

## **Report to Nassington Annual Parish Meeting Wednesday 28 April 2010**

### **• Introduction**

Nassington Parish Council is made up of nine members and I would like to thank all of the Councillors for their hard work and involvement in the Council and its associated organisations but in particular Yvonne Banke, Andrew Codman and Paul Burgess who have given up their time and expertise for a number of years.

I would also like to thank Guy Curtis, Liam Gale and Mark Acred, who resigned from the Council during the year. Both Liam and Mark worked on the proposal for the Community Sports Centre at the playing field and I would particularly like to express my thanks to Mark who spent many hours to research, co-ordinate and lead the project group which concentrated on developing the plans for the new community sports centre at the playing fields. His contribution was invaluable.

We welcomed new Councillors during the year:

Rachel Taylor, David Norman, Stephen Hewitt and Darren Lee

Sarah Rodger, as Clerk has made tremendous progress in keeping us organised, up to date and professional. For example as a Council we have been able to create and adopt Standing Orders which have ensured we are working within the required legislation. In addition, Minutes and Agenda have been reorganised and cross referenced which in turn have made them easy to follow and brought into line with national guidelines.

Councils are responsible for different things that affect your life.

Parish Councils are responsible for the following:

Church Yard	Planning(as consultees)	Off Street car parking (Playing Field)
Cemetery	Bus shelters	Street Lighting
Playing Fields	Parks, open spaces	Tourism Development
Installing Dog Waste Bins	Public Seating	Allotments
Licensing (as consultees)	Grants to Voluntary Bodies	Museums and the Arts

**Nassington Parish Council has been responsible for the following:**

### **• Planning**

The Council have looked at all Planning Applications submitted during the year. As a Council we are able to raise objections and we can comment on planning applications, this we do if there are any issues which would affect the Village.

**The Council has been consulted on the planning application by Augean at Kings Cliffe :** The Council is a member of the Parish Watch (a group made up of representative from all Parish Councils in the local area. The objective of this group is to come together over such issues which affect the local area). There were meetings to explore the implications of this site and ParishWatch made representations to the County Council.

### **• Grant to Voluntary Bodies**

This year we have made a Grant to the Nassington Newsletter .

### **• Installing Dog Bins**

This year the Council installed a dog bin at the playing fields.

### **• Public Seating**

The Council monitors and maintains the seating public seating in the Village.

### **• Churchyard, Parks and Open Spaces**

The Churchyard and Pocket Park are all maintained by the Council, who employ a local contractor to 'cut and trim' during the grass growing period of the year.

I would also like to thank the legion of volunteers who keep the other open spaces in the village looking so nice. Ms Jo Booth and the Mr & Mrs Rowe do a huge amount and most people keep the green area nearest to them cut.

The Council have commissioned a replacement Map Stand for the Green on Church Street.

### **• Bus shelter**

This is constant ongoing problem. The Council have been liaising with the Police regarding the inappropriate use and condition of the Bus Shelter on Apethorpe Road. It has been agreed that the shelter should be replaced with a more suitable construction and the Council have tried to obtain funding/grant to enable a new shelter to be erected. This is ongoing.

- **Cemetery**

The Council is in joint control of the Cemetery with Yarwell Parish Council. The Council has representatives on the Burial Board and contributes to the financial upkeep of the Cemetery.

- **Street Lighting**

Street lights have been maintained by the Council this usually involves replacement 'bulbs' and in some cases 'switching gear'.

The underground the cabling on Station Road is underway and the Council has arranged for the replacement of the street lighting in Station Road.

- **Tourism Development**

We have many attractions for visitors to the local area which in turn bring benefits to our local traders, visitor sites and local charitable organisations. It is hoped that the Village Website might be further developed to promote the facilities and attractions in this Village.

- **Allotments**

The allotments have flourished over the year. They are now productive in terms of produce and a community atmosphere. They are also looking good and I would like to thank Cllr Yvonne Banke and Cllr Andrew Codman for their continued hard work to keep the allotments in good order and to Andrew for all his practical work. There is now a strong committee made up of allotment holders (one of the allotment holders is a Parish Councillor) and Councillors which we now know will continue to drive this project forwards.

- **Playing Fields**

The Pre-school have secured funding and are awaiting planning permission to start building. It is hoped to ensure that the present users have the facilities required for a successful and thriving Cricket Club and that other users for example younger residents and clubs can be accommodated in a new build to replace the Pavilion.

The field itself is maintained very well by the Cricket Club and many thanks to the Cricket Club members (Bill Taylor and High and James Petrie) who give up their time to ensure it is so well maintained. In addition, I would like to thank the Cricket Club for their commitment to Youth Cricket and it is a pleasure to see so many young people enjoying themselves on a Friday night.

One of the Councillors frequently carries out a risk assessment at the 'play park' and the Council receive a report annually from ROSPA. As a result many repairs have been carried out to the slide and the play equipment and ground covering. The Council were saddened to report the vandalism at the children's park which resulted in the Council having to replace the gate.

- **Community Safety**

There have been many issues concerning the young people of our Village and neighbouring villages. The Police have responded to The Council's and individual parishioners' concerns and have been proactive in trying to find a way forward. The Council will continue to liaise with the local Police on a regular basis.

The Council had received a map to show the route taken by 'Gritters' (these were placed in the Village Hall, shop and website) and was pleased that the through roads were gritted during the severe snow conditions this winter. It has been noted that the Highways have now asked for a list of local farmers in case of severe weather conditions.

Neighbourhood Watch information was also delivered to every house in the Parish by Parish Councillors. If you would like to receive further information via the Neighbourhood Watch scheme, please give us your email address and we can send you any information we receive electronically from the Police.

- **Cultural Activities**

The Council recognises that many organisations in the Village offer different activities and events. The Council is pleased that the Newsletter and Website play their part in promoting these activities.

The Council also supports and contributes to the funding of the Play Ranger Scheme for the young children of the Village during the school breaks throughout the year.

As part of the Twinning, this year we will welcome visitors from St Andre to hopefully enjoy an enjoyable cultural weekend as our guests. The committee has been very busy making arrangements for a great weekend in May.

- **Other Issues/Events**

**Litter Pick in March** – A big thank you to the Shand Family, the Rodger family, Susan Little and Yvonne Banke

- **The Future**

It seems that in the long term, governance will start to filter down to a more local level. We are beginning to receive information but it appears that in theory that this should not increase costs. It is thought that if costs are 'paid' via

an allowance to Councillors then this should reduce the costs further up the chain. It is worth mentioning here that there will be an election for Nassington Parish Council next year.

The Council has been discussing the setting out of priorities for the coming year:

- **Community Safety**

How we can assist in making all our residents feel safe in the Village and their own environment.

- **Social Facilities**

The development of a community sports centre at the playing fields for the benefit of the Village and other stakeholders.

- **Support of the Local Economy**

In these very difficult times how can we ensure that our local business community thrives and the services we have remain and develop and how we can support residents who need help to find new employment or improve their skills.

Barbara Curtis

Chair

Nassington Parish Council