

Overview of Parish Council activity from the Chairman of the Parish Council Finance Committee: Cllr Bill Pattison

Very pleased with the outcome of the debate regarding the School Bus to Wallingford school. With the efforts of Elizabeth Lemaire, parishioners and the support of the Henley Standard, O.C.C. officers had agreed that their previous decision, to withdraw the service from students from Benson, who would start at the school as from September 2009, would expose the young people to unnecessary danger.

The Parish Hall Car Park has now been fitted with humps and posts to reduce or cease the nuisance caused by antisocial motorists at night.

The Pavilion gable end has been repaired and is now looking far better.

Express a vote of thanks to the following people who regularly volunteer their services for the village:

Faye Crabbe and Lyn Powell for attention to the War Memorial

David Smith for the donation of flowers; also Peter Butcher and Ian Leppard for attending to the tubs.

Mr & Mrs Francis and others for their regular litter picks.

Grundon Waste management Services Ltd for their annual donation of bulbs and for the skip provided recently to remove waste from the Bertie West Field.

To Martin Taylor for disposing of the old tyres found in the Bertie West Field.

To Peter Keable who provided another magnificent Christmas Tree.

Chiltern Produce for allowing the use of their electric power for the Christmas Tree.

The Parish Office Staff – Sue Cooper (Parish Clerk), Elizabeth Lemaire (Finance Officer), Tanya Ellis (Designated Premises Supervisor) & Sarah Holton (Cleaner/Caretaker) who manage to keep up with an ever increasing amount of paperwork and manage all aspects of the halls and lands maintenance.

Finally a special thank you to all my colleagues all of whom turn up meeting after meeting to do their best for the village of Benson. It can be a thankless task and thick skin comes in useful. John Lant & Ian Leppard as chairmen of the Halls and Lands committees spend hours sorting out alterations, updates and repairs. Tom Stevenson is always working on one project or another to improve the environment, at Millbrook Mead, clearing footpaths, Rivermead and Bertie West Field, to name but a few. Dave Rushton continues with his efforts to create flood strategies and road or traffic improvements in the village. All councillors make a valued contribution and not being individually named does not detract from the efforts that are made by all councillors.

Financially the Parish Council is still solvent but as with all levels of government, money is not hemorrhaging into the bank accounts. The funds that are held by BPC are, in the main earmarked for specific purposes and any future expenditure will need to be secured in the usual way by setting a precept and applying for grants.

Cllr Pattison requested that Parishioners continue to ask questions and pass comments where necessary so that the Council can respond as required.