

PARISH REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2010/2011

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

Mr. John Meischke (Chairman)	Mr. Mike Smith (Vice-Chairman)
Mr. Charles Clark	Mrs. Christine Dinnin
Mr. Denis Filer	Mr. Iain Harris
Mr. Ian Knight	Mrs. Helen McCash
Mr. Nigel Poulton	Mr. David Stock

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 Committee chaired by Denis Filer, the Environment sub-committee chaired by Christine Dinnin.

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

The Parish Council made the following donations- £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 Josie Bell and the other to the Scout and Guides for "Outstanding Effort" and this was won by Joe Thomas.

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:

- Setting Neighbourhood Policing Priorities
- Local Development Framework
- Hertfordshire's Local Transport Plan
- Hertfordshire Library Services
- Draft Policing Plan 2011-2014.
- Rights of Way Improvement Plan
- Home to School Transport Plan

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

Councillors have attended the following:

- Rural Parish Conference.
- Rural Locality Policing Panel.
- Community development for Hertfordshire AGM
- Policing Plan Launch 2011
- Community Safety Partnership Consultation
- Introduction to East Herts Local Development Core strategy Issues and Options Consultation

The Clerk has attended:

- East Herts Council Customer Service Briefing.

The Allotments:

Cultivation and Clearance work has been carried out on the allotment site.

War Memorial:

Replacement planting has been carried out around the War Memorial.

Village Directory:

The Village directory has been updated and distributed to all householders in the village of Watton at Stone and Whempstead.

Planning:

Parish Councillors have reviewed all Planning Applications and commented accordingly.

Parish Councillors attended a public consultation on the planning proposals for the Waggon and Horses site.

Parish Councillors have been informed that Barratt Development have purchased the land adjacent Station Road for housing.

Parish Councillors have prepared and distributed a Housing Needs Survey to all the Residents in Watton at Stone seeking their advice on various housing issues plus possible sites for future development.

Parish Councillors attended a seminar run by East Herts Council on the Local Development Framework.

Parish Council Minutes:

Sixteen volumes of the Parish Council minutes have been bound and sent to the County Archivist at County Hall, Hertford.

Volunteers:

The Parish Council was delighted to be approached by Gareth Lewis of Glaxo Smith Kline who organise an Opportunity for Volunteer Day and members from that organisation have undertaken clearance work at the Mill Pond and painting the boards of the Multi Purpose Play Area.

The risk assessment register and Long Term Capital Expenditure have been reviewed and updated.

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

I would like to thank all Parish Councillors for the help and hard work they have given this year and a special thanks to Nigel Poulton for his guidance and my Vice-Chairman, Mike Smith, for his support.

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.