April – June 2007 Edition

Grave Concerns in Hail Weston

A major issue facing Hail Weston Parish Council in the next year is the need to provide a cemetery as the graveyard at the church reaches capacity.

Currently there are a handful of burial plots left in the churchyard and the Parish Council is keen to ensure that Hail Weston residents can continue to be buried in the village.

In 1936 the Parish Council purchased land in Ford End Road for use as a cemetery once the graveyard at St Nicolas’s Church was full.

In 1958 the churchyard was extended and the land in Ford End Road was used for allotments, as it still is to this day.

Now the extended churchyard is nearly full we need to address the issue of a new burial ground.

However, we are reluctant to deprive the village of the allotments.

Against this background, we are investigating the purchase of a site adjoining the churchyard, which would serve as a new cemetery.

If the transaction can be completed it would have the benefit of giving near continuity of burial arrangements -although the new cemetery would be physically separate, and owned by the Parish Council as opposed to the church.

The proposed acquisition and preparation of the site will be a costly venture, but given the convenience of the location and the desire to retain the allotments, we believe the proposed purchase will provide good value for the village.

You will appreciate that this initiative is in its infancy and there are many hurdles to be cleared before the project can be completed.

Nonetheless, the Parish Council wishes to communicate its intentions to the village and will keep you informed of our progress.

Nick Farnden
Chairman – Hail Weston Parish Council

Dog Fouling in the Playing Field

It has been great to see the increased use of the village playing field & we would like to continue to encourage its further use.

With the summer months, better weather & football season approaching younger members of our community will be using the play area & playing field.

Unfortunately there are still irresponsible dog owners that continue to allow their dogs to foul the area & do not clean up after them.

Dog Fouling is not only an offence but also unacceptable.

Bringing dog muck into the home is not pleasant and contact with canine excrement can lead to blindness due to an infection called ‘Toxocara canis’.

Be responsible keep our playing field clean & our children safe!
Hail Weston Garden Competition

Don't forget the Hail Weston Garden Competition will take place during summer this year.

Front gardens will be judged on their design, layout & tidiness. Window boxes, pots & hanging baskets will be judged on their colour & flair.

Our Judge, once again, will be fellow villager Dawn Isaac who is a talented garden designer and an RHS Chelsea award winner.

The PRIZES donated by our generous sponsors are as follows:

£100 1st Prize sponsored by Green Thumb Lawn Treatment Service

£50 2nd Prize sponsored by Bright Mortgage Advice

£30 3rd Prize sponsored by Courtyard Flowers of Kimbolton

£20 Special Category Prize – Best Pot/Hanging Basket/Window Box sponsored by Lovett Residential

For more information about our sponsors and to link to their websites visit our website at: www.hailweston.org.uk

Village Litter Pick

A big thanks to all of you that joined us for a much needed litter picking session.

Once again we managed to fill a considerable number of bags and collect a variety of motor parts, household items & also a road sign!

A thank-you also to those of you that have been out litter picking on your own. It has been noticeable and does make a difference!

Please continue to help keep our village looking good by being litter free.

Village Fete – Saturday 8th September 2007

The bi-annual Village Fete & Dog Show will be taking place at 11.30am on Saturday 8th September in the village playing field situated at the end of Newtown, so don’t forget to put the date in your diary!

Come & join in for a fun day out.

The highlight of the day will be the Dog show which will include a range of different competition classes and also feature a “Pet’s Corner”.

As always there will be a variety of stalls including: Tombola, Home-made cakes, Crazy Golf, Plate smashing & much more!

If you would like your own stall then pitches are available from £8.

For further information please contact Peter Mailer on 211693.

From now on we will issue this yearly report and quarterly newsletters in order to communicate our plans and activities to Hail Weston residents. For communication to be most effective it should be a two way process and we welcome your comments, by email or in person by participation in the Open Forum which is part of every council meeting.

In May, Nick Bowditch, after five years of service, stood down from the Parish Council. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his hard work & dedication, Nick efficiently chaired the council and worked hard to improve our practices and enhance our professionalism. At the same time I would also like to welcome his replacement Liz Bacon.

Next year (2007/08) the precept (the part of the Council Tax that funds our activities) will be increased by a significant proportion. Although in monetary terms it accounts for a very small share of your total council tax bill. The rise is caused primarily by budgeted expenditure for a survey of the proposed new cemetery (see front page of Newsletter), essential election costs and maintenance to the play area at the playing field. We strive to control expenditure tightly but sometimes, additional expense is unavoidable.

Hail Weston is a small village and therefore has fewer households to share costs amongst.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of Sheila Penton, our Parish Clerk, we are on track to receive accreditation as a Quality Council. This means that we follow best practice as laid down by statute and are duty bound to obtain best value in every possible way. Sheila worked hard to pass the Certificate in Local Council Administration, which is a key step towards the council obtaining Quality Status.

Nick Farnden
Chairman

Who & What is the Parish Council

Hail Weston have seven voluntary Councillors, serving for a term of 4 years, who give their time freely and represent an electorate of 490.

The Parish Clerk is the only employee and is part-time.

Meetings are held every third Tuesday of the month at 8pm in the Village Hall with no meetings in April, August or December.

Members of the public are welcome to attend, as there is an opportunity for public participation at every meeting where anyone can air their views or ask questions.

The notices for these meetings are posted on the village notice board and can also be found on the web site at: www.hailweston.org.uk

The Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday May 15th at 7.30pm in the Village Hall is where the Parish Council report on what they have achieved for you throughout the year, this is a less formal meeting and is your chance to have your say.

There is also a Planning Sub-committee that meets when required.

HAIL WESTON MEETING DATES – 2007

No meeting in April
15th MAY
19th JUNE
17th JULY

No meeting in August
18th SEPTEMBER
16th OCTOBER
20th NOVEMBER

No meeting in December

“Fellow villagers don’t forget you are welcome to attend our meetings, come and air your views or concerns”
Parish Council Responsibilities

As Parish Councillors we have responsibilities towards the local community and work hard to try to make this a better place to live.

Here are some of the duties we are involved in:

**FINANCE MATTERS**
Setting of precept (council tax) & budget control

**GRASS CUTTING**
Maintenance of parish owned grass areas.

**LITTER CONTROL**
Including fly tipping & dog fouling.

**STREET LIGHTING**
Ensure maintenance and power for street lighting.

**ALLOTMENTS**
Collection of rent & provision & maintenance of water supply.

Specific roles/responsibilities allocated are:

- NICK FARNDEN – Chairman & Planning.
- IAN WILKIE - Vice Chairman & liaison with other authorities.

Specific roles/responsibilities allocated are:

- BARRY EASOM - highways & environment & Planning.
- MARTIN BAUGHAN – finance, website content & update & Planning.
- CINDY COUZENS – communications inc newsletter/annual report, website & Planning.
- LIZ BACON - parish owned areas, allotments & village hall representative.
- PETER CHANDLER – councillor with general responsibilities.

What we did in 2006/07

Here are some of the activities carried out by the parish council in 2006/07.

- Made recommendations on 14 planning applications.
- Gave responses to various Consultation Documents including:-
  - HDC – Local Development Framework, Core Strategy
  - HDC- Parish Electoral Review
  - CCC – East of England Plan (Regional Spatial Strategy)
- Sent letter & petition to the NHS & PCT objecting to the proposed closure of Hinchingbrooke Hospital.
- Completion of new cycle path from Hail Weston to Crosshall Road, St Neots.
- Parish Clerk attained qualification in Local Council Administration enabling pursuit of Quality Council Status.
- Enhanced parish website.
- Replenished bark safety surface on play area in playing field.
- Organised Best Garden Competition.
- Sent letters to St Neots Police re speeding motorcyclists on the B645.
- New litterbin outside 123 High St.
- Bus shelter in High St re-painted.
- Addition of 2 new bus stops.
- Attended various meetings including:
  - St Neots & District – Safer Neighbourhood Panel
  - CALC - Quality Status Workshop
  - Cambs Police - Neighbourhood Watch
- Continue to campaign for increased safety measures on the B645.
- Renew efforts to reduce speeding motorcyclists on the B645
- Continue to lobby Cambs CC for an improved crossing over the Ford.
- Reapply pressure to BT to re-paint Phone Box

Plans for 2007/08

- Work towards the provision of a new cemetery.
- Gain Quality Status accreditation as a Quality Council.
- Continue to lobby Cambs CC for an improved crossing over the Ford.
- Reapply pressure to BT to re-paint Phone Box

“The Parish Council represents the interests of the local residents of Hail Weston & undertakes a variety of responsibilities.”

“Hail Weston has seven Parish Councillors who give their time freely.”
### INCOME 2006/07 v 2005/06

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>2005/6</th>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>2006/7</th>
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<tr>
<td>£</td>
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<td>7,200</td>
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<td>544</td>
<td>Interest</td>
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<td>500</td>
<td>PAYE on-line filing payment</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>Grass-cutting contribution from CCC</td>
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<td>195</td>
<td>Quality Status Bursary</td>
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<tr>
<td>61</td>
<td>Allotment Rents</td>
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<td>8,500</td>
<td>TOTAL INCOME</td>
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“The main source of income is the precept (council tax). In 2006/07 it was £9,600 which represented 38p per elector per week”

### EXPENDITURE 2006/07 v 2005/06

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<th>2005/6</th>
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<td>£</td>
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<td>Clerk's Salary</td>
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<td>Clerk's Expenses</td>
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<td>Quality Status Courses and costs</td>
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<td>New Goal Posts</td>
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<td>Street Lighting Energy Charge</td>
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<td>60</td>
<td>Museum Entrance Fee</td>
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<td>6,551</td>
<td>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</td>
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1,949 Excess of Income/expenditure 4,389

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**The Newsletter incorporating The 2006/07 Annual Report from Hail Weston Parish Council**
# Hail Weston Parish Council Contact Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NICK FARNDEN</td>
<td>117 High St</td>
<td>(01480 212851)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(CHAIRMAN)</td>
<td><strong>Chairman</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAN WILKIE</td>
<td>36 High St</td>
<td>(01480 472965)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(VICE-CHAIRMAN)</td>
<td><strong>Vice-Chairman</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIZ BACON</td>
<td>85 High St</td>
<td>(01480 404005)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Councillor</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>MARTIN BAUGHAN</td>
<td>2 Barker Close</td>
<td>(01480 217269)</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Councillor</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>PETER CHANDLER</td>
<td>Georgina Villa</td>
<td>(01480 212110)</td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Councillor</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>CINDY COUZENS</td>
<td>49 High St</td>
<td>(01480 403881)</td>
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<td><strong>Councillor</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>BARRY EASOM</td>
<td>6 Barker Close</td>
<td>(01480 217034)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Councillor</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHEILA PENTON</td>
<td>32 High St</td>
<td>(01480 473134)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(PARISH CLERK)</td>
<td><strong>Clerk</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>DISTRICT COUNCILLOR</td>
<td>Shufflewick Cottage</td>
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<tr>
<td>JONATHAN GRAY</td>
<td>Station Row</td>
<td>(01480 869496)</td>
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<tr>
<td>COUNTY COUNCILLOR</td>
<td>Tilbrook, PE28 0JY.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PETER DOWNES</td>
<td>42 Huntingdon Rd</td>
<td>(01480 398082)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Clerk</strong></td>
<td></td>
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We welcome your views...

If you have any comments or would like to discuss further anything mentioned in the newsletter or annual report then please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Clerk, Sheila Penton or a alternatively a member of the Parish Council.