

ASHENDON PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Report 2008/09

In last year's report, it was noted that the Parish Council had been proactive rather than reactive and, as a result, it's efforts have come to fruition in this year.

Namely.....

The Open Space. This has now been completed with the installation of the bench seat with a brass plaque in recognition of the donation of the land by Mr. John Boughton. This followed extensive tree works which has now allowed the grass to establish itself and this spring there was a wonderful show of spring flowers.

Secondly, the completion of the car park on the playing field, which has had extensive use by village organisations. The only item outstanding is the completion of the fencing and hedging below the old hut once this has been removed.

Thirdly, the footpath construction along Main Street adjacent to the Close Development has now been completed. It has to be acknowledged that this was not a cost to the Parish Council but part of the negotiations when Planning Permission was sought.

Forth, the completion of the Bus Shelter along the Causeway. Again, this has not been a cost to the Council but credit has to be given to the Councillors that sought its inception which included funding from Bucks County Council, its design, costings and coordinating with the County Council for its construction.

Other Business.

The Parish Council relinquished responsibility for the management and maintenance of the Playing Field with only a remaining responsibility for the cutting of the grass.

The Council also organised, in conjunction with Aylesbury Vale District Council, five Children's Entertainment Events, held on the Playing Field and in the Village Hall last summer.

There have been six planning applications from within this village and five further applications from outside of the Parish on behalf of Westcott Venture Park. This could have greater impact on the village with transportation to and from the Park. All the Venture Park Applications have been opposed on the likely impact of HGV's passing through the village. This has been followed through with representations to Bucks County Council asking for the recent advisory signs (Unsuitable for HGV's) to be upgraded to a 'HGV Weight Limit' .

Ashendon P.C.

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Unfortunately this is against Bucks County Council's Transport Policy as signage 'For Access Only' is not allowed after the limit has been established ie., HGV's or Vehicles over 7 ½ tonnes would not be permitted into the Village.

Naturally enough this is not practical or viable as we do have agricultural vehicles and other necessary deliveries and collections that do need access.

Financial Matters.

The Parish Council had a busy year with finances paying for the car park construction of £35,000, fencing and hedging of £1500 and the mowing of the playing field £650, the cost of street lighting £820 and works and maintenance to the Boughton's Peace £2,300.

The Council was fortunate to receive grants and help from the Aylesbury Vale Community Chest Fund of £1000, and from Bucks County Council Community Leaders' Fund of £300 towards work done on Boughton's Peace. £100 received from Ashendon WI and £400 from the Bucks County Council Community Leaders' Fund went towards planting of a hedge around the car park. Village Organisations, namely the Village Hall, the Playing Field Association, the Church and the Red Lion Social Club contributed a total of £6000 which went towards the car park completion. The Council were in a fortunate position that, following the refund of the VAT, all village organisations had their contributions refunded in full. The Council would like to thank them for their help and co-operation.

The Council now has its own Web Site. This was an option they took up with Bucks County Council who are in a position to offer the facility free of charge. This can be found on Bucksinfo.net/Ashendonpc. It is in effect a glorified notice board for the Council to display any current Planning Applications, Agendas, Minutes and any other relevant news.

Parish Councillors apart from carrying out Parish Council business also represent the Parish on outside organisations such as the Neighbourhood Action Group which is run by the local Police and Bucks County Council Local Area Forum. This allows the Parish to have representations and input affecting the wider community.

Michael Rand (Clerk) 7th May 2009.