

copse of trees at the far end of the field and later this year will be erecting a plaque to commemorate this. We have plans to make this field part of the dog walking circuit and also for use as a picnic site.

Youth Club: The youth club has been meeting on Monday evenings at the Recreation Centre, but our working party has not yet met the new youth club leaders.

6. DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Report from District Cllr Gareth Wilson:

Following one year of East Cambs Constitution changes, the system introduced by the previous administration of one committee with several sub committees had resulted in much duplication of reports, which were discussed several times at different committees. From May the new system of committees will be much like the way it was before.

I have continued to attend the Haddenham Drainage Board representing East Cambs DC. They have installed a new pumping station and it was officially opened last September.

The Council received a petition of more than 10,000 signatures against car parking charges. The administration persisted in their scheme until a mix up at a committee meeting and some Tory councillors were punished for not following the party line. It will be necessary to start again, because the car parking income is included in the budget.

The Coalition Government has offered a Revenue grant to East Cambs equivalent to 2.5 percent council tax increase. Unfortunately the administration decided not to accept this but instead increased the council tax by 2.95%, the difference was only £18,000. There was a very large surplus at the end of last year of over £600,000, which has been put into a special reserve in case things get bad. We have argued that if they can put £660,000 into reserves they could at least give £10,000 to Dial-a-Ride.

The possibility of a traveller's site in Hod Hall Lane has now been removed from the Local Development Framework. However yet another planning application has been received. This is clearly against the East Cambs Plan.

A new Audit sub committee was set up last May. It will be removed after just one year. However we did hear that the government's abolition of many quangos, which including the Audit commission has resulted in a reduction of East Cambs audit fee from over £94,000 to £56,000.

A working party was set up to devise a new system of monitoring East Cambs performance and risks. I was elected chairman of this working party and we have suggested new systems much simplified from the complex requirements of the last Labour government, but still adequate for our needs.

Although only a substitute on the planning committee I have attended four meetings out of the twelve this last year, which included the planning application for the new Sainsburys.

Report from District Cllr Pauline Wilson:

The Community & Environment committee meets usually bi-monthly and covers a wide variety of services; the market, Oliver Cromwell's house, tourist information, the Maltings, the new Country Park, grants for communities and Section 106 and CIL money. (You will recall we had Section 106 money to refurbish our Haddenham play park). Also the waste collections, residual and recyclables etc. comes under the remit of this committee, along with grants given to Citizen Advice, Care and Repair and the Ely Museum. Grants are also given to leisure centres around our ECDC area.

Care and Repair is going to be brought in house very soon. So in future for Care and Repair services you will need to contact the Council offices. (01353 665555)

ECDC still do not have the funds to go ahead at the moment with the leisure facility that has planning permission to be built on the A10, EOSA site. They are looking for an outsider to build and run the New Leisure Centre.

Neighbourhood Panels continue to meet, normally every three months, but are unfortunately having less and less members of the public attending. Personally, I think it is a great forum, for getting action from the relevant organisations. The Police always attend and partners East Cambs District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and Sanctuary. Every issue that is raised by members of the public, parish and district councillors gets actioned, whether it is regarding anti social behaviour, speeding traffic