



Hail Weston Parish Council

June 2013 Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Firstly I'd like to say Hello! This is my first year as Chairman, as I took over as Chairman on the 16th October with some serious arm twisting following the resignation of Peter Chandler. Peter is well known in the village and to the Parish Council where he has given over 20 years' service. His expertise will be greatly missed by the council and I would like to thank Peter for all his work over the years.

So what have we been up to this year, well the big issue has been the closure of the village pub on Jan 1st last year. We have been successful in registering the pub and its gardens a village asset, in the hope that Hail Weston will once again have the pleasure of a village pub. (See more information later in newsletter)

We have been successful in dedicating the newly revamped playing field as a Queen Elizabeth II playing field, in celebration of the Queen's Diamond jubilee. This required us to register the playing fields with the Land Registry as a play field for impertinently.

Parish Councils have many powers to make things happen in rural communities and with Localism these powers are on the increase. A Village Plan would help us to detail how the village might develop in the future. A questionnaire would provide a platform for residents to communicate what they wanted to happen. The capacity of a Parish Council varies hugely depending upon the personalities involved and how they perceive the role of the Council in their village. Good engagement with our residents is essential for Parish Councils to be able to move their communities forward.

As well as these key issues the general business of the council continues, with the reviewing of planning applications, maintenance and up keep of the village open spaces, managing the allotments, liaison with the Village Hall and Parochial church committee. I'd like to thank our Councillors who recently carved out time of busy schedule to attend recent CAPALC training sessions. 27hrs of training in total!! We have also had another new member Marian, so it is great to have a full Council again. Marian joined us on 15th of Jan. 2013. I'd also like to take the opportunity to thank Martin Baughan for his continued support in managing/updating village website. Although some work is still outstanding it is fully on radar of the council. Details of the Parish Counsellors are on the back of this news-letter and on the Parish Website.

Veronica Bolton

FINANCIAL POSITION IMPROVES

For the financial year 2012/13 the council has managed to reduce a budgeted deficit of £6,304 to just £857. This was achieved by savings and changes in a number of areas and the details are displayed on the village website.

As we start the current year, the precept has been increased by 2.8%, raising an additional £433, to help cover the additional cost of consecrating the new cemetery. The council is still projecting a deficit of £2364 for this year which will be covered from reserves.

Whilst we have sufficient reserves to cover small deficits, this position is not sustainable long term and your council will be looking very carefully at the major expenditure items, with the aim of producing a balanced budget in the near future.

John Burtenshaw

DOG FOULING

Unfortunately this continues to be a challenge within the Village and despite several attempts to remind residents of their duty of care with regard to clearing up; it appears that some residents believe they are still exempt.

During the recent Village litter pick several full doggie bags were collected, so sadly some owners clearly think that bagging and either leaving or throwing in the ditch is also acceptable.

We have recently discussed this with the dog warden at Huntingdonshire District Council, who confirmed that unfortunately unless the dog owner is seen to leave dog mess the council are pretty powerless, other than reminders to residents and keeping vigilant.

The Parish Council has agreed with HDC to add additional signage in the village. The dog warden has also agreed to increase patrols in Hail Weston.



**If you cannot train your dog....
Please bag the poo yourself**

**Hail Weston
Parish Council**

www.hailweston.org.uk

HAIL WESTON COMMUNITY PUB SOCIETY



Our objective is to buy back and reinstate our village pub. But we can only be successful in this if we have local support now and in the future.

Milestones so far

- HWCPs formed to act as voice for village to help get our pub back.
- The Royal Oak Pub and Gardens were registered as Community Assets in January 2013 (ACV).
- Share offer out February 2013 – immediate response from many local residents, currently we have 136 members and £24,650 share fund.
- Community Asset review hearing - successful defence of the ACV – this was announced in April 2013.
- HWCPs is committed to support all aspects
- Support from Parish Council, local councillor (Jonathan Gray) & local MP (Jonathan Djanogly).

- Local District Council investigates ground works in the pub gardens and decides to remove 'Permitted Development Rights', which means that **all** changes to the pub or gardens now need to be approved.

We have made some great inroads towards our goal and look forward to your continued support

Andy Shaw

STOP PRESS x2

ONE

The Parish Council and the Hail Weston Community Pub Society (HWCPs) have recently been informed by HDC, that they have received notice from the owner of the Royal Oak public house of their intention to sell. The HWCPs have an emergency meeting to plan the next steps. As the pub is registered as a community asset, they and Parish Council have until 15th July 2013 to request to be treated as a potential bidder. Watch out for the next update.

TWO

The Hail Weston Village Hall Management Committee has been successful in securing a grant of nearly £15,000 from WREN to help fund the repairs to village hall. It is hoped that this will occur over the summer whilst the Play Group are on holiday.

CONSECRATION OF THE NEW VILLAGE CEMETERY



Sunday 28th April saw the culmination of a large piece of work started by the council in 2004 with the consecration of the new village cemetery. The Bishop Stephen of Ely visited the village in order to undertake the consecration. The service started in the church before moving out into the new cemetery where the ground was blessed. The final part of the service was the signing of the official documents by our Rector, the Rev. Judi Clarke, the Church Warden, Mary Deacon and members of the Parish Council. It was lovely to see villagers join members of the Parish Council, to celebrate this event.



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 meeting in December.

Members of the public are welcome to attend, as there is an opportunity for public participation at every meeting where any-one 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

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Cemetery Committee

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Tree Warden

CAREN JONES

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Village Hall Committee
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MARTIN BAUGHAN - Web site