

**ARTHINGWORTH PARISH COUNCIL**  
**CHAIRMANS ANNUAL REPORT 2010 -2011**

**COUNCILLORS :**

David Newton	1998	Chairman
Sue Handy	2003	Vice Chair
Andy Knott	2004	
Mike Osgood	2007	
Lesley Sanderson	2007	
Kate Handy	2009	

**THE COUNCIL :**

During the year the Council met on six occasions to discuss normal Council business and on a number of occasions to discuss Planning Issues and once again it has proved to be a busy year particularly in the light of a number of Planning Applications which I will take up later in the Report.

All Councillors were returned unopposed without the need for an election earlier this month and I am pleased to report that the vacant position has been filled by Charles Blake who will take his place at the next Parish meeting.

This will be my last Report as Chairman as I am standing down although continuing as a councillor and I am delighted that Sue Handy has been elected as the new Chair. Sue has spent over 26 years on the Council, initially as Clerk for 18 years before becoming a councillor in 2003 and so brings a wealth of experience to the position.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all the councillors for their support and for giving their time so freely and also to Kirsty Ross who took over as our new Clerk in the latter part of last year.

**PRECEPT :**

We have always taken our responsibilities as Councillors very seriously and in particular with our attitude to costs and I am pleased to report that yet again we have frozen the Precept for the coming year. There are very few councils who can claim to have only made one small increase in their budget over the past six years but we are in difficult times and it is important that we spend wisely.

**ACCOUNTS :**

Our Accounts for 2009/2010 were successfully audited and presented in September 2010.

## **PLANNING APPLICATIONS :**

In addition to the Kelmarsh and Harrington Wind Farm Applications which were objected to by the Parish Council and by Daventry District Council, (although there would seem every likelihood of these being re-applied for), the following Applications were received –

DA/2010/0973 – Demolition and construction of single dwelling at Inn Yard Court – permission granted.

DA/2010/1051 - Construction of field shelter/hay store (revised scheme, part retrospective) Kelmarsh Road – permission refused.

DA/2011/0195 - Conversion of garage to dwelling 2 Agricultural Cottages – permission granted

DA/2011/0246 - Change of use from B & B to Apartments at rear of The Bulls Head – decision awaited.

The following two Applications fall outside our Parish but because of the proximity of the site to the village the Council made observations to Kettering Council –

KET/2010/0800 - Proposed Gypsy/Travellers site at Greenfields, Oxendon Road, Braybrooke.

KET/2010/0698 – Retrospective Application at Greenfields, Oxendon Road, Braybrooke for modular dwelling/stables/hard-standing and septic tanks.

The Council made strong objections due to a number of factors and at the preparation of this Report no decision has yet been made. In both of these cases we were in close touch with Braybrooke Council who objected on similar grounds and indeed our own District Councillor..

## **ROADS AND PAVEMENTS :**

We continue to press the County Council over the state of the roads and have also asked for a **SLOW** sign to be painted on the road on the approach to the bends on the Kelmarsh Road just beyond the village boundary. The road and verge are very narrow at that point and speeding traffic is a danger to pedestrians and horses which frequently use that road.

We still have the water seepage in Kelmarsh Road and although the Water Authority and County Council are still scratching their heads on this one we hope to have the problem resolved eventually.

We faced another harsh winter but thanks to the efforts of a number of villagers in gritting the roads disruption was kept to a minimum.

## **MOWING :**

We have managed to retain the services of Overman & Sons to carry out the mowing and we thank them once again for keeping the verges and the Green looking presentable.

## **DOG FOULING :**

Since the introduction of the two Dog Waste bins there has been a distinct improvement in this area. We would however remind dog owners not to allow their dogs to wander unattended through the village and particularly through the fields where stock is kept.

## **BURIAL GROUND :**

At long last I have now had the Transfer documents for the additional ground which I have been able to sign and shortly we will be arranging to have the new area consecrated.

## **POLICE & CRIME :**

A reminder that our local PCSO is Glynn Lewis and I can report the following crime figures for the parish during the past 12 months –

A total of 8 crimes were reported to the Police made up as follows –

- 1 Burglary at a Dwelling
- 1 Burglary (Other)
- 1 Criminal damage
- 2 Thefts from motor vehicles
- 2 Theft Handling
- 1 Theft of Motor Vehicle

I believe that crime in the Daventry District has shown a reduction although our crime figures seem to be pretty static. It does show the vulnerability of the village being in close proximity to the A14 and it emphasises the importance of ensuring that property is as secure as possible.

A reminder that Doug and Sue Woolard are still the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators (525254).

## **VILLAGE HALL & FUNDRAISING COMMITTEES :**

There continues to be a delay in the signing of the new Lease on the Village Hall caused by a disagreement over Solicitor fees. The Village Hall Committee will no doubt touch on this at their AGM which follows this meeting but I can say the Parish

Council are keeping a close watch on the situation as it is important that we retain a Village Hall.

The Fundraising Committee have again been very active and their efforts over the year enable us to enjoy the Village Hall facilities as well as helping the Church. Mention should also be made of the support given to the village by Sandy and Kevin at the Bulls Head.

**ARTHINGWORTH WEBSITE :**

[www.arthingworth.info](http://www.arthingworth.info) contains interesting facts on the village and keeps you abreast of Parish Council and other activities within the village. A copy of this Report will appear on the web in due course.

**AND FINALLY.....**

Just to remind you that villagers are welcome to attend our Council Meetings to observe and obviously if there are any issues you wish to raise then please contact any of the councillors.

I have to say that I have found it to have been a very interesting and rewarding experience as Chairman over the last few years and I look forward to continuing as a councillor in the future whilst handing the 'baton' over to Sue Handy.

**David Newton**

24<sup>th</sup> May 2011