

Clerk's Report on Parish Council Matters as at 31 March 2010

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

The accounts for the year ending 31 March 2010 have yet to be approved by the Council but will be considered at the June Council Meeting.

Details of Council expenditure that stand out are the fact that litter picking equated to £993 (£936), Street Lighting (Maintenance and Power) £3,946 (£4,179), Village Green Maintenance £754 (£525) plus fuel, Clerk's salary £2,860 (£2,740). The cutting of the verges amounted to £1374 (£1,341), and a grant of £475 was received to offset against this sum. Opting for these additional cuts therefore costs the Council approximately £899. Playground repairs were the lowest for many years and totalled £279.

The Introduction of the Multi Use Games Area has reduced significantly the games of football on the village green. As with many new scheme the public often want more and calls have been made for the MUGA to be lit at night. Investigation revealed that the installation of lighting would cost almost as much as the MUGA itself which puts it well outside of the Councils present budget. The Council is also attempting to restart the Youth Forum again in order to give some of the younger members of the community a sense of belonging and ownership.

In the Calendar year ending December 2009 the Council commented upon 10 planning applications. The Parish Council raised no objections to all 10 (of which East Northants permitted 8, refused 1, (which was subsequently allowed on appeal) and one was withdrawn.

The Council welcomes the Police to the meetings and attendance has been good during the past twelve months. Crime has reduced dramatically over the past twelve months to 52 incidents being recorded in the 12 months to March. Low level crime mainly in the form of Anti Social Behaviour is presently a curse on certain parts of the village and villagers are being encouraged to report these incidents in order to gain more Police time within the village.

The Website continues to receive hits from all over the world and this year I have received several enquiries regarding family history from America, Afghanistan, Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

Paul T Bird
Clerk
10 May 2010