

The Chairman's Report 2011

Planning

The Red Lion pub has finally got its planning permission and at last work has started to get the property back to its former glory. Hopefully, the opening date should be this October or earlier. Other planning applications have been submitted to the Council including ones for new houses and garages, at Bilham's Cottage, The Street and in Northacre. There were also plans for a new porch and change of use of some land in the village.

Finance

Over the last 12 months the Parish Council have made financial contributions to the following organisations: -

The Wayland Partnership, Norfolk Accident and Rescue Service, Dereham and Watton CAB, Wayland Radio, Caston Village Hall insurance and Caston churchyard maintenance fund.

Awards for All

Money from the Awards for All has bought the village a new seat, which we have positioned on The Green near the War Memorial, as the Council members thought this would give in general the best view of the church and The Village Green. The money also paid for a new footpath to the phone box and bus shelter and also a new tarmac surface on the small car park in front of School Lodge. The village also bought 10 new wooden planters which were made by Alison and Alistair Skipper. These planters have been cited in pairs one each side of each highway, on the grass verge, as you enter the village. These planters were put in place on a wet wild and windy November day. By nightfall many had been planted up by our green fingered villagers, well done to them.

Highways

We have had several complaints about trees and other growth overhanging the pavements, these have now been dealt with. Potholes in the road surface were partly due to the severe floods during the winter. The parish council are looking into placing a new village sign on entering the village from Stow Bedon Road. This will be placed on the verge near the new planter and it is hoped it will discourage the speeding motorists along this road.

Home Watch

Our village home watch coordinator is Mr Colin Bearne. We have had very few criminal incidents in the village over the last 12 months but there was a theft of heating oil. This is generally on the increase from private dwellings and from farm fuel tanks.

Speed Watch

The speed watch team of volunteers continue to monitor the traffic through our village on a regular basis. These sessions are still catching motorists travelling well over the 30 mph speed limit.

Grass cutting

Cutting the grass on The Village Green has been fairly satisfactory, but a number of times grass was cut and not collected. The contract states that it should be.

Finally

2011 was election year and the previous Parish Council was uncontested, so they were re-elected to office for the next year. I wish to thank the councillors for their help and support over the last year, and not forgetting Alison our Clerk, for all her hard work she has done so that we can run our meetings as smoothly as possible.