

8. POLICE REPORT

(14th March – 8th April)

As ever, parking issues remain a panel priority and the crossroads at Haddenham continue to be monitored. PCSO Annie had visited Camping Close Housing Scheme for a chat with some of the residents and regular patrols have been made in all villages in the patch and there have been no problems in the community. Annie is currently compiling a data base of farms and their contact details across her whole beat area in case the police need to warn the farming community about sudden trends in farm machinery/diesel thefts, etc.,. She visited farmers in Haddenham on 28th March but was unable to see all of them.

9. INFORMATION FROM DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr P Wilson had attended an Overview & Scrutiny meeting, which had been very informative about education in East Cambs. She reported that the Oliver Cromwell House business is costing £250,000 per year to run. A Personnel meeting would be held on 12th April with a presentation from the Housing Officer. There will be no pay increase for District Council employees but negotiations are in progress for a one off payment of £250 to be paid to those earning less than £17,000 per year. A review of the Maltings restaurant is also going to be carried out, particularly looking at the issue of it being closed during the winter.

Cllr G Wilson had attended a Planning Committee meeting to consider applications for a shop in Fordham, extensions to Budgen's in Soham and some trees in Wardy Hill. He also reported that the audit fee for the District Council had been reduced from £90,000 to £55,000.

10. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES, WORKING PARTIES & GROUP REPRESENTATIVES

There were no reports this month from Planning, Christmas Lights, Village Plan and Wayman's Pits.

- A. Finance:** The next meeting will be held on 17th April.
- B. Allotments:** Two plots at the Recreation Field are not being farmed properly and the Group will look at these shortly. The fence near the footpath at the school end also needs some attention.
- C. Burial Areas:** The next meeting will be held on 17th April to review the fees, which have not been reviewed since 2007. The cemetery is looking neat and tidy. There have been problems with dog owners allowing their pets to run loose and foul in the Closed Cemetery and the Non-Conformist Burial Ground and Cllr P Wilson will look at signs, etc., to see what can be done to alleviate the problem. The Clerk will also ask the Dog Warden to carry out patrols in those areas.
- D. Fairchild's Meadows:** Work had been carried out on the pond to enhance the clay lining and create a barrier across the middle to try to ascertain where the water leak is situated. Weeds and grass had also been dragged from the pond. The pond-dipping platform will hopefully soon be repaired and will be reinforced with angle iron to stop people jumping and breaking the end off it.
- E. Green Footpaths & Trees:** Cllr Norman had attended a Parish Paths meeting and reported that due to cut backs some of the officers jobs are in jeopardy. The Clerk had sent a copy of the School Lane report to P J Lee & Sons (see Minutes MM 03/2012 Item 16) and received a supportive response but there would be no funding available from them. The Clerk will enquire if this project would qualify for S106 funding but she was doubtful and other sources of funding will need to be sought. The Aldreth Community Association is keen to help clear the undergrowth after the nesting season and some low level work will also be carried out. It was agreed that this could all be discussed further at the Annual Walkabout.
- F. Open Spaces:** The Group had not met but Cllr Tindall commented that Feast's Green is looking very good.
- G. Road Safety:** Cllr G Wilson had attended the County Council sub-committee meeting when the Minor Highways Improvement bids were considered but he has not heard the outcome as yet. Cllr Parr advised that it is much safer pulling out of Ely Way into Station Road now that the 40mph buffer zone has been installed.

