

Walton Parish Council Newsletter

Summer 2011



Your new parish councillors

NAG & project updates

Charity help needed

Photograph by local resident, James Rogers



Walton Parish Council



Meet your new councillors

4 new faces join Walton Parish Council—3 spaces for co-option available

At the recent elections, all seats in Walton Parish Council were up for election. We have 3 councillors from the previous administration still with the parish council and 4 new faces—David Newland, Paul East, Terry Reynolds and Tom Fraser. **Here’s a short introduction** to each of them.

the right time to get involved in the parish council.”

ensure that the precept is used effectively for the benefit of the tax payers in the parish, and to provide a voice to protect residents from any undesirable plans, developments or behaviour in the parish and surrounding area. I have a ‘no nonsense’ approach and intend to work constructively with my fellow Councillors to get things done as fast as possible with the **minimum of bureaucracy.**”

Paul John East
“**Following issues with the Allotments in Duchess Grove** (I live in Wavendon Gate), I had no idea how to pro-actively resolve the issue, On meeting Jamie Tamagnini-Barbosa I discovered there was a need for local Parish councillors.

Short and simple, that’s why I am here and if I can assist the residents of the Parish with anything else **then that would be great.**”

Tom Fraser
Tom lives in Oldbrook—and brings a long history of experience in parish council life with him. He has previously been Clerk to Walton Parish Council.



David Newland
“**I have lived in Old Farm Park** for many years and relocated to Milton Keynes from Oxford over 20 years ago & work in the computer industry. I am keen to help with local issues and felt that it was

Terry Reynolds
“**As a long term resident** of Wavendon Gate, my motivation to stand for election was to firstly to

More information

Want to get involved with Walton Parish Council? See our website: www.waltonparishcouncil-mk.gov.uk

New councillors, WPC action



Help to influence your community—become a Parish Councillor

Parish Councillors are elected every 4 years and May 5th this year was the latest election.

In the past there have been 8 Parish Councillors covering the Parish. From May this changed. The Parish is now be ‘warded’ and the number of seats increased from 8 to 10.

In the election, 7 of the 10 available seats were filled. This means we have space for another 3 people to come and join us as parish councillors.

This process is called “co-option” and means that you don’t have to go through an election process at the ballot box.

If you would like to stand for the Parish Council then you need to get in

touch with our Clerk. We will request additional information to help support your application—people who are active in the community and want to really make a difference to the area are especially welcome to apply!

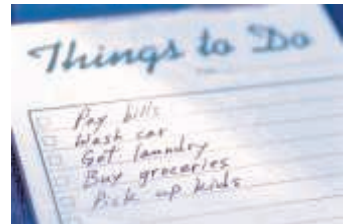
With a few exceptions, almost anyone older than 18 can stand for election.

Walton Parish covers some 4,500 residential properties and around 11,000 people.

Being a Parish Councillor isn’t a difficult task—all it requires is an interest in your local area, a desire to improve it for everyone living here and some responsibility.

What do you want on the Walton Parish Council agenda in 2011?

At this point, while the parish council is newly formed, it’s the perfect time to ask everyone in the area.



Get in contact with us (contact details on the back of this newsletter) and let us know what priorities you’d like to see us tackle during the rest of 2011—your views are important and directly influence how we best serve you and utilise the precept we collect!

More information

Start your co-option by contacting Sonia Evans, our Parish Clerk. Contact details on the back of this newsletter.



Walton Parish Council

Summer fire safety

After a long dry spell, keep an eye on countryside and wildfire risks

Dry ground in the summer means there's an added risk of a fire starting. Follow these tips to reduce the chance of a wildfire in the countryside:

- Extinguish cigarettes **properly and don't throw** cigarette ends on the ground – take your litter home.
- Never throw cigarette ends out of car windows.
- Avoid using open fires in the countryside.
- **Don't leave bottles or** glass in woodland – sunlight shining through glass can start fires (take them home and recycle them).
- Only use barbecues in a suitable and safe area and never leave them unattended.
- If you see a fire in the countryside, report it to the fire and rescue

service immediately.

- **Don't attempt to tackle** fires that can't be put out with a bucket of water – leave the area as quickly as possible.



In the Countryside

Every year, fire destroys thousands of acres of countryside and wildlife habitats. Some fires are started deliberately, but most are due to carelessness.

The Countryside Code applies to all parts of the countryside. Most of it is

just good commonsense, designed to help us all to respect, protect and enjoy our countryside.

The Code, revised and relaunched in 2004, makes it clear what the responsibilities are for both the public and the people who manage the land. It has information about rights, responsibilities and liabilities and how we all have a duty to protect the countryside. Together with common sense, it helps to make it easy for visitors to act responsibly and identify possible dangers.



More information

For more information on The Countryside Code, please visit www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk



NAG update

Updates from our local Neighbourhood Action Group

The local Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) had an original priority list of 4 key areas.

The action plan for the last priority – Litter – has now been completed with the completion of the Walton High Litter Poster Campaign competition.

Over 40 entries were received across all age groups with a formal presentation of the top 5 entries taking place at Walton High on 24th June.

Checking out the area
As part of the workings of the NAG, volunteers undertake regular 'Environmental Visual Audits' (EVAs) of the area. These are supported by Thames Valley Police PCSOs.

These EVAs report back issues such as litter, graffiti, poor play areas, etc. to the group who then engage the local agencies (Thames Valley Police, Milton Keynes Council, Fire Service) to undertake the relevant actions to fix the problems. The NAG now also has its own clean up kit to allow swift response to local issues.

The NAG is supported by a small core team and is always looking for new people to support it.

Meetings take place on the last Wednesday of every month at 19:30 in Heronsbrook Meeting Place, Walnut Tree, so please feel free to pop along and see what its all about.

The NAG will now look at identifying the next set of priorities, so if you have any issues that you think that the NAG could help with then let us know!

Help a community project on Browns Wood

We are looking to brighten up the play equipment on Elgar Grove, Browns Wood, with some painting and replacement of parts of the equipment and wooden fencing.

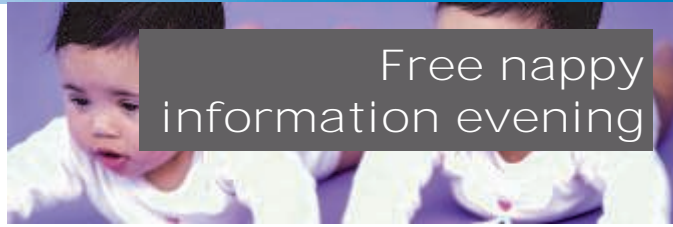
Can you spare just an hour or two of your time to help? Get in contact with us via the Parish Council Clerk.

More information

Get involved with the NAG by visiting the NAG website at:
www.waltonandsimpsonnag.org



Walton Parish Council



Free nappy information evening

Find out more about real nappies

Milton Keynes Council's Recycling Team invites you to attend a real nappy information evening to learn more about the benefits of modern washable nappies – including saving money and helping the environment.

All welcome including parents, parents-to-be, midwives, health visitors, childcare workers and other interested parties.

The evenings are all held at:
Milton Keynes Materials Recycling Facility,
Colts Holm Lane, Old Wolverton, MK12 5QD

Dates of the evenings

Thursday 23rd June
2011, 7pm to 8pm

Thursday 29th
September 2011, 7pm to
8pm

Thursday 2nd February
2012, 7pm to 8pm

To find out more and
book your
place visit: [www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/
realnappies](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/realnappies)

Come along and see—
things really have
changed!

Modern washable
nappies have moved on:

- ✓ Easy to use and slim fitting
- ✓ Save money
- ✓ Better for the environment
- ✓ Reduce household waste



More information

Walton Parish Council does not endorse any individual product or service.

Girl guiding & help needed

Help out Girl Guides—and other members of the parish

Girlguiding volunteers needed!

Girlguiding Buckinghamshire is a voluntary youth organisation for girls and young women.



Due to new building and the increase in population in the Milton Keynes and Ouse Valley Areas we have identified that there is a need for more units in the area.

In order that we may offer the Guiding adventure to as many girls as possible, we need more adult volunteers.

Girlguiding provides a unique girl only space, delivers a programme relevant to today's girls needs, promotes equality and diversity, gives girls a voice and encourages girls and young women to develop interests and skills which benefit them when they go onto further education and into the job market!

Adult volunteers receive training and have the opportunity to meet new people and develop new skills.

Can you help out? Visit the website shown at the bottom of this page, or call 01296 487683

Help for parish allotment holders

Some allotment holders used to make use of free well-rotted horse manure on their sites, but no longer have access to that source.

Is there anyone in the parish who can supply well-rotted manure directly to the plot holders on a similar basis?

Contact us if you can help.



More information

Walton Parish Council does not endorse any individual product or service. For more on Girlguiding, visit the website at www.girlguidingbucks.org.uk



Walton Parish Council

About Walton Parish Council

We cover the areas of Browns Wood, Caldecotte, Old Farm Park, Tilbrook, Tower Gate, Wavendon Gate, Walnut Tree, Walton Grange, Walton Hall and Walton Park.

A Parish Council is the first tier of government in England and is independent of any other local authority.

Each parish council consists of a chairman and a certain number of councillors, all of whom are elected and hold office for 4 years. WPC has 7 councillors: Adam Chapman, Amanda Taylor, David Newland, Ian Boulden, Paul East, Terry Reynolds and Tom Fraser.

WPC is apolitical and will not be drawn into party political issues. We exist to help our residents by putting our funding to good use for the benefit of the parish, in addition to the services provided by MK Council.

Local meeting venue contacts

Wavendon Gate Pavilion
Isaacson Drive, Wavendon Gate
www.wavendongatepavilion.com
☎ 01908 584860

Heronbrook Meeting Place
5, Wadesmill Lane, Walnut Tree
☎ 07752 684081

Britten Grove Community Centre
76 Holst Crescent, Old Farm Park
☎ 01908 375442

Feedback to the Parish Council

We're always keen to get your input, ideas and feedback. If there's anything you want to discuss, or to address with the Parish Council, please get in contact. To speak at a meeting, please book a slot with the Clerk.

Public Meetings

We meet every first Wednesday at 19.45 in Heronbrook Meeting Place, Walnut Tree. Come and get involved!

Next meeting dates in 2011

- August—no meeting
- 7th September
- 5th October

Contact Walton Parish Council

Email Sonia Evans, Parish Council Clerk
clerk@waltonparishcouncil-mk.gov.uk

You can contact individual councillors, too. Details are in the "Meet Your Councillors" section of our website www.waltonparishcouncil-mk.gov.uk

Phone: (note our new number)
01908 465 445

Post:
Walton Parish Council, PO Box 6010,
Milton Keynes. MK10 1HX

*Did you know?
Walton Parish Council takes just £4.60 per household per year in precept (tax). The parish councillors receive no salaries for their time or work — and no expenses!*