

PARISH REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2009/2010

Watton at Stone Parish Council is made up of ten elected members.

Mr. J. Meischke (Chairman)	Mr. M. Smith (Vice-Chairman)
Mr. N. Poulton (Vice-Chairman)	Mr. C. Clark
Mrs. C. Dinnin	Mr. D. Filer
Mr. I. Harris	Mr. I. Knight
Mrs. H. McCash	Mr. D. Stock

At the beginning of the year Nigel Poulton stood down as Chairman. John Meischke was duly elected Chairman for the ensuing civic year with Mike Smith and Nigel Poulton being elected as Vice-Chairmen.

The Parish Council met eleven times on the second Tuesday of every month in the last financial year.

The Parish Council operates three sub-committees. The Recreation and Amenities Sub-Committee (chaired by Ian Knight) the Budget and Finance Sub-Committee (chaired by Denis Filer) and the Environment Sub-Committee (chaired by Christine Dinnin).

These sub-committees meet as and when necessary, discuss issues and make recommendations to the full Parish Council.

The Parish Council have appointed a planning coordinator, David Stock, to ensure that all local plans submitted to the Parish Council have the appropriate planning comments made for submission to East Herts Council.

The Parish Council made the following donations: £100 towards the cost of the Parish News, £65 to Royal British Legion, £25 to the River Beane Restoration Association.

The Parish Council has awarded two trophies, one to Watton at Stone Primary School for a “Good citizens Award which was won by Emily Kingslake and the other to the Scout and Guides for “Outstanding Effort” and this was won by Kirsty Bunce.

A presentation was given to Parish Councillors by Cliff Cardoza, Head of Contract services at East Herts Council, on the introduction of major changes to the refuse and recycling programme which came into force in the autumn of 2009.

Parish Paths Partnership has allowed us to receive grant money for hedge cutting and strimming work especially on the ‘Rights of Way’ footpaths.

The Parish Council have commented on the following documents:

- East of England Plan.
- Draft Policing Plan for 2010.
- Sustainable Communities Act Amendment Bill

The Police visited the Parish Council during the Civic Year and gave Parish Councillors an update on policing issues and crime figures with regards to the village.

Parish Councillors were sorry to hear that PCSO Paul Weston was leaving the service for a five-year sabbatical and he has been replaced by PCSO Sally Brooks.

Parish Councillors have attended the following:

- Rural Parish Conference held at Standon and Puckeridge Village Hall.
- Rural Locality Policing Panel.
- Local Strategic Partnership Forum
- Glebe Court Open Day.
- CPRE Hertfordshire Skills Seminar The Planning System- How it works

The Lammas:	Three trees have been “cut back” as they were overhanging the River Beane.
Great Innings Play Area:	Ten replacement trees have been planted.
Hazeldell:	A new replacement tree has been planted in Hazeldell with funding from County Councillor Bryan Hammonds Locality Budget.
Watton Green:	A Maple tree was donated by Mrs. Goodacre and planted on Watton Green.
Memorial Bench:	Mr. Alan Beadle has donated a memorial bench which is near Watkins Hall Farm in memory of the Beadle family.

The Telephone Kiosk situated in the High Street has been decommissioned by BT, as this is a Grade II listed building the kiosk cannot be removed without being delisted so the Parish Council will not be adopting the kiosk

Following the refusal to allow three wind turbines to be built on land east of Walkern Road and North and West of High elms Lane, Benington by East Herts Council an appeal was lodged by the applicant. A public inquiry was held and Parish Councillor Poulton attended as a local witness.

The inspector’s decision is that the appeal should not be allowed and that these wind turbines will not be constructed.

George Bateman, as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award, carried out voluntary work painting the benches in the village.

A new notice board has been purchased and erected at the Community Hall, thanks to a donation from County Councillor Bryan Hammond’s locality budget.

Parish Councillors met with officers from Hertfordshire Highways and discussed ongoing highway issues.

An automated survey was carried out at the Southern end of the High Street and driver awareness measures have been put in place.

The telephone number and e-mail address for the public to report Highway faults are 01438 737320 and www.hertsdirect.org/highwayfaults.

The new Watton-at-Stone web site is now up and running and can be viewed at: www.watton-pc.org.uk

A risk assessment register for both the Parish Council and Watton at Stone Community Hall was drawn up by Mr. Denis Filer and adopted.

East Herts Council have replaced a dog-waste bin in Walkern Road following a request from the Parish Council.

The Parish Council has representatives on local organisations so that we may assist in any ideas, projects or plans they might have. The list is as follows:

- Watton at Stone Memorial Hall Management Committee
- Watton at Stone School Governors
- Watton at Stone Scout and Guide Group
- Watton Sports and Social Club
- River Beane Restoration Association
- Police Authority
- Watton at Stone Pre School Playgroup
- Allotment and Gardeners Association
- Watton Youth Drop Inn.

As the new boy to the Chairmanship, John Meischke thanked all the Parish Councillors for their help and understanding this year, especially the two Vice-Chairman.

Finally, none of our work would have been possible without the assistance of our Clerk, Jane Allsop, who has put in many hours beyond her normal duties and on behalf of all Parish Councillors I would like to say a big thank you to her for all her hard work.