

## Summary of the Accounts

The Parish Council began the year with a balance of £9,654.02 and ended it with a closing balance of £12,186.43. 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 and overall expenditure including administration was very similar to the previous year.

Donations were made to Five Villages First Responders, Primary School (DARE project), the Toddler Group and the Beacon magazine. Neither the Village Hall nor Youth Club needed financial assistance again this year.

The closing balance of £12,186.43 included an earmarked reserve of £492.64 Parish Plan Partnership Grant, to be spent in 2007-08 and £1000 put aside for the replacement of the windows in the Chapel of Rest.

Total fixed assets amounted to £214,396.98.

## Receipts

Annual Precept £20,963.00  
Bassetlaw Annual Grants £1,388.00  
Parish Paths Partnership Grant £799.75  
Cemetery £354.00  
Interest on Investments £147.51  
VAT Refund £2,321.94  
Playing Field £400.00  
BT Wayleave £2.00  
Sale of Gangmowers £50.00  
Housing Needs Survey Grant £1000.00

**Total £27,426.20**

## Payments

Playing Field £3,480.90  
Cemetery £2,559.59  
Neighbourhood Watch £250.00  
Payroll £7,550.94  
Administrative Expenses £3,578.30  
Village Maintenance £2,917.20  
Local Donations £659.50  
Christmas Illuminations £187.79  
Village Amenities £183.17  
Parish Paths Partnership £751.51  
Donation Misterton Swimming Pool Improvements £300.00  
VAT on Payments £1,474.89  
Housing Needs Survey £1000.00

**Total £24,893.79**

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# Annual Report 2006 - 2007

## Chairman's Report

It was with regret that Gordon Shepherd, who had been Chairman for the past four years, handed in his notice at the end of June 2006. Gordon had done an excellent job as Chairman and will be missed. I took over as Chairman at the July meeting.

Mike Daniels was co-opted onto the Council at the October meeting.

I had only been Chairman for a short time when David Wright, who had been our Clerk for nearly 5 years, indicated that he planned to resign as Clerk to the Council as soon as a replacement could be found. David again had done an excellent job and the Council had made numerous achievements under his stewardship. David left us at the end of January and was replaced by Peter Baines. We welcome Peter and look forward to a long working relationship.

Sadly, Robin Shrimplin, who had been our village handyman for the past few months, has recently passed away.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> May, we were informed by the Nottinghamshire Association of Local Councils Accreditation Panel that we had been awarded Parish Council accreditation. We had been working on this since September 2003. We are still only one of eight in the County to have received this Quality Accreditation. A big thank you to David Wright and Gordon Shepherd for steering us through the accreditation process.

Unfortunately, after winning our category of the best Kept Village Competition in 2005, we did not progress beyond the first round of the 2006 competition. It was unfortunate that Gringley was judged on the very first day of judging. It was a wet day and the main highway verges had not had their first cut of the season. We have decided to enter again this year. Entering gives us a lever with the authorities to get jobs done. Keeping the village litter and weed free gives us a more pleasant village to live in. If everyone spent 15 minutes a week tidying up outside their property, we would have a very good chance of regaining the award we won in 2005.

Much of the Parish Council's time in the past 12 months has been taken up with the Home Office's proposed development of the Detention Centre site.

The Parish Council's approach to this development has been to implement the requirements of the 2004 Parish Plan. The Plan states "Treat the development of any eventual Community Centre on the former Detention Centre Site as a major priority for the village".

In August last year the Home Office presented a proposal for the development of the site which included 45 houses and a Community Centre. The Planning Officers did not support this and subsequently an application was submitted for outline

planning which included 46 houses but no Community Centre. The Planning Committee refused this application on the grounds that it did not include a Community Provision.

In December, the Home Office resubmitted the original outline application, but to include: 10% open space, 15% of total units to be affordable housing, £15K for off site highway and transportation works and a commuted sum of £46K towards the provision of 'community facilities' off site. The Parish Council was still opposed to this resubmission as it failed to meet the requirements of the Parish Plan to provide adequate funding for a Community Centre. This outline application has now been approved, without going to Committee.

In January, the Home Office submitted a pre-application document for the District Councils consideration. This document involved the development of the whole site and included: 20% affordable housing, 6% public open space, £30K integrated Transport Contribution and £450K commuted sum towards the cost of a Community Centre either on the open space within the site or off site. The majority of the Parish Council at its January meeting felt that this last document for the development of the whole site best met the aspirations of all parties and certainly satisfies the desire of the village as outlined in the Parish Plan. The Head of Planning Services wrote to the Home Office on the 21<sup>st</sup> February and concluded by saying that the proposal was worth testing by a planning application for consideration by the Council.

The Gringley Wharf project was first started in September 2004 when NCC were considering applications for development of sites under the Building Better Communities Scheme. Our application was successful and was given the go-ahead in March 2005. A grant of up to £30,000 was initially considered but this has been reduced to £20,000 as British Waterways would not give permission for a mooring at the site. Several archaeological surveys have been carried out and the Archaeological Department of NCC were keen to get the project started in the 2006 – 2007 financial year.

The development of the site has been reduced to avoid disruption of wildlife. There will be no car parking facilities and the developed site will have a circular picnic table and there will be two benches. Half the site will be left as scrub and a quarter will be sown as rough grassland with wild flowers that will only be mown once every two years.

Retford Football Club have been using the football pitch on a regular basis this winter. Several of the outbuildings and the open stand had to be removed last autumn. They were being abused throughout the summer, with evidence of people staying over night. There was always a vast amount of litter left in the

area. The removal of the sheds cost the Parish £980. We are investigating the possibility of having allotments at the far end of the Playing Fields.

North Notts Landscapes are maintaining the cemetery in good condition. During the past year, repairs have been done to the footpaths. The WI continues their excellent work on the Garden of Rest. Ultimately, the windows need replacing in the Chapel of Rest. £1,000 was put aside last year and we have included a further £1,000 this year to build up funds to replace the windows.

We provided our own illuminated tree again on the Fairpiece. NCC required an excessive charge for connecting the electricity for the lights. Thanks to Dave Forman for connecting the supply and Trisha and Keith Hilton for allowing him to connect to their property the illuminations cost us a fraction of the price it had in previous years. We have now planted a small Christmas tree, which hopefully will grow into a reasonable size tree in the next few years.

Continuing with the Fairpiece, the WI planted a thousand crocus bulbs to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Gringley WI. They looked good this year, but will be even better in future years.

Since coming onto the Council, Mike Daniels has joined Trisha Hilton on looking after our Parish paths. All the paths were walked in March and apart from a few stiles needing repair, they are in good condition. The local landowners require praise for the care they have taken in marking out the paths on their land.

The Council decided that we would have separate fund raising for allotment provision and a new beacon. This enabled us to retain the precept at the same level as last year. Whereas Council Tax bills have gone up by 3.6% overall, the Parish Council contribution has been reduced by 3.1%.

Approved minutes, annual reports, information leaflets, and quarterly newsletters can be inspected at Gringley Post Office, the Blue Bell, Misterton, Retford and Worksop libraries and on the Web site.

That about covers my report for the year. Just to remind you that the public are welcome at the Parish Council meetings and that all councillors are available at any time. Do not hesitate to contact them if you are aware of a problem in the village.

John Hargreaves