



# Hail Weston Parish Council

## April 2012 Newsletter

### Message from the Chairman:

Welcome to the latest Newsletter from the Parish Council. As I write this piece the young people of the Village are enjoying their Easter holidays, and in particular the new facilities that have recently been completed on the Village Playing Field. These facilities are the culmination of the efforts of a group of hardworking Villagers, supported by The Parish Council, in response to a public consultation process held in the Village a few years ago where the young people told the Council what facilities they would like.

The facilities are now complete, and the Village owes a huge thank you to the Playing Field Committee and, in particular, Barry Easom, who has so tirelessly managed the whole project. Thank you, Barry, and thank you all..

It is, however, with some sadness that I have to report that, shortly after the facilities were open to the public, they were subjected to some mindless vandalism. How sad that some people feel the need to spoil things for the majority. If anybody does see, or has seen, any suspicious behaviour would they please report the matter to the police, either using the non emergency number, 111, or if it is an emergency, 999.

You will be receiving this newsletter shortly before the Annual Village Assembly. This is being held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April and is your opportunity to come along and raise any issue relating to the Village with your Councillors, whether that is Parish, District or County. You will probably have read or heard of changes to the planning policy process whereby local communities have more of a say on what they would like to see in their area, from a planning point of view. The Parish Council would be pleased to hear your thoughts on how you would like to see the Village develop and look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Finally, you will see at the end of the newsletter that there is presently a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. If you would be interested in being nominated for the Council please contact one of the Councillors who can then start the process of co-option.

Peter Chandler  
Chairman

### Cambridgeshire ACRE Community Oil Buying Scheme

Cambridgeshire ACRE believes that finding a way to keep fuel costs as low as possible is particularly important in rural areas, where many households don't have mains gas.

Our bulk-buying scheme for domestic heating oil aims to bring communities together to make the most of joint buying power so that greater savings can be made and passed on to customers.

Anyone can join the Scheme; domestic users, community groups such as village halls or even businesses. All members pay a small annual membership fee (which varies according to member type) but this is more than offset by the savings made on oil orders.

To work really efficiently, the Scheme needs to recruit volunteers as Local Co-ordinators. These are local people who collate the oil orders for syndicate members in their village once a month and pass the information on to us; and who then let the local members know the cost per litre and the delivery date once it's been negotiated. Local Co-ordinators get free membership of the scheme. Scheme members can order as many times as they like during the year, and the price will be negotiated centrally to get the best possible deal.

Full details of how the scheme works are set out in two leaflets – one for prospective members of the scheme and one for people who might be interested in becoming a Local Co-ordinator

<http://www.cambsacre.org.uk/community-oil-buying-scheme.php>

### Operation Twist - online reporting facility

People will be able to report suspicious activity online for the first time. The facility is part of Operation Twist, the crackdown on rural burglaries in the area. From March 14<sup>th</sup> people can report suspicious activity in the two districts through the force website or via email.

Det Insp Jon McAdam, who is leading Operation Twist, said: "Offenders will often visit an area in the days leading up to a burglary to scope out potential targets. It's at this point that people are most likely to notice something unusual but may not think it is worth reporting. We want descriptions of these people and any vehicle details that may be linked to them"

- [www.cambs.police.uk/news/OpTwist](http://www.cambs.police.uk/news/OpTwist)
- [emailburglarycrackdown@cambs.pnn.police.uk](mailto:emailburglarycrackdown@cambs.pnn.police.uk)

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[www.hailweston.org.uk](http://www.hailweston.org.uk)

## Field Re-Development Project

On June 10<sup>th</sup> this year we will be celebrating the completion of a three year project to redevelop the village playing field. The project was initiated by the youth of the village who presented a petition to the Parish Council at the Annual Assembly in 2008. Basically they pointed out that the bare patch of land which had a full sized football pitch (not marked out) and a small compound for toddlers, offered little of interest for the young people of the village. At the time the council was heavily committed to providing a new cemetery for the village and therefore there was no money for anything else. However they recognised that the children had a valid point and with no money and in time honoured way they set up a committee – Hail Weston Playing field Committee.

The committee did its research and discovered that funds could be raised for such projects but a detailed proposal, which fully involved the community, needed to be prepared. In January 2009 the first public consultation was held at the village pub. It was well attended and it provided a wish list of playing field facilities for all ages. The committee then produced a design, featuring the most sought after facilities, which was put to consultation, both at an event in the Village Hall and at the village fete. The proposals received considerable support from all age ranges. It was therefore under the banner of Healthy Community that fund raising took place throughout 2009. In all instances the committee had to bid for funds. In excess of £30000 was raised from a government backed Play Pathfinder pro-

ject; a further £9500 from Awards for All and a bid to the Football Foundation also resulted in 50 % funding of a mini football pitch, the other 50% coming from the Parish Council. Fund raising was also undertaken in the village.

During 2010 the first phases of work were undertaken, contractors built the Trim Trail, the big climbing frame, a Willow Tunnel, Zip Wire, Meeting Shelter and, using material garnered from the Cemetery project, created a big mound and a sand play area complete with climbing tree. Picnic benches were supplied and village work parties created garden areas. To celebrate this initial success a village fun day was held which included good old fashioned sports and activities.

However the design was far from complete and further fund raising was necessary. Supported by the promise of 11% funding from the Parish Council an application for £45000 was made to the Waste Recycling Group (WREN) for funds donated to the Landfill Communities Fund. The application was successful and in November 2010 Hail Weston was award-

ed the full £45000 to complete the project.

Works have been undertaken since January with Contractor DT Leisure constructing an all-weather area with facilities for football, basketball and cricket; footpaths, a mini BMX track, a new Bird's Nest swing in the Toddler area and laying a field under-drainage system. Contractors Fenland Leisure constructed a big slide on the mound together with climbing wall and safety surfaces and supplied two more picnic benches. Finally villagers came together to lay new safety bark in the toddler area and weed and plant up the garden areas.

Early reaction to the new facilities has been positive.

The Playing Field committee will be standing down after the June celebrations. Their wish is that the new facilities will be respected by users so that the whole village can enjoy them for many years to come.

The Parish Council has supported the project throughout and is providing toilet facilities throughout the summer. It was always realised that with new facilities and extra use there will be an ongoing commitment to increased maintenance costs, hopefully the community will continue to support the Parish Council's efforts to keep this excellent facility in tip top condition.



Barry Easom  
Project Manager

Playing Field Committee: Dawn Isaac, Tony & Veronica Bolton, Nigel Burdett, Paul Williamson, Di Salter, Barry Easom.  
(Nick Farnden 2008 – 2010)

## Hail Weston Parish Council Contact Details

Meetings are normally held every third Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall with no meetings in August or December.

Members of the public are welcome to attend, as there is an opportunity for public participation at every meeting where anyone can air their views or ask questions.

Notices for these meetings are posted on the village notice board, which is situated in the High Street between the turnings for Orchard Close and Aubreys Farm, and can also be found on the web site at [www.hailweston.org.uk](http://www.hailweston.org.uk)

**The Parish Council comprises of seven members and there is presently one vacancy.**

**Please note the new Parish Clerk contact details.**

**PETER CHANDLER**  
CHAIRMAN  
29 High Street  
(01480 212110)

**NIGEL BURDETT**  
VICE CHAIRMAN  
8 Barker Close  
(01480 470366)

**SHEILA BUCHANAN**  
34 High Street  
(01480 210366)

**VERONICA BOLTON**  
6 Weston Close  
(01480 217061)

**DI SALTER**  
111 High Street  
(01480 475153)

**JOHN BURTENSHAW**  
59 High Street  
(01480 476933)

Financial reviewer  
Planning Committee

Neighbourhood  
Watch  
Allotments representative

Open Spaces  
Planning Committee  
Health & Safety

Communications

Planning Committee

Highways &  
Environment  
Planning Committee

**JEN ABLE**  
PARISH CLERK  
5, Orchard Close  
Hail Weston  
Cambs., PE19 5LF  
(01480 215880)

**E-mail:**  
[contactus@hailweston.org.uk](mailto:contactus@hailweston.org.uk)

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**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR:**  
**JONATHAN GRAY**  
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**COUNTY COUNCILLOR:**  
**PETER DOWNES**  
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(01480 398082)

**MARTIN BAUGHAN** - Web site  
admin.