

ORTON WATERVILLE PARISH COUNCIL – what has been happening in your parish over the last 12 months.

Membership of Council

During the year we have had a number of resignations from the council and with the loss of Janet Goodwin, Sharon Bellamy, Claire Normington, Scott Warren, Paul Froggitt, Brenda Fearon and Peter Thompson and it was hoped that with the forthcoming election on 5th May, new representatives were going to stand for election. Unfortunately this has not been the case and the City Council have declared our Parish Council Election as ‘Uncontested’ which means that there are still a number of Parish Councillor casual vacancies. **‘You can make a difference in your community...!’** If you live within the Parish and feel that you have any life experiences or skills that you could bring to the Parish Council which could be put to good use to deal with Council issues as and when they arise, and attend the monthly meetings on a regular basis.

Policing

PCSO Helen O’Driscoll organised a “Meet the Street” event and some 80 people attended. The re-organisation of the police has meant that no Police Neighbourhood Panels will be held or indeed any further “Meet the Street” initiatives. However, ECOPs is good at providing information regarding police action and the police are hoping to appoint special constables. We have also looked at the question of viability of the parish council paying for the additional PCSO support. One good development is that the Ormiston Bushfield Academy will have a police officer present 2 days a week, as will the Nene Park Academy.

Planning

We received 60 applications during the year with no objections being made by ourselves. Three applications were withdrawn and one refused. Again a considerable number of the applications were related to tree work or minor extensions. The longstanding dispute with R & P Meats continues and unfortunately it seems likely that the concern will remain in Waterville meaning that the nuisance caused by large lorries coming through the village will continue.

Grants

Key Sports Coaching applied for £1500 and so far we have awarded them £500. We have also made a grant of £500 to the Orton Wistow Under Fives and we contributed £100 to the “Meet the Street” event. The Orton Counselling Services have been given a grant of £1000 and an additional £2,250 been donated from the Aiden Patrick Fogarty Will Trust which was left to the parish council.

Burial Ground

The burial ground will be increasingly important as the churchyard of St Mary’s is full and the church have arranged for its official closure. They have also intimated their intention to transfer control to the parish council, when the formalities have been completed.

Allotments

Following a meeting with representatives of the allotment holders it has been decided to allow a restricted form of bonfire within approved incinerators. A review will be carried out to see what problems have arisen.

Play area

Following a recent Health and Safety inspection report there are some minor improvements to be made.

We invited tenders for the open space contract and it has been decided to award the contract for 3 years to R Harding Landscaping. The question of the skate park location has now been resolved as, although we have looked at an alternative in the Bushfield area, it has been decided that the most practical and cost effective location will be in the Nene Park, where it can be supervised and controlled, however this is still subject to the agreement and approval of the Nene Park Trust Board of Trustees.

Parish council liaison meetings

These continue to keep us informed of development especially as the City Council is increasingly looking to parishes to assume responsibilities for areas previously under their control. Unfortunately sometimes their meetings coincide with parish council meetings and it is therefore difficult to attend.

How do I become a Parish Councillor?

Pop along to one of our monthly meetings as a member of the public, you are welcome to observe the meeting format and practices, allowing you to gain a no obligation 'real incite' to what the Parish Council is about, and how we work together (all meetings take place on the third Wednesday of each month) please go to our website for further details: www.ortonwatervilleparishcouncil.org.uk.

Or if you prefer an initial chat with the clerk or indeed another Parish Councillor you can find all contact details www.ortonwatervilleparishcouncil.org.uk/your-councillors/