

CLERK'S REPORT OF PARISH COUNCIL ACTIVITIES IN JANUARY 2003

Writing my first article for the Parish Magazine as Parish Council Clerk has proved to be somewhat daunting a task, trying to ensure that it is as entertaining as my predecessors' reports. Who can forget Tony Pooley's discussions about lion dung! I doubt I will be able to reach their high standards but hope that you will find my articles informative.

It was somewhat strange being at a Parish Council meeting as Clerk, rather than as a member of the Council. I had been on the Council since 1987. It was a privilege to serve the village that I have lived in for 30 years for that period. It was a similar honour to have been chosen as the Clerk to replace Fred Davies who retired after being Clerk for over six years.

I have only been in the job for 10 days but those 10 days have been extremely interesting and busy. My first meeting was on Monday 6 January. As usual there were a number of matters that were discussed at that meeting, two of which I was asked to include in this article.

The first matter concerned the lack of recreational provision for the older children of the village. This has been the subject of much debate over the years. At its January meeting, the Parish Council was informed by Andrew Hambling that the Council had been allocated £10,000 to spend on the playing field but that such expenditure had to be made by 31 March 2003.

As a result of consultation with a number of teenagers, Andrew had looked into the provision of a meeting point. This could be provided for within the grant. He went on to say that it might be possible also to provide a goal where the timber bridge currently is, with a protective fence on the bank above, increasing the protection. (The timber bridge and tyre bounce need to be removed as they are dangerous.)

A further item that Andrew would like to see provided on the playing field was a basketball practice goal. The siting needed to be considered carefully.

The Council agreed to proceed with ordering the meeting point, the protective fence and the goal and to make up to £2000 available from Parish funds cover any excess over the grant and to provide a basketball goal when a suitable site has been identified.

The question of younger children's play equipment will be considered at the next meeting of the Council.

I was asked to remind everyone in the village that elections for the Parish Council will be held this year on 1 May. There is one vacancy at the moment and some members of the Council have indicated that they will be stepping down at the end of their current term. Membership of the Council is very rewarding. It is not too time consuming and is open to any one who lives or works in Hertford Heath and is over 21 years of age. If you would like to find out more, why not come along to the next Parish Council meeting on 3 February at 8 o'clock in the Mission Room. If you would like to discuss the work further, then please do not hesitate to contact me (on 01992 581994) or the Chairman of the Parish Council, Anthony Oliver (on 01992 583404).

Carolyn Morgan
Clerk to the Council