

CLERK'S REPORT ON PARISH COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

SEPTEMBER 2006

USE OF THE PLAYING FIELD

The Parish Council was concerned to learn from our PCSO Karen Broad that, following complaints from a very few nearby residents, the village's teenagers had moved from using the meeting point and other equipment provided for them into the woods. This move - to where village children have played for a great many years - had prompted a large number of complaints from one house. Each time she had received a complaint, Karen had investigated. She said the children were not drinking or smoking and were clearing up after themselves. She and PC Paul Scott were very concerned that the teenagers would move further into the woods where there were significant safety issues.

The Parish Council also learned from teenagers and others who came to the September meeting that their swings, both on the playing field and in the woods had been cut down.

A number of councillors reported that they had also seen the children in the woods and on the Playing Field but had not found their behaviour offensive in any way.

In an effort to resolve the issues as the Playing Field is just that - for playing, a number of councillors met with about a dozen teenagers, Karen and a few residents on the Playing Field to see what could be done. None of the residents who came had any complaints about the teenagers' behaviour.

The teenagers said they had been told they were not allowed on the football pitch by the Football Club. Apart from the times when matches are being played or the teams are practising, the pitch should be open to all. I will clarify who said what with the Club but would like to take the opportunity to remind those who walk dogs on the field not to allow them to foul either on the pitches or the grassy areas around the play equipment. Dogs faeces are not just unpleasant to walk or play on, they can be dangerous to health.

The teenagers said they would like to use the meeting point more but asked if it could be enclosed on three sides to make it a bit more weather proof. The Council will investigate this as well as the possibility of providing solar lighting. The Council will also look at providing seats for the hang glider which was too high for most to use and to provide goal posts to replace those that were removed, although not in their original location.

Just to remind everyone, there is a session at the beginning of each Parish Council meeting for public questions. If you have any comments on this or any other topic, do come along and raise them there.

FORMAL OPENING OF THE REFURBISHED CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

This has been fixed for 11.30am on Saturday 14th October. Everyone is invited. There will be drinks provided by the Parish Council and it would be a good time to make suggestions for further improvements.

INTERNET ACCESS POINT

It seems that grant money is available to purchase equipment and software and, given the level of support, the Council has formed a working group under the chairmanship of Alan Horswill to investigate this further. Do contact me if you would like to be involved.

BULBS AND/OR PLANTERS AT THE ENTRANCES TO THE VILLAGE

The Council is looking at planting bulbs or putting planters by the village name signs. Do you have any concerns, comments, advice, etc? If so, please let me know.

VOLUNTEER TREE WARDEN

The Council was very grateful to Mr Tisbury who volunteered to be the village's Tree Warden. He will see what needs to be done to the trees on Council land and advise on future planting and sensitive planning applications.

HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY IS SEARCHING FOR INDEPENDENT MINDS

Hertfordshire Police Authority has vacancies for four independent member places - challenging roles which offer people who live or work in Hertfordshire a real opportunity to shape the way local policing services are delivered.

Candidates will need to be aged over 21, have good communication skills, the ability to represent a broad range of local communities and relevant experience and knowledge - for example, working with younger people, community or race relations, management, HR, etc.

For more information or to apply for one of these exciting and challenging roles write, email or phone:

Hertfordshire Police Authority
Leahoe House
Pegs Lane
HERTFORD SG13 8DE

Tel: 01992 556600

Fax: 01992 555625

Email: elaine.leonard.hpa@herts.pnn.police.uk

Or go to the HPA's website: www.herts-police-authority.org.uk

The closing date for applications is 9th November 2006

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday 2nd October in the Mission Room at 7.30pm. Members of the public are always welcome at Parish Council meetings.

Carolyn Morgan
Clerk to the Council

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