

Co-option

In May, only three people were elected to the Parish Council. The new Council considered that it was important to try and fill the remaining vacancies with like-minded people, but with diverse skills. It was agreed that a co-option process should be initiated. The opportunity was advertised on the Council noticeboards and website, and flyers were placed in the Church & Village Magazine. Following a nationally agreed process, we are very pleased to announce that we now have two new Councillors. By the time you read this both Jackie Hargreaves and Ken Spence will have taken their seats on the Council, having been declared at the Council Meeting on 17th October. If you would like to meet them in person, our next Council Meeting will be **Tuesday 19th December**.

Council Contact Details

Martin Romanovsky (Chairman) can be contacted on: 07913 031333 or emailed at mrweasenhampc@gmail.com

Tom McClenaghan (Vice-chairman) can be contacted on: 07809 375942 or emailed at tmweasenhampc@gmail.com

Crawford Donachie can be contacted on: 07712 038955 or emailed at cdweasenhampc@gmail.com

New members to our team

Gail Robinson Locum Parish Clerk. Gail can be contacted on: 07594 410101, or emailed at: parishcouncil@weasenhampc.org



Ken Spence
01328 838738
(email account being arranged.)

Jackie Hargreaves
07887 653424
(email account being arranged.)



Visit the Parish Council's website at:
www.weasenhampc.org



Parish Council

Quarterly

Newsletter

Edition 2
October 2023

Welcome to the second edition of our Quarterly Newsletter. It's been a busy few months on the Parish Council front. We've had the new path to the Community Building put in place. We had the Party-in-the-Park and then there was the upsetting news about the possible merger of the school with Brisley Primary Academy, resulting in the closure of our Village Primary. Finally, we have a new Locum Clerk and two new Councillors. Meet them on the back page.

Locum Parish Clerk

Our Clerk, Kelly Pickard, left us in August due to personal reasons. We then recruited another Clerk, but her circumstances changed and she left after just a week. We now have a new Locum Clerk, Mrs. Gail Robinson. Gail is a very experienced and well-qualified Clerk and we are delighted to have her on our Team. Gail also doubles-up as our Responsible Finance Officer (RFO), which means that she is overall accountable for all the financial records of the Council and is responsible for the careful administration of our finances.

Have Your Say

It's the time of year when Councils start work on the budget for the next financial year. The Council will be involved in the process over the next couple of months. Our aim is to deliver the services you require in the Village whilst staying within the limits of the funding. On top of the funding that we get from the Council Tax and the funding from the Solar Farm, we also managed to raise a good sum at the Party-in-the-Park in September, so we are in a sound financial position at the moment. This would be a great time to hear from you if you feel that there is something the Village needs or could benefit from. Why not drop us a note on any of the email addresses listed on the back page.

Party-in-the-Park

The sun shone brightly and well over 100 people joined us on the Recreation Field for an afternoon of fun and laughter. It was great to see so many family and friends, from near and far, getting together and enjoying the brilliant music provided by Ian Clews. There were games for younger kids and a penalty shoot-out and rounders for the older kids. There was a very successful tombola stall and some fantastic prizes in the raffle, thanks to the efforts of Jan Hughes.

There was an ice cream van on the Field, which, given the temperature on the day, was a very welcome sight! There was also plenty tea, coffee and juice available, together with some delicious homemade cakes and savouries, provided by Jane and Sophia Gurr, Jannis Avery and others.

The idea behind the Party was simply to bring people together for a few hours, and we definitely achieved that! But, we managed to raise almost £780! A fantastic sum in just a few hours that will be put to good use for the Village. I've mentioned a few names already, but there are others to thank. Linda McClenaghan, Brian Avery, Debra Kruse, Adrienne Ferry, Carol Osborne, Jackie Andrews, Graham Crow, Lorraine Harrison (First Aid), Judy Grimwood (tent), Lex Brun (straw bales), Andy Brown (goal posts), Ian Pearce (Splat-the-Rat) and Tammy Hopkins who helped on the tombola stall on the day. Thank you all.

Path to the Community Building

When the new Council took office in May, it inherited a plan to take out a loan for £25k to build a new path. This would eventually have cost £28k with interest over the seven year loan period. The Council worked on a new initiative and, following a period of public consultation, decided on a Community-led project that would reduce the cost to about £10k with no need to take out any loan. But then an amazingly generous offer was received from Mr Nigel Joice. Nigel offered to pay for the path and have his contractors build it at no cost to the public purse.

The contractors, Haller Developments, commenced work on the path on 26 September and, thanks to fine weather and a fantastic effort, it was completed in just nine days.

We have received many favourable comments on the path's quality and appearance, and we cannot thank Nigel enough for his generosity, and Charlie Haller and his team, for their professionalism in building the path.

The pile of spoil near the car park will be removed in the Spring.

Weasenham Church of England Primary Academy School

On 9th September 2023, parents and other stakeholders (including the Parish Council) were informed of the Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust's (DNEAT) intention to close the Weasenham School site from the end of this current term. It was described as a merger between Weasenham and Brisley Schools, existing pupils would be offered places at Brisley and transport provided to and from the Weasenham site along with £30 towards the purchase of new uniform. DNEAT were proposing a four week 'consultation' period but acted as if the decision was already confirmed.

The Parish Council has done its best to inform interested parties and provide as much guidance as possible on objecting to the closure of the Weasenham School site. A robust objection was sent by the Council by the deadline and this has been acknowledged by DNEAT in the same way as every other letter of objection received.

DNEAT have failed so far to supply the additional information requested by the Parish Council.

We would like to thank everyone who took the time to write in and object. As this is written, we are now awaiting the outcome from the DfE Advisory Board which met on 19th October. DNEAT expect a final decision by the end of the month.

If the closure of the Weasenham School site is confirmed, the Parish Council will keep Parishioners informed with regards to any proposals about the future of the site and buildings.

So what next?

The Council will continue to work for the benefit of the Community. We will strive to engage with as many people as possible to ensure that your voice is being heard and that issues within our Village are being resolved, insofar as the issues are within our power to resolve. The new path to the Community Building is now in place and we are working towards getting the lights installed and the landscaping around it completed. Once this is achieved, the old path will be lifted and the ground reinstated. In the Spring of next year, we hope to start looking at options for improving the car park area at the Recreation Field and mending or replacing the fence around it. The Council will be keeping busy on your behalf.