

those who have volunteered (or have been persuaded!) to have their names added to those willing to help in the (hopefully) unlikely event of a major catastrophe occurring in the village.

Car parking:

There have been a number of complaints to the council about vehicles parked on pavements, and in dangerous locations within the village. The council would request that all motorists are considerate to other road and pavement users when parking.

Security:

During the year, we have discussed security and crime on many occasions and we are grateful for the input from our PCSO, Stephanie Jones, and our new Beat Manager PC Nathan Thomas. We would encourage all residents to be vigilant and to take adequate steps to ensure that basic crime prevention steps are taken in relation to their own property. The Parish Council continues to support the local Safer Neighbourhood Group, and I am grateful to those councillors who have attended their meetings. The new non-emergency telephone number is: **0300 300 99 99**.

Litter-pick:

Once again we will be supporting the Bassetlaw District Council sponsored litter pick on Sunday 25th April – meeting outside the Blue Bell at 10.30 a.m. I would be grateful for as much support for this as possible – if we have a good number of people this should only take an hour or so. Children are very welcome to take part – bring along your parents! Protective gloves and bin bags will be provided.

Paths

There are 21 paths of varying lengths in the village, and I am grateful to Councillor Daniels for watching over these, and to the various farmers over whose land they run, for keeping them clear. A map of all paths can be found on a notice board outside the Old Post Office, and on the new display board on Fairpiece.

Meetings

The Parish Council meetings, generally held on the last Wednesday of every month at 7.30 pm in the village hall, are public events, and I would encourage residents to attend. If you are aware of any problems in the village, then please contact a member of the Parish Council, or come along to a meeting and raise it then. If anyone has issues to raise one-to-one with a Councillor there is a surgery for half an hour before every other meeting, the dates of which are on the notice boards.

Hugo Dunkley
Chairman

Summary of the Accounts

The Parish Council began the year with a balance of £25,153. and ended it with a closing balance of £31,539. Details of receipts and payments are shown below.

The major source of income was the precept, which is the local charge on the Council Tax. Other grants received were Concurrent Grant and Street Cleaning Grant from Bassetlaw District Council and Parish Paths Partnership Grant from Nottinghamshire County Council.

Maintenance of the Cemetery, Playing Field and other pieces of Parish Council-owned land continued. Overall expenditure including administration was £237 up on the previous year.

The closing balance of £31,539 included an earmarked reserve of £49 Parish Paths Partnership Grant, to be spent in 2010-11 and another £1000 put aside for the replacement of the windows in the Chapel of Rest, now totalling £4000.

Total fixed assets amounted to £261,806, subject to insurance review.

Receipts

Precept & Grants	22,866.00
Parish Paths Partnership Grant	668.96
Cemetery	789.00
Interest on Investments	154.33
VAT Refunds	260.04
Playing Field	1,220.00
BT Wayleave	2.00
Valerie Gillespie Award	50.00
Web Advertising	20.00
Total Receipts	£26,030.33

Payments

Playing Field	1,995.06
Cemetery	1,839.30
Crime Prevention	250.00
Payroll	6,561.59
Administration	4,078.13
Village Maintenance	2,581.09
Parish Paths Partnership	751.50
Section 137 Payments	1,099.50
Village Amenities	100.00
VAT on Payments	462.61
Donations Other	16.50
Total Payments	£19,735.28



Annual Report 2009 - 2010

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Chairman's Report

As I am writing this report, the nomination papers for the forthcoming Parish Council Elections are being submitted. Three of the current council are not standing for re-election, and I would like to thank Dave Foreman, Paul Hargrave, and Trisha Hilton for the time they have committed to serving the community. Dave Foreman has been vice-chairman of the council for a number of years, so has done more than his fair share for the council. Thanks Dave for your service and for your support to various chairmen over the years.

I understand that nine nominations were received by Bassetlaw District Council by the closing date for the nine positions on the council, and therefore on 6th May these nine will be deemed to have been elected. I would like to thank those councillors who have put their names forward and to the three new members. Welcome to the council, and I hope that you will enjoy your time on the council.

I would also like to thank Peter Baines, our clerk, and Bob Skelton, our handyman, for all the hard work they put in on behalf of the village over the past 12 months.

Detention Centre Site:

For many years, the future of the Detention Centre Site has been the most significant issue in the village, and it continues to be so. As I reported in last year's annual report, Miller Homes have acquired the site, and submitted detailed planning permission for 68 dwellings in the autumn of 2008. Of these, 20% will be classified as "affordable". On the 8th April 2009, these plans were passed by Bassetlaw District Council, although there are still one or two outstanding matters to be resolved before formal planning permission is issued.

As part of the deal between the interested parties, Miller Homes will build a new 4000 sq. ft. Community Centre. They have already prepared detailed plans for this building and these have been agreed with representatives of the Parish Council. A condition of the planning permission will require that the Community Centre is started before building of the houses start, and must be completed before 80% of the houses are sold, or within two years whichever comes earlier.

Miller Homes are obviously keen to start this project, having spent a significant amount on the project already, but in the current economic climate it is not clear when a start will be made. Your council keeps in regular contact with Miller Homes, the last meeting between the parties having been in March, when a number of matters were discussed. The Community Centre will be provided with a basic kitchen, but other items of internal equipment and furniture will need to be provided by the community. This will include the stage, seating etc, so a significant amount of fund raising will be needed. As soon as the Miller Homes start on site, the

steering group which was set up in 2007 will be reconvened, and will have the responsibility of managing the fund-raising activities, which will include making submissions for third party funding.

We now wait for Miller Homes to make the decision to start work, and naturally we hope that this will be sooner rather than later! The Parish Council will do it's best to ensure that disruption and inconvenience is kept to a minimum during the construction phase, and that, where we are able to influence matters, it will do so, to ensure that the final project is as attractive as possible.

Snow and grit:

The past winter saw the village suffer from a surfeit of snow and, at times, a lack of grit! However, generally the village remained just about passable, and the District Council responded well, most of the time, to requests for more grit. A request is being submitted for additional grit bins at the junctions of Finkell Street and Middlebridge Road, and the junction of Low Street and Middlebridge Road, although we are aware that they have received many such requests from other villages, so at this stage we cannot guarantee that they will be supplied. We will be following this up as the year progresses. I would like to thank all those who helped grit particularly treacherous spots round the village, and for the "Dunkerque" spirit showed by many in the way they provided assistance where and when needed. My special thanks go to Bob Skelton for the work he put in to make grit available round the village.

Playing field:

The playing field continues to be used during the football season, although not as much as we would have hoped for. If any team would like to use the facilities in 2010, hire of the pitch is unchanged at a bargain £20 per match. Please contact the Clerk. Action has been taken to improve the return on the electricity meters so that they more accurately reflect the current cost of power and contractors have recently been appointed to undertake the replacement of the "soft" surrounds to the various items of playground equipment with wet pour material which will have a much longer life than the existing tiles.

Cemetery:

The Women's Institute continue to look after the Garden of Rest, and we are most grateful to them for the time they spend on maintaining this area so well. The Chapel of Rest will require some work to the windows in the near future and a fund in being built up in the accounts to enable this to be done.

Welcome Pack:

The welcome pack which was produced last year has been a useful aid to newcomers to the village, and we have done our best to hand deliver one to everyone moving into the village. If you have

missed out and would like a copy, please contact the chairman or clerk, or call in at the Post Office. As soon as the new council has been declared, a new 2010 version will be produced.

Best Kept Village Competition:

The village once again entered the Nottinghamshire Best Kept Village Competition, and finished up as runners-up in our category to Everton, for which we received a cheque for £50 and a certificate. I would like to thank everyone who helped spruce up the village for this, and who continue to pick up litter throughout the year.

Broadband:

One area where we have had no impact so far is the provision of adequate broadband coverage throughout the village. A number of residents are able to obtain adequate speeds via their existing land-lines, while some others are able to utilise mobile telephony technology. However, none of these can be described as "high speed". Unfortunately, a large proportion of the village can get neither, and either has to accept very slow broadband speeds or even slower, and more expensive, dial-up facilities. The Council continues to put pressure on both the government and BT to improve the infrastructure, but we are not overly optimistic in the short term. The different political parties talk of universal access to broadband, but to date there seems to be no will be make it happen. Perhaps the new government will make a greater effort to solve this problem.

We have again raised this issue with Miller Homes, as we are certain that buyers of the new houses will demand good broadband speeds, and there may well be a window of opportunity to get something done when the housing development is cabled. We will continue to follow any opportunity that might appear.

Early Years' Education:

Our village Primary School, St. Peter's, was finally able to give the go-ahead for the building of the new Foundation Stage Unit at the school in late summer 2009, and the work was completed on schedule and the unit opened as planned in January (a few days late as the school itself opened a few days late for the Spring term, because of the heavy snow.) The official opening will be undertaken by the new Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham later this month.

In view of importance of this project to both the school and the wider community, the Parish Council committed £1,000 (included in the 2009/2010 budget) to the fund raising efforts, and has promised a further £1000, as soon as the fund has reached £10,000, which is included in the 2010/2011 budget.

Emergency Plan:

John Hargreaves has been working hard to review the village Emergency Plan, and the council would like to again thank all