

Emergency Plan, and the council would like to thank all 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.

#### 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. However, over the past few months there seems to have been an increase in the occurrence of crimes in the village. 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.

#### Elections:

The current Parish Council ends its term of office in May 2010, and it is important if we are to retain our Quality Council accreditation that an election takes place. While May next year may seem like a long time away, I would encourage residents to consider whether they would like to put themselves up for election. If you are interested, please contact the Chairman or clerk who would be happy to discuss what is involved. Formal nomination papers will be available nearer the time.

#### Litter-pick:

Once again we will be supporting the Bassetlaw District Council sponsored litter pick on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April – meeting outside the Blue Bell at 10.30 a.m. Unfortunately, I will be away, but Dave Foreman has agreed to co-ordinate out efforts. I would be grateful for as much support for this as possible.

#### 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.

#### Precept

The precept for the year 2009/10 has been set at £21487, an increase of 2.5% over the previous year, which had remained unaltered for three years.

#### 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.

**Hugo Dunkley**  
Chairman

### Summary of the Accounts

The Parish Council began the year with a balance of £18,529.69 and ended it with a closing balance of £25,153.62 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 £900 up on the previous year.

A donation was made to the Beacon magazine

The closing balance of £25,153.62 included an earmarked reserve of £131.22 Parish Paths Partnership Grant, to be spent in 2009-10 and another £1000 put aside for the replacement of the windows in the Chapel of Rest, now totalling £4000.

Total fixed assets amounted to £239,189.52, subject to insurance review.

#### Receipts

Precept & Grants	22,307.00
Parish Paths Partnership Grant	713.96
Cemetery	211.00
Interest on Investments	503.76
VAT Refunds	1,528.31
Playing Field	120.00
BT Wayleave	2.00
Playground Appeal Surplus Funds	676.13
Valerie Gillespie Cup Prize	150.00

**Total Receipts** **£26,212.16**

#### Payments

Playing Field	3,281.97
Cemetery	1,649.55
Payroll	6,156.37
Administration	3,802.79
Village Maintenance	2,309.70
Parish Paths Partnership	1,020.01
Section 137 Payments	250.00
Village Amenities	79.00
VAT on Payments	772.34
Donations Other	16.50
Crime Prevention	250.00

**Total Payments** **£19,588.23**



# Annual Report 2008 - 2009

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## Chairman's Report

This is my first Chairman's Report, and I would like to start by thanking all councillors for their voluntary work over the past 12 months, and their support and forbearance in my year in office. This time last year, John Hargreaves was your chairman, but as you know he stepped down at the Annual Parish Council meeting in May. I would like to thank John for his first-class chairmanship of the council over his two years in that position, for his help in my first year as chairman, and for his continued efforts on behalf of the village, particularly in relation to the Detention Centre site and proposed new Community Centre. Thanks to Dave Foreman for acting a Vice-Chairman. I would also to thanks our clerk Peter Baines, and our handyman, Bob Skelton for their work during the past year.

### Detention Centre Site:

For many years, the future of the Detention Centre Site has been the most significant issue in the village, and last year was no exception. The past twelve months have seen a dramatic change to the site with all the old buildings having been demolished and the site marked out for the proposed development. Miller Homes Ltd have acquired the site and submitted a detailed application for planning permission in the autumn of 2008 for the construction 68 dwellings, of which 20% will be designated as "affordable". Unfortunately, there have been protracted discussions between the builders and BDC, particularly the highways department, regarding the detailed plans for the development. These have now been concluded and the plans were considered at the planning meeting held on April 8<sup>th</sup>, with a recommendation to approve. I am pleased to say that approval was granted.

Discussions and meetings have taken place between Parish Council representatives and Miller Homes regarding the internal and external lay-out of the 4000 sq.ft Community Centre, which will be built as part of the scheme. After several iterations, the plans are now acceptable to the Parish Council, and include nearly all the modifications we have requested. We will continue to monitor the construction of the Community Centre once building works begin, to ensure that the final building meets our requirements as closely as possible. Conditions of the planning permission 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 two years whichever comes earlier. As was reported in last year's annual report, a steering group was set up last year, and although this has only met once so far, once building work starts, this group will have more work to do.

We understand that the board of Miller Homes will now make a decision on when building works will start. In the current economic climate, it is not a foregone conclusion that construction will start immediately. However, a considerable amount of money has already been expended on the project, and we hope that work will start reasonably quickly. While the overall scheme is fully

supported by the Parish Council, and meets the aspirations of the village as detailed in the Village Plan, the council recognises that some individuals have raised objections to the development. 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.

### Wharf Project:

Although the wharf project was completed last year, we were very pleased to win the Valery Gillespie Cup for this scheme. This annual award was presented by the Nottinghamshire branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England, and is in memory of Valery Gillespie who was heavily involved in the work of that organisation and died suddenly in 2007. This was the first award of the cup, which we retain for 12 months. We also received a cheque for £150 which will go towards to costs of the upkeep on this site. I would like to thank everyone, particularly Dave Foreman, for all the work which was done in getting this project, and to their continued work to keep the site neat and tidy. The tree inside the circular seat has died, and a replacement tree will be planted to replace it.

### Playing field:

The playing field continues to be used during the football season. Action is being taken to improve the return on the electricity meters so that they more accurately reflect the current cost of power. Repairs to the soft surrounds to the various items of play-ground equipment are being planned.

### 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.

### Village Website:

The Parish Council manages the village website ([www.gringleyvillage.org.uk](http://www.gringleyvillage.org.uk)), and is keen to make the site more relevant and up-to-date. Anyone wishing to advertise their business is encouraged to submit an entry for inclusion in the "businesses" section – for the modest fee of £10 per annum (April to April). For further information, please contact the clerk. The website has been in its current format for a number of years, and I am keen to maintain its relevance and interest. If anyone has ideas for additional pages or features for the website, please contact the chairman.

### Welcome Pack:

During the year, a document containing useful information, contacts of organisations and details of services available in the village has been prepared and is now available for use. The intention is that a copy of this document will be delivered to anyone moving into the village, so they are aware of what goes on in the village.

Copies are available from the Post Office, or from any councillor.

### Best Kept Village Competition:

The village once again entered the Nottinghamshire Best Kept Village Competition, but failed to get past the first round. Our category was won by Orston.

### Grass cutting:

We have renewed grass cutting contracts with Cottage Gardens and North Notts Landscapes who have generally performed well over the past year. We do, from time to time, received complaints from members of the public over the quality of cutting and action is always taken to make the two companies aware of any shortcomings.

### 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, a large proportion of the village can get neither, and either has to accept very slow broadband speeds or even slower 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. We realise how frustrating this is for both private residents and businesses. The government's recent announcement of plans to ensure all homes in the country will be able to obtain broadband by 2012 is a glimmer of hope, but in the present economic climate, I wonder whether there will be the political will to make this happen. We have also raised the issue with Miller Homes, as there may 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:

The village primary school has been working over the past 12 months on plans to improve the facilities for pre-schooling, and have recently submitted plans to build an extension to the school to provide a 24 pupil early years' facility. Funding from the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham for 90% of the cost of this has been obtained, with the Governors responsible for raising the remaining 10%. The Parish Plan stressed the importance to the village of maintaining the village school, and this project will go a long way to ensuring the future of the school. In the past, the school has "lost" children who have gone to pre-school facilities in other neighbouring villages, and who have then stayed on for their formal primary school education. In view of importance of this project to both the school and the wider community, the Parish Council has 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. It is planned that the new facilities will open in January 2010.

### Emergency Plan:

John Hargreaves has been working hard to complete the village