

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2011 – 2012

Meetings

Following the May 2011 elections the new council met for the first time on the 17 May. On election the 6 Parish Councillors automatically become the 6 Trustees of the Trust responsible for managing and protecting the greens that cover much of the village. In this role the Trustees are answerable to the Charities Commission.. Since May 2011 the Parish Council (PC) has held 6 formal meetings. The “Greens Trust”, confusingly called the Recreation Ground, Trust only holds meetings when issues effecting the Green arise.

The principle issues dealt with by the PC during the year included the following: -

Planning Applications

During the year the PC considered a total of 16 planning applications, two of which caused much concern within the village. The application to build a bund at Southern Green Farm Rushden has been refused by North Herts District Council, however the application to demolish the Peasecroft garages has yet to be determined by East Herts District Council (EHDC).

New planning laws have now been introduced, the overall effect being to make it easier to build new houses and EHDC are currently reviewing their long term plans and the possible development sites. In this respect it should be remembered, that in the past, 3 sites in the parish have been offered up for development by their respective owners.

Village Housekeeping

In their twin roles as Trustees of the Village Greens and custodians of the general PC village assets, such as the playing field, children's play equipment, seats litter bins etc, the PC have continued to perform a “policing role” in order to protect and preserve these features for the benefit of all who live in the village.

General Matters

As a PC we are very fortunate to have 2 permanent part time staff members, Marty Kilby as Clerk who insures the village administration runs smoothly and Eddie Hayden who keeps the village tidy. The PC is also very grateful for the valuable help from other people such as Bill Pooley who performs the internal audit, Roger Gomm who looks after the Parish footpath network and Nigel Bentley who week after week keeps the grass cut on the playing field. To these people and many others who help us, the PC and I express our sincere thanks.

Bryan Pitman