

**BURWELL
PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT
2009/2010**

About the Parish Council

The Parish Council consists of 17 elected members who serve for a term of 4 years. The next election of Parish Councillors will take place in May 2011

The Council employs 6 part time members of staff:

Lesley Reader	Parish Clerk
Yvonne Rix	Responsible Financial Officer
Debbie Cawley	Key holder/Caretaker
Roger Logan	Handyman
Paul Hawes	Handyman
Stuart Wright	Handyman

Full Council meetings (which include consideration of planning applications) are held as follows :

Second Tuesday of every month

Last Tuesday of every month except in August and December

Agendas can be viewed in the Council office, the village library and on the web site.

Members of the public are welcome to attend these meetings and have the opportunity to address the Council on any village issues during the Public Forum at the beginning of Full Council Meetings. (3 minutes per issue with a maximum of 15 minutes allowed for the Public Forum.)

You are able to visit the Council office for help and advice from the Clerk on local matters or make a request to view council records. Copies of all current planning applications for Burwell can also be viewed at the office.

What does the Parish Council do?

The Council's main activities are as follows :-

1. Management and maintenance of the following :

- The Gardiner Memorial Hall
- Green Lane Allotments
- Jubilee Green and the play area
- Jubilee Reading Room and surrounds
- Margaret Field and the play area
- Mingay Park
- Ness Road Cemetery and Chapel
- Pauline's Swamp
- Priory Meadow
- The Recreation Ground, skate park, pavilion and play area
- Spring Close
- Village Lock up
- Westhorpe play area and surrounds
- Tan House Lane premises

2. Grass cutting at Pound Hill, Mill Close, Poplars Close, Tunbridge Close and Hatley Drive – other grassed areas in the village are maintained by East Cambridgeshire District Council.

3. The Parish Council also undertakes grass cutting on behalf of the County Council in general this is the verges throughout the village and The Causeway. Due to budget restraints the County Council will only pay for 3 cuts per year to these areas. The additional cuts necessary to keep the grass in check are funded by the parish and last year this cost was £3133.45

4. Street furniture – village seats, bus shelters, notice boards etc.

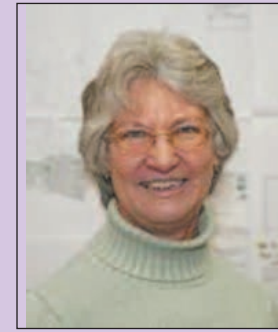
5. Council also debates local planning applications and passes their comments to East Cambridgeshire District Council to aid their decision making process.

6. Liaise with both the County and District Councils to maintain and improve their standards of service.



Jubilee Green Play Area - one of the three play areas looked after by the Parish Council

Letter from the Chairman



Welcome to our Annual Report for 2009/2010 which gives an overview of the activities of the Council during the year.

In addition to a very busy year dealing with all the usual business, the Parish Clerk Lesley Reader and the Responsible Financial Officer Yvonne Rix, have also studied and successfully passed the CiLCA (Certificate in Local Council Administration) qualification. All Councillors have also attended various training sessions in order to ensure that their knowledge and skills are up to date.

As we go to press we have just learned that Burwell Parish Council has joined a small number of other Councils in the District by being awarded "Quality Status" in recognition of its engagement with the Community and the services it provides. Whilst we have always tried to do our best for all sections of the Community it is particularly gratifying that this has been officially recognised. Re-accreditation of this award is required every four years so you can rest assured that standards will not be allowed to decline.

My personal thanks go to the Staff and Councillors for their achievements and for the continued commitment to the wellbeing of the Village.

This year's Annual Parish Meeting is on Tuesday 11th May 2010 in the Gardiner Memorial Hall at 7.30pm. Please come along and meet your Councillors together with representatives from other Organisations providing services within the Village.

Joan Lonsdale
Chairman

Annual Parish Meeting

**Tuesday
11th May**

**Gardiner
Memorial Hall
High Street,
Burwell**

Call in from

7.30 - 9pm

Formal opening

7.30pm

Main Activities During 2009/2010

Planning :

The Parish Council made recommendations on 73 planning applications, 9 of which were refused. These consisted of mainly general extensions or conservatory improvements to properties.

There were 13 applications granted for new dwellings

There were no major developments this year for consideration.

Other Matters :

The Parish Council has achieved Quality Status this year following a great amount of work by both Councillors and Staff.

Quality Status helps to underline the importance of Parish Councils as the first tier of Local Government closest to local people, in giving local leadership and being at the heart of the local community.

We are currently served by two PCSO's in the village PCSO Kat Deronal and PCSO Alistair McKenzie. The regular Wednesday afternoon police surgeries continue in the Jubilee Reading Room between 3.00 and 4.00pm when the PCSO's will be pleased to hear your views and comments about issues that concern you in the village.



Left:
PCSO
Alistair
McKenzie

Right:
PCSO
Kat
Deronal

If you wish to receive regular updates we suggest that you subscribe to E cops which can be easily and freely done via the link:



Sheep on Pauline's Swamp

www.cambs.police.uk/signup/ecops/.

In order to contact the police on non urgent issues please call 0345 456 456 4. Messages can always be left for the community policing team at the Council Office.

The Parish Council continues to fund the illumination lighting at St. Mary's Church.

We were once again pleased to be able to sponsor the very popular Summer Reading Scheme in conjunction with the Library. This is a wonderful way to encourage children to read a variety of books and hopefully continue reading throughout their lives.

Following vandalism at the Recreation Ground new, more effective, floodlighting has been installed and the ground has been re-leveled and the underground drainage system has been jettied out to improve its efficiency.

Work is continuing on Pauline's Swamp, which was successfully grazed by sheep last year, and will continue to be again this year. Hopefully by the time this report is published the new interpretation boards for the site will be ready.

We have asked that these are produced locally by the same gentleman that produced our new village maps as he uses a method which is much more eco friendly than conventional production methods.

Again we expect that the grant for the P3 scheme – the maintenance and cutting of parish footpaths will be cut due to the increasing number of parishes joining the scheme coupled with the financial cuts enforced on the County Council departments. This will mean that we will concentrate on the cutting of the most used footpaths i.e. those closest to the village and will inevitably mean that the shortfall in funding will be met once again by the parish.

Speed Watch has now become established in the village and information provided by the team results in a follow up by the Police in those areas highlighted. More volunteers are always needed to help with the scheme and information as to how you can volunteer is available from the office.

Progress on the planned redevelopment of the Tan House Lane site continues slowly.

We continue to support

Youth provision in the village by helping to finance the Fenland Elite Youth Bus and more recently agreeing to joint fund a dedicated youth worker for the village along with Burwell Youth Improvement Project.

The Gardiner Memorial Hall has undergone an internal make-over with new curtains and blinds fitted and an internal repaint.

We have managed to create enough new allotment plots at the Green Lane site to reduce the waiting list from over 20 to 4.

Following consultation with the village the new Dial-a-Ride service from Burwell to Ely commenced on 8th April 2010. The service is to be subsidised by the Parish Council and we hope it will prove a valuable asset to the village.

£103,000 of Section 106 funding has been earmarked for projects within the village. There are specific criteria which need to be met in order to qualify for the funding but it is hoped that some will be used to complete the refurbishment of the Tan House Lane site and at least three local organisations have expressed an interest in obtaining funding for specific projects.

CONTACT DETAILS

CHAIR

Mrs Joan Lonsdale
Cobwebs' 23 North Street
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VICE-CHAIR

Mrs Sylvia Durrant
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610190

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Mr David Boughey'
Domek' 1 High Street
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Mrs Beryl Brown
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Mr Kevin Burdett
The Manse, 15 Toyse Lane
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Mr Tim Clay

110 Silver Street
615570

Mrs Sylvia Greenaway
21 The Avenue
601391

Mr Don Harrison

85 Low Road
610247

Mrs Pat Kilbey

30 Buntings Path
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Miss Jackie Peavot

11 Old School Close
741503

Mr James Perry

25 Orchard Way
612121

Mr Derek Reader

'Coquet House' Heath Road
742588

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17 Parsonage Lane
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Mrs Heather Sims

49 Silver Street
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Mr Michael Smith

15 Bayfield Drive
601974

Mrs Fay Whitehouse

'Adventurers' 125 North
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Mrs Hazel Williams

66 Mill Lane
743897

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Mr David Brown

30 Buntings Path
743283

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Mr David Brown

30 Buntings Path
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Mrs Lavinia Edwards

103 North Street
610696

Mrs Hazel Williams

66 Mill Lane
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CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

Mrs Lesley Reader

The Jubilee Reading Room
743142

