

PARISH REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2004/2005

The Watton-at-Stone Parish Council is made up of the following ten elected-members.

Mr. N. Poulton (Chairman)	Mr. J. Meischke (Vice-Chairman)
Mr. C. Clark	Mrs. C. Dinnin
Mr. V. Dunhill	Mr. D. Filer
Mr. I. Knight	Mrs. H. McCash
Mr. M. Smith	Mr. D. Stock

The Parish Council, which met eleven times in the last financial year, also operates three Sub-Committees. These comprise the Recreation and Amenities Sub-Committee (chaired by Ian Knight), the Budget and Finance Sub-Committee (chaired by Denis Filer) and the Environment Sub-Committee (chaired by Christine Dinnin).

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

During the year the Parish Council made donations of:

- £400.00 towards the cost of the Parish News
- £25 to the River Beane Association
- £50 to the RNLI.

The Parish Council has awarded two trophies, one to Watton-at-Stone Primary School for a “Good Citizens Award” and the other to the Scout and Guides for “Outstanding Effort”.

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 has commented on the::

- Regional Spatial Strategy for East of England (RSS 14)
- Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document.

The Police visited the Parish Council during the Civic Year to give councillors an update on policing issues and crime-figures related to the village.

Unfortunately, the Parish has suffered from a spate of arson attacks, vandalism and “break- ins”. However I am pleased to report that the police have been very proactive in these issues thanks to the help of Inspector Pat Rawle, Paul Weston (the Police Community Support Officer) and Police Constable Andrew Woodward.

A mobile Police unit visits the village on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month and is parked in the lay-by opposite the Bull Public House.

A new notice board has been installed at the entrance to the Great Innings Estate.

Parish Councillors attended the following events.

- Improve Your Village, a seminar run by Rural Enterprise Project.
- Rural Parish Conference.
- Inter-village Conference.
- Hertfordshire Constabulary 2005/2006 Policing Plan and Strategic Plan 2005/2008
- Campaign to Protect Rural England - Planning Training Day.

The Village Directory has been updated and distributed to all the residents in Watton-at-Stone and Whempstead.

The ornate village sign has been erected at the southern end of the village.

The Parish Council is working with the Countryside Management Service to improve the Lammas as a Conservation Area. The Black Poplars have had to be pollarded for safety reasons.

In February, a work-party cleared part of the wooded area on the Lammas. Grant money of £5000 from Awards for All and £1000 from the Countryside Management Service has allowed us to clear the Lammas Bank and enable us to fund two information-boards (which will be installed shortly).

Native species of bushes were planted in the gaps in the sportsfield hedge along School Lane.

The Parish Council would like to congratulate the organisers of the Family Fun Day held on the 24th July.

The Parish Council has had two meetings with Hertfordshire Highways to discuss matters such as foliage encroaching onto the footpaths, a traffic survey for Whempstead and Watton-at-Stone, gully emptying and general highways issues.

There is now a telephone number (01438 737320) and e-mail address (www.hertsdirect.org/highwayfaults) for the public to report faults associated with Highway issues e.g. lighting, potholes etc.

Royal Society of Prevention of Accidents has undertaken a safety inspection of all our play equipment.

The Parish Council has representatives on the following local organisations so that it can assist in any ideas, projects or plans they may have.

- Watton-at-Stone Conservation Society
- Watton-at-Stone Memorial Hall Management Committee
- Watton-at-Stone School Governors
- Watton-at-Stone Scout and Guide Group
- Watton-at-Stone Sports and Social Club
- River Beane Restoration Association
- Police Authority
- Watton-at-Stone Playgroup
- Allotment and Gardeners Association.

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

Watton-at-Stone Parish Council	
Summary statement of expenditure and income for the year 2004/05	
Expenditure	
Sportsfield/Recreation Areas	5765.19
Administration	10962.41
Grant to Community Hall	5490.00
Footpaths/Amenities	6726.08
Provision for 2005/06	<u>5000.00</u>
	<u>33943.68</u>
Income	
Hire of sports facilities	1000.00
Allotment rent	322.00
Agency grants	8733.66
General income	29.50
Bank interest	68.81
VAT refund	989.69
Precept	<u>22745.00</u>
	<u>33888.66</u>
Reconciliation	
Total Income	<u>33888.66</u>
Total Expenditure	<u>-33943.68</u>
Income minus Expenditure (change in reserves)	<u>-55.02</u>