned a report on the best way forward. The outcome of these meetings and the report is to continue ferreting the land and to erect a rabbit proof fence.

Parish Paths Partnership has allowed us to receive grant money for hedge cutting and strimming work especially on the 'Rights of Way' footpaths.

The Parish Council have commented on the following documents:

Quality Town & Parish Councils consultation paper

Herts Minerals Local Plan Review

Secondary Schools, review of admission rules

The village suffered a spate of vandalism during the summer months with damage to the multi-purpose play area, Watton Green, and the Sports Field. Windows were broken in the Community Hall, and the glass in the telephone box in Glebe Close was broken.

Unfortunately drug equipment was found on the Sports Field, which resulted in a meeting arranged by some concerned parents with the Chrysalis Drug Unit, the Police and East Herts District Council. The outcome of this meeting was that the Parish Council was able to secure grant money of £7737.75 from the Communities Against Drugs fund to provide the youth of the village with a 'Meeting Point' and jumps for BMX bikes.

The Police visited the Parish Council three times throughout the year, in June, October and December 2001 to talk about rural policing.

The Village Directory has been updated together with the new bus and train timetables and distributed to all the residents in Watton at Stone and Whempstead.

Heath Mount School carried out litter picking in the village as part of their community work.

A new barrier has been installed at Church Walk.

The Cricket section of the Sports and Social Club have requested that a building be erected on the Sports Field to house their equipment and this has now received permission from the Parish Council, the District Council and the Church Diocesan Board.

The Parish Council has maintained the War Memorial and with financial help from the Abel Smith Trust has re-furbished the Pump at the corner of Station Road.

With financial assistance from the District Council the Parish Council has arranged for the collection of fallen leaves in some parts of the High Street.

Watton May Fayre committee have handed over a cheque for £2500 to the Parish Council so that a Village sign can be made and erected at the southern end of the village.

A Parish newsletter has been produced by David Stock and circulated to all villagers.

The Parish Council is not undertaking any Jubilee celebrations but has made money available for any organisations, which wish to organise any events.

The Council has been in correspondence with Rail-Track over the broken fence in Church Lane and the platform speakers at the railway station.

ROSPA have undertaken a safety inspection of all our play equipment, which has resulted in replacing new swing seats and fitting a 'Non-Bump' kit to the Seesaw.

The Parish Council hosted the 2002 Inter-Parish Conference with speakers from the District Council on Planning and Community Planning and from the County Council on Highway Issues.

The Parish Council has representation on local organisations so that we may assist in any ideas, projects or plans they might have. The list is as follows:

- Watton Conservation Society
- Watton at Stone Memorial Hall Management Committee
- Watton at Stone School Governors
- Watton at Stone Scout and Guide Group
- Watton Sports and Social Club
- River Beane Restoration Association
- E.H. Community Playbus
- Police Authority

It is the policy of the Parish Council to view all local plans and make appropriate planning comments to the local authority.

Can I thank all Councillors who have assisted me throughout the year, especially David Stock, my Vice-Chairman.

Finally, non of our work would have been possible without the assistance of our Clerk, Mrs Jane Allsop, who has put in many hours beyond her normal duties and on behalf of all Parish Councillors I would like to say a big thank you to her for all her hard work.

| Watton-at-Stone Parish Council | |
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| Summary statement of expenditure and income | |
| for the Watton-at-Stone Parish Council | |
| 2001/2002 | |
| EXPENDITURE | |
| Sportsfield/Recreation Areas | 3855.30 |
| Administration | 8780.29 |
| Grant to Community Hall | 5995.00 |
| Footpaths/Amenities | <u>4162.01</u> |
| | <u>22792.60</u> |
| INCOME | |
| Hire of sports facilities | 900.00 |
| Agency work | 546.10 |
| General income | 1622.88 |
| Precept | 18976.00 |
| | <u>22044.98</u> |
| RECONCILIATION | |
| Total Expenditure | 22792.60 |
| Total Income | <u>22044.98</u> |
| Income minus Expenditure (change in reserves) | <u>-747.62</u> |