

Parish Council News

(From the November Meeting)

Annual Highways Meeting: this took place on 1st November and involved two PC Members, Mr. J. Archer and Mrs. A. Allen, plus the Clerk walking and driving around the village with a representative of Highways, investigating problem areas and discussing possible solutions. These included the ever present problem of the footway from the bridge to Country Produce; the plan is to trim back the grassed area encroaching onto the footway, claiming it back as footway. Another area of concern discussed was the pathway from the bridge going down the back of Ferris Avenue etc., which is suffering from 'flooding'. The plan here is to raise the kerb to stop water flowing down the footpath and directing it towards the nearby drains. Lowered kerbs will be installed further along (still near the bridge) to enable pram and wheelchair users to cross over.

Village Hall Project: this has now split into two elements: the major works, involving expanding the hall, is now progressing to the production of a business plan, which is required as part of the application to the Lottery Fund; and the kitchen, which is at the stage that a supplier has been selected and plans finalised - a grant to 'The Awards for All' scheme is being applied for. Mary Bryant and Roger Hawes are applying for grants and preparing the business plan and both have been co-opted onto the Village Hall Management committee for these projects. Meetings will be held monthly and all offers of help will be gratefully accepted. Fund raising will begin in earnest as the village will be expected to provide part of the monies required as part of the grant applications – help or ideas wanted.

Vandalism: Unfortunately, it was reported that on the night of the Halloween Disco & Party at the Village Hall (Saturday 29th October) there was a group of 'teenagers' who carried out various acts of vandalism around the village, ranging from breaking bottles all over the hard standing at the village hall and removing hanging baskets and attaching them to the traffic lights, to damaging garden plants and breaking fences along St. Stephens Road. If you know who was involved please contact PC Hughes on 01621 852255.

Allotments: a great start was made to bring these back to a workable state – please see article and 'ad' in this edition of The Beacon, giving more information.

Public Rights of Way: following many requests for the PC to reconsider the proposed site for a new dog waste bin, position and emptying will be investigated at the preferred site i.e. near to the church.

Dates of the next Parish Council meetings: the forthcoming monthly meetings are scheduled for Wednesday 14th December 2005 and Wednesday 11th January 2006. Meetings are held at 8 p.m. in the Committee Room of the Village Hall, and members of the public are warmly welcomed to hear the proceedings and to speak during the time set aside for that purpose.

To contact the Parish Council please write to: The Parish Clerk (Maria Dyer) at Exordium, 30 Latchingdon Road, Cold Norton, Chelmsford, Essex. CM3 6JG. E-Mail to mariadyer30@yahoo.co.uk or phone (Monday to Friday before 5 pm please) 01621 829566