

PARISH REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2007/2008

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. D. Filer	Mr. I. Harris
Mr. I. Knight	Mrs. H. McCash
Mr. M. Smith	Mr. D. Stock

Following the resignation of Vernon Dunhill three prospective residents put their name forward to be a Parish Councillor.

Mr. Iain Harris was duly elected to be the new Parish Councillor.

The Parish Council met eleven times on the third Tuesday of every month 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.

Parish Councillors have been issued with an information pack relating to their work as a Parish Councillor.

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.

The Parish Council has awarded two trophies, one to Watton at Stone Primary School for a "Good Citizens Award which was won by Ryan Evans and the other to the Scout and Guides for "Outstanding Effort" and this was won by Emily Wilson.

The Parish Council have commented on the following documents:

- Hertfordshire Policing Plan. 2008/2011.
- Delivering Quality Health Care for Hertfordshire.
- Consultation Paper on Planning Applications.
- East Herts Council's Housing Capacity Assessment.

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 PCSO Paul Weston for the Safer Neighbourhood Award.

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.
- Hertfordshire Policing Plan 2008/2011.
- Rural Neighbourhood Policing.
- Benington Wind Farm Information Day.

The Parish Council would like to thank Tony Bradford and his team of volunteer workers who been working on the Cottage site at Watton Green.

Watton Green

- A new dog waste bin has been installed.
- Encroaching shrubbery has been cut back around the perimeter of the green.
- A new lockable gate has been installed at the entrance.

The Lammas

- Three dead Poplar trees have been removed.
- Concrete bridge repaired.
- The Parish Council has granted The Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust permission to carry out a Water Vole survey.

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

The Village directory has been updated and delivered to every house in the village.

Two new notices boards have been supplied by The Beane Valley Children's Centre, one has been installed at the Community Hall the other at the entrance to Summans.

Lif Bishop the new Children's Centre and Extended Schools manager gave a presentation to Councillors.

Councillors attended a Code of Conduct training course arranged by East Herts District Council.

The Council is requesting that a new telephone kiosk be installed in the High Street following the vandalism and removal of the old telephone kiosk

Part of the War Memorial garden has been replanted with flowers and shrubs.

A new salt bin has been installed at the junction of Beane Road and Walkern Road.

Councillors met with officers from Hertfordshire Highways and discussed ongoing highway issues.

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

Long term capital expenditure forecast was reviewed and updated.

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 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 Pre School Playgroup
- Allotment and Gardeners Association
- Watton Youth Drop Inn

Watton at Stone Conservation Society was disbanded and their funds were transferred to the Parish Council subject to these monies being spent on specific areas within the village.

After some initial design work by Peter Allsop on a new web site for Watton-at-Stone, a 4-man working group of Parish Councillors (i.e. David Stock, John Meischke, Ian Knight and Iain Harris) was formed to take the project further. After a comprehensive review of our objectives, David Stock made detailed proposals for the structure, organisation, content and operation of the new web site and these were subsequently agreed by the Parish Council. At present work on the content of the web site is at an advanced stage so the working group can now work with Peter Allsop on the development/implementation tasks necessary to get the web site up and running.

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

A planning application by the Parish Council has been submitted and approved by the District Council for a new tennis court adjacent to the MPPA.

Finally, none of our work would have been possible without the assistance of our Clerk, 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.