

# THE PARISH COUNCIL

Press release issued by the Parish Clerk

1<sup>st</sup> April 2006

Further to my reports in the recent newsletter, things have moved quickly and I thought you would like to know now instead of waiting two months for the next issue.

The estate agents we appointed to value the remainder of the Parish Hall lease have inspected the Hall and will let us have a figure very soon. Unfortunately they noticed problems with the foundations and other matters and have strongly recommended immediate closure on Health & Safety grounds.

This means we have to find alternative premises very quickly. We were considering improving the Pavilion as an interim until a new Hall could be built, but that is no longer an option in view of the time factor.

Luckily, the working party set up to investigate potential sites in the village for a new Parish Hall had already identified one building that could be available almost straight away. To ensure that we did not lose this opportunity, we have paid £15,000 from the Parish Hall funds as a 25% deposit and secured a 50 year lease. The building is a splendid lodge at the Country Park by the fishing lakes along the River Bank, as advertised in the last newsletter. It comes fully furnished with a coffee machine so it will be ideal for the Council meetings and all our committees, sub-committees and working parties. There will also be facilities for the doctors & CAB for their surgeries. With the £4,000 from the play equipment funds we can also provide toys and things for children while they are waiting, and possibly even a small boat.

We have to pay off the remainder of the cost in three years. We expect the money we will get from the Brewery for the old Hall site will be enough for the first year's repayments, and for the following two years we will simply put up the precept by £15,000 a year. We hope you will all realise what a good deal this is, and what a splendid asset it will be for the parish.

We will hold a competition to find a name for the new building, and the first prize will be a weekend for two at the lodge. We expect a lot of entries and have set up a Committee to handle this.

Your council have also been busy with other matters. At a recent meeting of the Council's working party looking into Committees, the Chairman proposed setting up several new committees. They will be the Ideas-box Committee, the Notice-boards Committee and the Dog-bins Committee. He wants members to look into them, and bring their findings to the next full meeting for further examination.

The first two motions were passed easily, but there was difficulty with the third motion because some Councillors pooh-poohed the idea.

The Chairman also proposed forming a Standing Orders Committee, to lay down how Councillors should act when sitting, and a Committee to oversee all the other Council Committees. The Committees-Committee would be in charge of the new Ideas-box Committee, the Notice-boards Committee, the Dog-bins Committee, the Name-the-new-Hall Committee and the Standing orders for sitting Councillors (as amended) Committee, and all the previously formed ones such as the Action plan Committee, the WASH (ex-"club") Committee, the Gala 2005 (non-event) Committee, the Dog, Tree and Flood wardens joint-Committee (only one member), the Playing field (old-site) Committee, Playing field (new-site) Committee, the

Pavilion (ex-Pat Rix) Committee, the New-play-equipment Committee, the Old-toy-train Committee, the Hall (old-one) Committee, the Hall (new-one) Committee, the Hall (temporary-in-between) Committee, the Take-over-the-Welney-News Committee, the Leave-mud-on-the-road Committee (1 active member), the Chairman's-boat Committee, the Pisces-is-nices Committee, and the Elgoods-is-good Committee.

The Chairman has also noted that the Council have not yet taken control of the WI and Friendship Club, and he has proposed working parties to infiltrate them. Once in place the working parties would be converted into Council Committees.

With reference to remarks made recently in the pub, the shop, the "VM" column of the newsletter, and on that wretched Peter's website, about the Council selling the Hall and putting the precept up by £1,000 (15% ) this year, some councillors proposed a Censorship Committee. The Clerk is to seek advice from our legal advisor (Robert Mugabe) about how we can do that so we can go on taking parishioners money and property without nasty people saying horrid things about us.

The Chairman, Cllr. Goodyear, said he was tyred of the complaints as inflation was the real problem and difficult to gauge. He said we would need to tread carefully but he promised to increase pressure to get a better grip on things as he doesn't want costs to slide out of control. He hoped people would back off, but realised the story had a lot more miles to run.

The Chairman rejected the idea of a Finance Committee to review costs because (a) the Parish Clerk deals with all that sort of thing and we don't need to get involved and (b) he doesn't live in the Parish so he will not be affected by the increased taxes anyway.

I hope this all explains why I will be getting so much more of your money this year.

Clerk to the Council and loads of Committees,  
Number 1 (is-doing-very-nicely-thank-you), Chestnut Avenue, Wel-off-ney.

*Webmaster's disclaimer: Naturally I wish to disassociate myself and everyone else involved in the website from this stupid and childish slur against the brilliant, generous and hard-working people who run and administer our local community so superbly.*