

WASNAV SUMMER 2017
PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

The Parish Council meets every month to go through the various business that crops up, including planning applications, police, finance, reports, correspondence and many other matters. We hope that everything we do is for the benefit of the village and have an open meeting at the start so that members of the public can come along and air any problem that may be affecting them. We would hope that if we cannot solve every problem we can at least, point someone in the right direction for a solution. As well as the monthly meetings each parish councillor is on a working party or committee which looks after a particular area of village life. These cover such areas as the Cemetery, Playgrounds, Street Lighting, Footpaths, Sand & Gravel, Environment & Highways, Village Hall, Sports Association, Pocket Park, Community Safety and the Youth Project.

The council has been quite busy over the past term and has carried out many projects on behalf of the village and hopefully make it a better place for us all to live. My particular interests are in the street lighting and playing fields within the village. Over many years the council had been gradually improving the village lamps to get them up to the required standard for County Council adoption. This had gone well and we were in a situation where most of the lamps have been taken over by the County Council. This relieved the Parish Council of the large bill that we used to have for lighting energy and maintenance costs, giving us more money to spend within the village. Following this in recent years these lamps have been upgraded to the latest energy saving white lights and while these give a brighter light unfortunately there are not quite so many of them as previous. Balfour Beatty who now administer the lights on behalf of the County Council carried out this upgrade and if a light near you is out or giving problems please note its number and either call Balfour Beatty on 0800-0850257 or email enquiries@lightingnorthamptonshire.com.

If there are other things you would like to report, for example: - pot-holes, blocked drains, broken kerbs, damaged signs, etc - you should contact Northamptonshire County Council on 0300-126-1000 or Street Doctor via the website. If you report something to Street Doctor, you will be given a reference number which can be used to check the progress on your particular problem and chase up if necessary. So rather than complain about this and that needs repairing or why doesn't the council fix the other, be proactive and report it yourself. Remember the story of four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but in the end Nobody did.

I am also on the Playing Fields Committee and the village has been well served over the years by various people who have presided over and provided us with this wonderful asset for now and future generations. The sports clubs are thriving in the village at the moment, especially in the youth sections and a big thank you to all coaches and helpers who are helping to make this possible and enthusing the young. The village teams should be well served in future generations from this influx. However we are still concerned at the amount of irresponsible dog owners who allow their dogs to foul on the field and do not bother to clear it up. It is after all a playing field with many children about and sports being played, not a dog exercise area and as such dogs should remain on leads as stated on the signs. We realise that many owners are responsible, but as in many walks of life, they are let down by the irresponsible few. This could also apply to the village as a whole and there is no excuse as the Council has had many dog bins put up recently.

We have unfortunately had quite a lot of trouble down at the Playing Fields with break-ins and mindless arson in recent years, which has cost the Council (i.e. ALL OF US) many thousands of pounds in damage and having to increase our security measures. The problem is that the field is so remote, but if you happen to see anyone causing damage then please call the police immediately.

The playground in St. Marys Road is also looked after by the Committee and over the years we have upgraded the equipment/safety surfaces when necessary to provide a safe and fun environment for children 12 and under. However recently we have had problems as overage children seem to think they can fit into and use the toddler swings, get as many as can fit on the flying saucer swing or play football and ruin the grass. This can result in undue strain on cables and chains and as well as being dangerous will cost the council if any repairs are needed . If you see any damage being done then please report it to the council or police, as we may be able to make the culprits pay rather than all of us.

If you need to contact the Council for any reason then please call our clerk Angela Young on 07856-203260 at the office or visit the Scott Bader Innovation Centre, Bryson Building, Office 1. The usual office hours are:- Monday 9am – 3pm, Wednesday 9am – 3pm and Thursday 9am – 12noon. You can also contact the council on-line via clerk@wollastonparishcouncil.gov.uk or check out our recently upgraded website www.wollastonparishcouncil.gov.uk for the latest information.

We hope to see you at the next Council meeting perhaps, they are held on the third Thursday of each month starting at 7.00pm. The open meeting is at the very start, so you can air any problem and then leave soon after if you wish.

Terry Savage.

STOP PRESS - Now that the sand and gravel lorries have stopped bringing material along the Hardwater Road, we are pressing the County Council to carry out major repair works instead of constantly patching. Whilst they have not promised anything and as usual have no money for it they are aware that extensive work is needed and are looking at how much this will cost and where they can get some funding from. So who knows perhaps one day the road may be brought back up to a reasonable standard?