

AKELEY PARISH COUNCIL: ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

March 8th 2010

As in previous years we have carried out our 'usual' duties. These include ensuring that the village recreational field (including storage shed), the churchyard and the children's play area are kept in good order - I am sure that everyone would agree that the contractors we use have done a very good job. In addition, we manage the allotments; attend 'Buckingham Area Local Forums' and 'NAG meetings' to raise issues relevant to the village; take responsibility for the street lighting (with an ongoing maintenance project), comment on planning applications and correspond with 'Transport for Buckinghamshire' over highway problems. The Affordable Rural Housing project is also progressing. We do our best to spend the precept as wisely as possible and we maintain a small contingency - just in case. There is also the village website:

www.akeleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

If you have not visited this site, then do please try and do so. Even people from as far away as New Zealand have used it (they were seeking information on someone christened in Akeley in 1808). Of course, everything takes effort and we are very fortunate in having a group of councillors who are willing to give their time and their expertise to help run our village. Terry Cavender has also taken on the role of chairman of the Buckingham Rural NAG which involves liaison with the local police. We are also fortunate in having a Parish Clerk who keeps the finances in good order, organises meetings (plus all the paperwork) and generally ensures that all runs smoothly. We also benefit from the 'members of the public' who attend and contribute to our meetings.

So, apart from the 'usual', what else has happened? Well, the footpath from Church Hill to the Recreational Field was finally re-surfaced by BCC and the two old gate posts removed; we have had speed traps on the A413 in the village; the 'County Wildlife Site' generated interest because of the extended area of 'Ladies Smocks' wild flowers; a section of Leckhampstead Road was resurfaced (via the 'We're Working On It (WWOI) campaign) ; a grant has been obtained to purchase, site and maintain a new salt bin in the village; we completed the 'Community Issues Survey' which should help with the more efficient direction of resources to our area; we have put forward a case to have 'Vehicle Activated Signs' (VAS: 30 mph, slow down) installed on the A413 at both ends of the village; we liaised with Maids Moreton Scouts to try and help them put a storage container on their rented site on the road to Lillingstone Lovell (surprisingly, planning permission was refused); we have initiated a project to site 'outdoor exercise equipment' on the Recreational Field (but the current village response suggests that this may not go forward).

Overall, it has been a busy year. It is also the case that other clubs and societies, as well as the Newsletter, have contributed a great deal to 'village life'. However, there have been some concerns about dwindling village support. Please try and attend at least one event in the coming months, or even volunteer to help organize something new.

Mike Mortimer, Chairman, Akeley Parish Council

