

**CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL,
PHIL COOPER, REPORTS ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015**

Members of the Parish Council..... Phil Cooper (Chairman), Peter Waterhouse (Vice Chairman), Fiona Morrison (Acting Clerk to the Council), John Davison (Responsible Financial Officer) and Margaret Warrener.

To contact Council please email Fionamorrison@btinternet.com or ring the Chairman on 890982 or Fiona Morrison the acting clerk on 890885.

Council held 7 Meetings during the year which were located in the Church during summer and then the Cricket Club.

2014 has been a year of two halves. The early activity level was high. As usual the Parish Footpath Walk was held on May Day Bank Holiday Monday; About 15 villagers and dogs enjoyed the walk in good weather and many shared in the soup and rolls available at the Cricket Club. The Collection for Maps and Refreshments was donated this year to the local Woodlands Cancer Centre

As agreed last year the Council lent its support to the Sowers and Growers/Cricket Club initiative of the **Buckworth 2014 Open Gardens** scheme in early June. Planters were kindly provided by Dick Warrener and spruced up and sited by council members on the corner verge of Church and Barham Road ready for planting. Hanging planters were provided and sited at the entrances of the village and planted up by a council /garden club team

More detail later in Sowers and Growers . The ongoing problem of the condition of our roads rumbles on. The council and individual parishioners have reported the problem but it seems that it will be 2015/16 financial year before funds are allocated.

Annual Financial report

At the start of the financial year, the Parish Council had £5,131 in the bank. The major items of expenditure, budgeted for the year, were £1,938 for grass cutting and maintenance and £1,300 reserved for the salary of the clerk.

The major source of income for the year was the parish precept. This was set at £2,112 at the November 17th 2014 Parish Council meeting, and was a decrease of £396 from the previous year. Other sources of income included £228 towards grass cutting from Cambridgeshire County Council.

At the end of the financial year, the Parish Council had £5,683 in the bank versus a planned balance of £4,208, a net savings for the year of £1,475

. The most significant under spend was due to the role of the clerk remaining unfilled, saving £1,300.

This role is currently carried out by Councillor Morrison as Acting Clerk and Councillor Davison as Responsible Finance Officer and who are not allowed to accept remuneration for this work, as councillors. John Davison Responsible Finance Officer

You are all invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30p.m. on June 8th to be followed by the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council at 8.00p.m.

REPORTS FROM OTHER VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

ALL SAINTS CHURCH

The Church has had a busy year! English Heritage came up with funds to enable the refurbishment of the tower, porch and a new drainage scheme to help the building become less damp (no bats were harmed during these works). Even the church weather vane received a new tail (thanks to Peter Waterhouse) and a bright shiny golden coat (feathers). The architect & contractors did a superb job as did Glyn Popeley who project managed the scheme on behalf of the Parochial Church Council. Villagers and friends alike worked tirelessly to raise funds so that the PCC's contribution to the scheme could be met; grants were applied for: some successfully...some not but we got there in the end!

At present the three services per month continue; however, as the average congregation at services with exception of Christmas, Easter and Remembrance is now between three and five people, this may have to change especially as there is no longer enough income to pay the outgoings of the building; the insurance alone is £2500 per year. So far 2015 has seen one baptism Alice Tolson and there are two weddings planned for June and September.

Rev'd Mary Jepp continues to support the PCC tirelessly, with seven parishes to manage this is no mean feat! A service of thanksgiving is to be held with The Bishop of Ely in June 2015; everyone in the village has been invited as have many supporters and workers involved with the project

Many thanks to all who have supported the Church and helped at the various fundraising events. The Open Gardens, Harvest Supper, Burns Night, St George's, 100 Club, Edwardian Garden Party etc etc., all have been successful in funds raised and providing much needed and much enjoyed community entertainment and involvement for the village.