

Parish Councillors

Councillor Jessica Dawson moved out of the area and resigned from the council. Four nominations were received for cooption to fill the vacancy with Adam Bulkeley being duly co-opted after a secret ballot by councillors. Martyn Phillips was re-elected as Chairman.

District and County Council representatives

Councillor Roger Walters continues to serve the people of Rayne on the County Council, with Mike Banthorpe as our District Councillor. We are grateful for the support and hard work of both our representatives particularly for their support in ensuring that developments in the village meet the needs of the village.

Achievements of the year

- ? Provision of a footpath along Shalford Road
- ? Replacement of railings around the village pump
- ? Support for PARK
- ? Support for the Village Appraisal and Village Design Statement
- ? Preliminary discussion on the use of the remainder of Oak Meadow
- ? Funding of Village Hall refurbishment including connection to mains sewer
- ? Working with Village Hall committee to undertake a feasibility study of the Village Hall
- ? Consultation with sports organisations on the possible development of the village hall
- ? Liaison with Rayne Primary School Youth Council
- ? Enforcement of planning regulation breaches
- ? Action over dog fouling and installation of dog bins
- ? Consideration of 40 planning applications
- ? Successfully objected to the plans for the proposed development on the site at the rear of the foundry
- ? Funding bids for youth facilities
- ? Maintenance of grass areas within the village
- ? Litter picking on playing field
- ? Working with the Police to stop the unauthorised use of mini motorbikes
- ? Provision and maintenance of additional street lighting
- ? Revision and publication of an action/maintenance plan
- ? Continued membership of the Parish Paths Partnership scheme
- ? Provision of salt bins
- ? Keeping footpaths clear of overgrowing vegetation through contact with property owners
- ? Reducing parking on public grassed areas
- ? Established contact for parishioners with parish councillors via email
- ? Established contact the Parish Council by text messaging
- ? Improving pedestrian safety at Swan junction
- ? Installation of a hearing loop in the Old School Room and Community Information Point
- ? Operation of the Community Information Point
- ? Replaced vehicle restriction sign at Barrack Yard footpath
- ? Working with Flitch Way Ranger to re-install barriers
- ? Speed limit reduction on the western approach to the village
- ? Increase in precept kept low
- ? Worked with BDC Parish Ranger

What we couldn't do

- ? Find an assistant groundsman
- ? Upgrade our grass cutting equipment
- ? Sweep the pavements
- ? Reduce parking on pavements
- ? Eradicate dog fouling
- ? Complete all areas of the Parish Council website

What's ongoing?

- ? Improvements to the Village Hall
- ? Extension of burial ground – funding through the Parish Precept should be available by 2007
- ? The site of the former foundry
- ? Improvements to the village environment
- ? Recreational facilities for teenagers

We are aware that villagers would like to see the ongoing items resolved as soon as possible, your Parish Council is working within its powers to achieve these ends.

Best Kept Village

This year the village was awarded a Highly Commended certificate in the Best Kept Village competition. Everyone is to be congratulated in making efforts to keep litter to a minimum and keeping the village tidy, these efforts have been rewarded and who knows, we may do even better this year.

Community Information Point (CIP)

The clerk mans the CIP on Mondays and Thursdays 9.30 until 12.30. There is much information about Braintree District Council services and those of Essex County Council. You can also access the village computer with free Internet access at these times.

Parish Council Web site

Minutes and agendas are available on the website and this is efficiently maintained by the Parish Clerk. A computer provided by the Web Steering Group and located at the CIP, allows access to the Internet and the minutes of Parish Council meetings held during the last two years, free of charge, to all villagers on Mondays and Thursdays when the CIP is open.

Facilities for Younger Parishioners

The fundraising by PARK has been outstanding; the Parish Council wishes to thank everyone involved for his or her excellent work, the new play area should be available for the summer.

The meeting for young people, organised by the Village Appraisal group, identified the lack of facilities for teenagers. The Parish Council is committed to providing facilities for this group of parishioners.

Police

Natasha Keaney has continued to be the designated Police Officer for the village until February and we are appreciative of her support. The Parish Council is aware that a greater Police presence would be appreciated but also acknowledges the fact that most people feel safe living in Rayne, as shown by the responses to the Village Appraisal questionnaire.

We are grateful for their response to the illegal use of mini-motorbikes during the summer of 2005. We would also like to thank those parishioners who told young people that what they were doing was breaking the law.

Thank you

Village life continues to flourish with a number of groups and organisations regularly meeting and organising events. The Parish Council expresses its gratitude to everyone involved in this and all aspects of village life. We also thank the innumerable people who contribute to Village life through their good neighbourliness through collecting shopping and prescriptions for those who are housebound and the army of people who pick up litter and make comments as to how the village can improve.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish meeting is your opportunity to ask questions about the work of your council and hear from other organisations that form an integral part of village life. The meeting last year was well

attended and this year the meeting is to be held at 7.30 on Monday 22nd May in the Old School Room. We look forward to meeting with you.