

Summary of the Accounts

The Parish Council began the year with a balance of £12,186.43 and ended it with a closing balance of £18,529.69. 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 down on the previous year.

A donation was made to the Beacon magazine

The closing balance of £18,529.69 included an earmarked reserve of £615.78 Parish Plan Partnership Grant, to be spent in 2008-09 and another £1000 put aside for the replacement of the windows in the Chapel of Rest.

Total fixed assets amounted to £239,189.52

Receipts

Precept & Grants	22,428.00
Parish Paths Partnership Grant	1,006.16
Cemetery	144.00
Interest on Investments	435.79
VAT Refunds	522.91
Playing Field	446.00
BT Wayleave	2.00
Reclaim Bench Damage	40.00

Total Receipts **£25,024.86**

Payments

Playing Field	2,964.95
Cemetery	1,990.36
Payroll	6,129.59
Administration	3,668.15
Village Maintenance	1,777.76

Parish Paths Partnership	751.50
Section 137 Payments	200.00
Village Amenities	155.00
VAT on Payments	1,027.79
Donations Other	16.50

Total Payments **£18,681.60**

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Annual Report 2007 - 2008

Chairman's Report

I should first like to thank all councillors for their voluntary hard work in the past year. It is often a thankless task, but the satisfaction is knowing that we are doing the best for our Parish.

We were without a Village Handyman for most of last year, but we welcomed Bob Skelton who joined us in November. Bob is doing an excellent job as village handyman, long may he continue.

Unfortunately, as in 2006, we did not progress beyond the first round of the Best Kept Village Competition in 2007. We have, however, decided to enter again in 2008. Entering does give us a lever to get jobs done and in addition, a tidy, weed free village does give us a more pleasant place to live. I come back to an old hobby horse of mine, if everyone spent 15 minutes a week tidying up outside their properties, we would have a good chance of progressing further in the competition

In the past year, much of the Parish Council's time has been taken up with the development of the Home Office Site in West Wells Lane.

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

In July 2007, the Home Office submitted an outline planning application for the development of the whole site to include 72 houses and the developer to build a 4000 sq ft Community Centre for the village. This application was approved, with the Community Centre having to be started before construction of the properties and for it to be completed before 80% of the houses were sold or two years whichever comes the earlier.

The development is to contain 20% of affordable houses and there is to be a £30,000 contribution towards integrated transport. We understand that Miller Homes of Wakefield have bought the site. We have had meetings with Miller Homes over the design of the new Community Centre. It is controlled to a maximum of 4,000 sq ft, which is more than double the floor area of the existing Village Hall. Their proposed layout for the new Centre was made available for inspection in the Village Hall last in March.. 55 people came to inspect the drawings and their comments and proposals were very much appreciated. Hopefully, these ideas can be incorporated in the final design.

To ensure that village residents are involved in the development of the New Community Centre a Steering Group has been set up to see the project through to completion.

The Wharf project was first mooted some three years ago has now been completed. The site has only been partly developed, with well over half the site been left as scrubland for wildlife conservation.. The site includes a path down to the canal; a circular picnic table with four built in chairs, a bench, a circular seat around a tree and a wooden framed litter bin.

The football pitch on the playing fields has continued to be used in the past season.. North Notts Landscapes are continuing to maintain the Playing Fields. We have recently had to remove some conifer trees from the far end of the Playing Field and have the remainder topped.

We are still investigating the possibility of having allotments at the far end of the playing Fields, but to date there has been only a small demand for allotments.

After a few complaints over the quality of the grass cutting in the cemetery last summer, we have appointed a company called Cottage Gardens for the grass cutting in the cemetery and village sites. To date we have received positive responses over the quality of their work.

A new Notice Board has been installed at the entrance to the cemetery. Previously, the cemetery regulations were posted inside the entrance to the Chapel of Rest and were not readily visible.

The WI has continued to do their excellent work on maintaining the Garden of Rest.

The Chapel of Rest has suffered some roof damage in the recent storms which is being repaired. We are still building up a fund to have the windows replaced.

A thank you to Mr Blackledge for supplying the tree, Hugo and his team for erecting the tree and to Trisha and Keith Hilton for supplying the electricity for the lights.

The village has 21 paths of various lengths, which can be combined for longer walks. The paths are well sign posted and the local farmers keep a clear path through their fields. There is still some repair work to be carried out by the Bassetlaw contractors.

A recent survey on Broadband connection carried out within the village indicated that a large percentage of village residents who responded are very unhappy with the inadequate Broad band facility within the village. The Parish Council are putting pressure on BT to improve the supply to the village. We are aware that businesses have moved out of the

village because of inadequate Broadband and this becomes more important with a potential additional 72 houses in the village in the next few years.

Along with many other Parishes in Nottinghamshire, our village is producing a Community Emergency Plan. A major emergency could occur at some time in the future, and it is wise to have such a plan in place. The plan is not intended to replace the expertise of the Emergency Services, but to complement it in a local response. A questionnaire has recently been circulated around the village.

In the next financial year, the Parish Council intends to make donations to: - The Five Villages First Responders, Neighbourhood Watch and the Beacon Magazine.

To improve communications to all village residents the Parish Council would encourage every household to take the Beacon Magazine. The charge is only £3 per annum. If you do not receive a copy; we would encourage you to contact Ann Dobbs at the Stables in Horsewells Street and make arrangements to have a copy delivered.

Security within the village is still of great concern with the level of crime being too high. We welcome the presence of our new PCSO, Stephanie Jones, whose presence we often see in the village. We hope that this presence will help to reduce crime. Our village has joined a local Safer Neighbourhoods Group, which was set up last autumn. Key elements highlighted as being of concern are speeding, parking outside schools and antisocial behaviour.

Other items that the Parish Council has been involved include the foul water leakage in West Wells Lane where Severn Trent and the Bassetlaw District Council Environmental Department have failed to resolve the issue. Despite protests at Nottingham City Hall, LaFarge were given planning permission to quarry sand from the Trent at Sturton le Steeple. A large quantity of this sand will be transported daily along the dual carriageway.

The Parish Council precept, of £20,963 will remain at the same level for the third year.

In conclusion, I should like to remind you that the public are welcome at the Parish Council meetings and that all councillors are available at any time. If you are aware of a problem in the village do not hesitate to contact members of the Parish Council.

John Hargreaves