

**EXTRACTS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY, 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**AUGUST, 2010**

Parishioners have raised concerns with the Parish Council about the signs which have been erected at the entrance to The Lower Ham indicating that it is private land which is not accessible to the general public. There have also been complaints about alleged instances of walkers being told that they should not be on The Ham. The Parish Council wish to point out that The Lower Ham is a Registered Common and, as such, is subject to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000. This means that whilst there is no question that the land is privately owned, the public are allowed to use The Ham at any time for the purpose of walking and other informal recreational use whilst at the same time respecting other people's property by picking up dog excrement and following The Countryside Code.

Mr. Bullock, our County Councillor, will be referring the complaints about the speed of traffic in Green Street to the County Council. This area is subject to a 30 m.p.h. speed restriction. Mr. Bullock reported that following complaints about the speed of traffic in Old Road North, a speed count had been carried out by the County Council which showed the average speed of motorists as being 21 m.p.h.

There have been some complaints about the standard of work done by the contractor who recently topped the grass and thistles on the commons from parishioners were under the impression that when the grass was cut, it should have been carted away. The Parish Council would like to point out that the contractor was only employed to top the areas and not to mow and bale the grass, which is a totally different operation. The Parish Council are required to leave small uncut areas of the commons each year for the benefit of and to encourage butterflies and insects. The contractor was not employed to cut the roadside verges as this is the responsibility of the County Council.

The Clerk has submitted her notice of retirement to the Parish Council, having completed 25 years service on 12<sup>th</sup> July.

Proposed Play Area at The Limes - At the Parish Council Meeting on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> August a report was given on the latest position of the project following communications received from The Department of Education to the effect that under Government plans to reduce public expenditure grants under the Playbuilder Scheme are frozen except where ground has actually been broken. All other schemes that are pending are to be reviewed but the timescale for this process to be completed is not known. (Note - This situation was confirmed by a public announcement by the Minister of Education on August 11<sup>th</sup>) It is, however, hoped that monies already expended may be refunded and a claim is being lodged.

Clearly there is considerable uncertainty about the timescale, or the future availability of the grant, or its amount. We will report on the outcome of the review as soon as any information is received.

In a most welcome development, a number of residents from The Limes have joined the Parish Plan Working Party. One outcome is a proposal to undertake a survey among residents of the type of facilities and equipment that are considered appropriate and desirable. In the meantime, the outcome of the submission to The Land Registry concerning the ownership of the site is awaited.

Residents were assured that if and when it is possible to restart consideration of the project, the final plans will be submitted for approval by the Planning Authority – a process explained by District Councillor Mr. M. Biddle – which will allow the fullest consultation by members of the public and also ensure that all of the issues concerning road safety and parking, and any other relevant conditions of operation are considered by the appropriate consultee bodies, such as the Highway Authority.

Terry C. Ward - Chairman