

## Walking Routes around Weasenham

*“Walking is simple, free and one of the easiest ways to get more active, lose weight and become healthier.”*

These words are taken from the NHS website. Hopefully, by the time you read this, the weather will be a little more summer-like, so why not pull on a comfortable pair of shoes and make use of the footpaths around our village. You could stroll up Church Lane, cross the A1065 and take the path over to the School. From there head to Common End and pick up the path back into the village, coming out facing the Green. You could rest a while on the bench and enjoy watching the geese go about their business. From there, head up Lambert’s Lane and take the path on the right out to Low Street before retracing your steps back into the village. Enjoy nature. Get some fresh air and improve your health all at the same time. What’s not to like?



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Visit the Parish Council’s website at: [www.weasenhamparishcouncil.org](http://www.weasenhamparishcouncil.org)



# Parish Council

Quarterly

# Newsletter

Edition 4  
June 2024

### NEWS IN BRIEF

The Parish Council is delighted to report that it has been given a party tent totally free of charge. The tent is 8 metres by 4 metres and is in excellent condition. It comes with several plastic tables and chairs. We are hopeful that we will be able to hire out the tent in conjunction with the Community Building in the future. More details of this will be published in due course when all aspects have been considered.

With the new path to the Community Building in place, we have been busy lifting the old rubber mats and membrane that formed the original path. We managed to sell the mats and raise £340 for the Parish. The ground has now been lightly turned and seeded. Hopefully, by the time you receive this newsletter, the new grass will be coming through and the area will be returning to its original condition.

**W**elcome to the fourth edition of our Quarterly Newsletter. The Council has been busy over the last few months. We had our Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council (both mandated by law) on 21 May. Both meetings were well attended, and we thank all those who turned out and participated in the discussions.

It’s also that time of year when all of our finances and activities are audited. Our Internal Audit has been carried out by a gentleman appointed by the Norfolk Association of Local Councils, and we are delighted to report that it was a very favourable outcome. There were some minor issues highlighted by the Auditor, as we would expect, and we are already working on his recommendations. The next step is for the External Auditor to fully review our business, including financial transactions. We are hopeful that this will be an equally positive report.

### Next Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held in the Community Building on Wednesday 24 July, commencing at 7pm. It will be preceded by a meeting of the Former Highway Surveyors’ Land Charity at 6.30pm. All are welcome.

### **The Green and Potholes**

It has long been a contentious issue as to who is responsible for the maintenance of the tracks across the Green. Some will say that it's the Parish Councils responsibility, others say that it's up to the Green Charity to pay, but many believe that it's the responsibility of the homeowners or occupiers to look after, what is essentially, the driveway to their properties. Seeking legal advice on exactly who is responsible, would be very time consuming and, no doubt, extremely expensive. What is for certain, is that the potholes on the tracks, some of which are quite a size, need to be repaired. After much deliberation, it has been decided that a bit of self help was required. To that end, we have begun, a programme of repairs using donated concrete, old brick, Tarmac planings and tools. The plan is to dig out each pothole to a depth of a few inches, square off the sides and then infill it with the donated rubble. This will be hardpacked by a vibration plate before the planings are added and compacted. Finally, the soil removed from the pothole will be used as the final dressing. This will hopefully give the tracks a natural appearance. The Council believes that this is a pragmatic

way forward in addressing the problem, i.e. the potholes are being fixed at no cost to the residents, the Green Charity or the Parish. It is hoped that once the repairs have been completed, all residents will address any issues with potholes as they arise. It should be noted that some residents around the Green have indicated that they are happy to make repairs to their own drives.

### **Dispose of Dog Mess**

Can all dog owners and walkers please pick up after their dogs. This is particularly important on the Recreation Field where children play. Whilst rare, contact with dog excrement can cause toxocarasis, which is a nasty infection that can lead to dizziness, nausea, asthma and even blindness and seizures. On the financial front you could receive a Fixed Penalty of up to £100 for failing to clear up after your dog and up to £1,000 if the case goes to court.

### **So What Next?**

It is still the Council's plan to carry out some work at the car park by the Recreation Field. The fencing needs replacing and the parking area, ideally, will be levelled off. We are also working towards having a new bench seat installed near the Rougham End junction with the A1065. This will be a nice stop off point for those enjoying a stroll around the village. Also, we are enquiring about an additional waste bin to be sited near the bus shelter on Massingham Road. This will be a useful addition now that the stop is being used as a school drop off and pick up point. If you have any suggestions for further projects, please let us know.

### **We Have Vacancies!**

The Council still only has three Councillors. This means that we have **four** vacancies. Three is the legal bare minimum that we can operate with. If any one of us becomes unavailable for a meeting, that meeting cannot take place. If one of us becomes unable, for whatever reason, to continue on the Council, then the Council will cease to function until an election is held. Worst case scenario, we may end up with a Council formed of Councillors from outside the Village. If you have a few hours spare during the week and would like to join Martin, Tom and Jackie on the Council, then why not give one of us a call. We'd be delighted to chat with you about the role of Councillor. Why not come along to a Parish Council Meeting and see what we do? The most important aspect of the role is that you have a genuine interest and desire to help the community that you live in. The more people we have, the more we can achieve.

### **Driving on the Green**

It is an offence to drive on the Village Green. All residents are requested to refrain from driving on the grass. If you have regular courier deliveries, please advise the drivers that they should stay on the tracks and not cut across the grass. It can cause unsightly damage and, in the worst cases, incur a cost to the Parish or Green Charity to repair. Thank you for your cooperation.

### **The Community Building**

The Community Building continues to be used by the Arts & Craft Group, run by Judy Grimwood. The Group meets on a Tuesday between 1pm and 3:30pm. All are welcome and for a mere £2 you can have tea, coffee and some delicious homemade cakes. We also have the highly entertaining monthly quiz. This is held on the last Friday of every month and raises money for good causes while having fun with family, friends and neighbours. It costs £5 per person with teams of up to five. That small fee gets you entry into the raffle, nibbles and some half-time refreshments. Both these events are organised by Judy Grimwood (Facebook, Joywood). Lorraine Harrison is the excellent question-setter and quizmaster.

The monthly coffee mornings run by Debra Kruse are proving to be very popular. The last one on 5 June had a D-Day 80 theme. Debra had created a period-based quiz and lots of people brought along war-time memorabilia. The next event will be Wednesday 10 July, 10:30 to 12:30. The tea and



coffee are free and there's normally some nice cake to be enjoyed. Why not come along and join in?