

PARISH REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2006/2007

Watton at Stone Parish Council is made up of 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 met eleven times in the last financial year.

The Parish Council operates three sub-committees. The Recreational and Amenities sub-committee, chaired by Ian Knight, the Budget and Finance Committee chaired by Denis Filer and the Environment sub-committee chaired by Christine Dinnin.

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

The Parish Council made the following donations: £300 towards the cost of the Parish News, £65 to Royal British Legion, £25 to the River Beane Association and £50 to Douglas Moore for his trip to the World Scout Jamboree.

The Parish Council has awarded two trophies, one to Watton at Stone Primary School for a "Good citizens Award" which was won by Cameron Landels and the other to the Scout and Guides for "Outstanding Effort" and this was won by Jeremy Bateman.

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:

- Police Force Restructuring
- Statement of Licensing Principles under the Gambling Act 2005.
- Hertfordshire Policing Plan.
- Retention of Rural Post Offices
- Supported Hertford Museum in its application for Lottery Funding
- East Herts Local Plan Second Review

The Parish Council has written to Go East to object against the proposed changes to the draft East of England Plan, with particular reference to water, both in respect of the clean supply of drinking water and the disposal and treatment of effluent water.

Reviewed and updated the value of our insurance policy and the asset register.

Prepared a new Annual Agreement for the use of specified Sports Facilities within the village

The Police visited the Parish Council during the Civic Year and gave Councillors an update on policing issues and crime figures with regards to the village.

Councillors have been out on patrol with police officers.

The Parish Council nominated PC Andy Woodward for the Community Safety Award 2006. Although Andy didn't win, he was a runner-up.

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

Councillors have attended the following;

- Locality Policing Panel
- Rural Parish Conference
- Inter Village Conference
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Hertfordshire Policing Plan 2007/2008

The Parish Council has worked with the Countryside Management Service to produce a Management Plan for the Cottage Site at Watton Green.

The Parish Council would like to thank Tony Bradford and his team of volunteer workers who have started work on the site.

A new litter bin has been installed on Watton Green.

Work has been carried out on the Willow trees on the Lammas.

Flood Wardens have been appointed to monitor the River Beane and Ian Knight is the co-ordinator and contact point with the Environment Agency

Following a petition from local residents the bench at the top of Hockerill Slope has been removed.

Neighbourhood Watch has been set up in the village with thanks to Helen McCash who co-ordinated and organised the list of volunteers to cover the village.

Problems with the gas replacement work in Hazeldell which included the unacceptable state of the road, pavements, trees and verges were resolved thanks to David Stock meeting with the contractors and Hertfordshire Highways.

Following a petition from residents in Lammas Road, new improved street lighting has been installed by Hertfordshire Highways.

Investigations are still under way to see if a salt bin can be installed at the junction of Beane Road and Walkern Road

The telephone number and e-mail address for the public to report Highway faults is 01438 737320 or www.hertsdirect.org/highwayfaults.

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
- Police Authority
- Watton at Stone Playgroup
- Allotment and Gardeners Association

The Parish Council would like to pay tribute to Derek Monk who died this year for the work which he undertook in maintaining the flowerbeds and general tidiness of the village

The Parish Council has adopted a Child Protection Policy and a document entitled “Safeguarding Children, Good Practice Guidelines”

Successfully lobbied Hertfordshire Highways for the resurfacing of School Lane which should be completed in the next financial year

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

The Parish Council received a presentation from the Sports and Social Club for improvement to the sporting facilities in the village. The Parish Council supports their proposed plans.

The Parish Council is sorry to lose Vernon Dunhill who has decided to stand down at the May election, after 12 years service, our thanks for all his hard work on the Parish Council

Finally, none 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	
Summary statement of expenditure and income for the year 2006/07	
Expenditure	
Sportsfield/Recreation Areas	8538.46
Administration	11298.06
Grant to Community Hall	4500.00
Footpaths/Amenities	<u>6803.67</u>
	<u>31140.19</u>
Income	
Hire of sports facilities	1100.00
Allotment rent	455.00
Agency grants	4543.99
General income	52.50
Bank interest	229.02
VAT refund	1254.19
Precept	<u>25505.00</u>
	<u>33139.70</u>
Reconciliation	
Total Income	<u>33139.70</u>
Total Expenditure	<u>-31140.19</u>

Income minus Expenditure (change in reserves)	<u>1999.51</u>
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