

## **Clerk's Report on Parish Council Matters as at 31 March 2009**

This is my eleventh annual report to this meeting of parishioners on behalf of Woodford Parish Council.

The accounts for the year ending 31 March 2008 have yet to be approved by the Council but will be considered at the May Council Meeting.

Details of Council expenditure that stand out are the fact that litter picking equated to (£936), Street Lighting (Maintenance and Power) (£4179) which included replacing two lamps – one in Thrapston Road and one in Highfield, Village Green Maintenance (£525), Clerk's salary (£2,740). The cutting of the verges amounted to £1,341, and a grant of £475 was received to offset against this sum. Opting for these additional cuts therefore costs the Council approximately £866. As a result of deliberate vandalism emergency repairs to the playground slide were required at a cost of £445. Safety inspection and remedial repairs cost a further £637. A new piece of equipment was also purchased at the end of the financial year with money from the NCC empowering Councillors scheme.

The project to upgrade the safety flooring and also build the new Multi Use Games Area cost the Council a total of £45,923 utilising the £45,000 received from William Davies Ltd. and WREN.

In the Calendar year ending December 2008 the Council commented upon 17 planning applications. The Parish Council raised no objections to 11 (of which East Northants permitted 9, refused 1, and 1 is still outstanding). Of the 6 the council objected to, 2 were allowed, 2 were refused and two are outstanding

The Council welcomes the Police to the meetings and attendance has been good during the past twelve months. Crime however has soared to 92. The previous year being 53.

This equates to one crime per 14 members of the population, fairing much worse than Irthlingborough 1:16, KingsCliffe 1:19, Thrapston 1:20, Raunds 1:21, Great Addington 1:36. In fact I was unable to find a village of similar size or larger that was worse than Woodford.

Whilst I realise statistics can be interpreted in many ways I hope that when the Parish Council discusses matters arising from this meeting later on tonight, it agrees to write to the Divisional Commander to highlight this worrying trend.

On a brighter note the website continues to be visited from all parts of the world including Hawaii, Dubai, Japan, New Zealand and the middle of the Indian Ocean!

Paul T Bird  
Clerk  
14 May 2009