

AKELEY PARISH COUNCIL: ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

March 9th 2009

During the year we have carried out our 'usual' duties: ensuring that the village recreational field, the churchyard and the children's play area are kept in good order; managing the allotments; attending 'Local Forums' and 'NAG meetings' to raise issues relevant to the village; maintaining and replacing street lighting (an ongoing project), commenting on planning applications; corresponding with 'Highways'; as well as a range of other diverse activities. We are also currently involved in the Affordable Rural Housing project. We do our best to spend the precept as wisely as possible. There is also the village website:

www.akeleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

If you have not visited this site, then do please try and do so: you may well be surprised by the information it contains. I purposely put the word 'usual' in quote marks in the opening sentence. This is because although the activities may seem routine they all take time and need somebody to do them. We are very fortunate in our village in having a group of councillors who are willing to give their time and expertise to help run our village. We are also fortunate in having a Parish Clerk who keeps the finances in good order and ensures that all runs smoothly: 'thank you'.

At all Parish Council meetings we have an opening session in which we record 'Items of Interest' relating to the village. Although perhaps not strictly the information to be included in a 'Chairman's report', I include a brief list of the items here for two reasons: firstly, to demonstrate that the village is active and, secondly, to encourage even more participation. Here are some of the items that have been recorded: the mobile skate park was a great success; the TV programme Springwatch was partly filmed in the village; the Pig Roast organised by the Social Group raised £800; the Street Van Association and the Owl Display were very successful; strong support was expressed for the Bull and Butcher as a key part of the local community; the War Memorial restoration was completed and the re-dedication took place on 18/10/08; the ballroom dancing classes are popular and successful; the Chackmore Pre-School Group organised a fund raising event in the Village Hall; £318 was raised for charity at the Christmas Eve dinner at the Bull and Butcher. And the Gardening Club and the Village Hall Committee should really have had a specific entry as well! We are very fortunate in having a village in which people are willing to give time and organize events. Also, the Village Newsletter, edited by Hilary, keeps everyone informed. On behalf of the village, I would like to thank all those who 'make things happen' and all those who support the activities.

There are, of course, things that are not ideal: the state of the roads and footpath/pavements being a common complaint. Yes, we have to try and do something and we do (repeatedly). But, overall, we are fortunate in having a strong and active community.

Mike Mortimer, Chairman, Akeley Parish Council