

Gringley on the Hill Parish Council Newsletter - Autumn 2006

As well as publishing the annual report by 30th June each year, we're also required to publish a synopsis of the annual report and a brief summary of the accounts in one of our newsletters:

Synopsis of the Annual Report

The annual report included reference to the following:

- Thanks to Parish Councillors, including retiring Councillors
- Quality Accreditation
- Best Kept Village Competition 2005
- Litter bin provision
- Proposed Good Neighbour Scheme
- Housing Needs Survey
- Gringley Wharf
- Detention Centre Site and Community Building
- The Buttercross
- New public seats
- Cemetery maintenance
- The village beacon
- Christmas tree
- Rights of way
- Highway matters
- Planning
- Parish Paths Partnership
- Broadband problems
- Council tax
- Five Villages First Responders

Summary of the Accounts

We began the year with a balance of £13,002 and ended it with a closing balance of £9,654. The closing balance included an earmarked reserve of £444 Parish Paths Partnership grant. Income during the year came to £21,074 and expenditure to £24,422.

Total fixed assets amounted to £222,622.

People

We now have further change coming quickly after the May elections. Firstly, Gordon Shepherd has resigned his seat on the Parish Council. At the July meeting, Members expressed great regret at Gordon's resignation and spoke of their appreciation of his service to the Parish Council and the community over a good number of years. Tributes were given in respect of the achievements made during his Chairmanship of the Parish Council, and it

was observed that Gringley and the Parish Council would be all the poorer without his contribution. Gordon has been replaced as Chairman by John Hargreaves, who is quickly settling into the job. We hope to co-opt someone to fill the vacant seat on the Parish Council shortly.

Secondly, David Wright has submitted notice of resignation as Clerk to the Council, and we are now looking to replace him. At the September meeting, Councillor Hargreaves thanked David for his excellent service, culminating in the achievement of Quality Council accreditation.

Good Neighbour Scheme

A number of residents present at the September meeting offered to form the nucleus of a core group to take the Good Neighbour concept forward. Councillor Hargreaves would write an article for Beacon magazine, inviting expressions of further interest, and he would put a copy in the Post Office, by kind permission of Councillor Hilton.

Planning

Twice recently, residents have attended Parish Council meetings to complain that we got it wrong when making observations on a particular planning application. Could we say that we try our best to make objective observations in the best interests of the village as a whole. However, we are laypeople as regards Planning, and we do not have the advantage of a professional planning officer to guide us. Furthermore, because of the 21 day deadline for making observations, we sometimes get very little notice at all, given our timetable of meetings.

Detention Centre Site

Despite the willingness of the Home Office to submit a planning application requiring construction of a new community building to be gifted to the local community, officers at the District Council have blocked the move, stressing that it would not be in accordance with planning policy. The current position is that the Home Office has now submitted a planning application making provision for residential accommodation only.

The Parish Council, supported by Mr. Chris Downton, is working hard to persuade the District Council that it should not "look a gift horse in the mouth", and that it

should depart from planning policy on this occasion (as it is perfectly entitled to do) in the interests of the village.

The Village Beacon

The owners of Beacon Hill have proposed an annual fee of £500 for relocating the beacon to the top of Beacon Hill, plus a charge in respect of legal costs. It has, therefore, been decided to take no further action on this matter, and instead we are to look into the costs of providing a second beacon at the playing field.

Christmas Illuminations

Because of an onerous new licence application process brought in by the County Council, we've decided that a Christmas tree at The Fairpiece will be illuminated by providing an electricity supply from a nearby property. A trench will be dug by volunteers, to house plastic ducting containing low voltage cables, linked to the existing well on The Fairpiece.

Playing Field

A site meeting recently took place at the playing field, when Members expressed grave concern about vandalism at the western end, together with a large amount of litter including cans, bottles and broken glass actually on the football field. As a result, it has been reluctantly agreed that the viewing stand and associated storage buildings should be removed, as the viewing stand is an attraction to young people who use it for drinking, etc.

This year we welcome Retford Town Reserves as home team on the football pitch.

Last Word

The next newsletter will be out in the winter, but it's always easy to contact us. You can use the contact details below, and we have a 15-minute public discussion period at the start of Parish Council meetings. We try to keep everyone up-to-date with significant developments using Beacon magazine. You can also read minutes of meetings, etc. on our web site: www.gringleyvillage.org.uk

Contact Details

Chairman
John Hargreaves 01777 817609
hargreaves@beacon-house.freeserve.co.uk

V. Chairman
David Foreman 01777 817506
foreman@belcot.fsnet.co.uk

Angela Chambers 01777 818872
Hugo Dunkley 01777 816003
hugo@dunstanfarm.demon.co.uk
Lynda Foster 01777 817401
lyndajane_pc@tiscali.co.uk
Paul Hargrave 01777 817492
paul.hargrave@tiscali.co.uk
Trisha Hilton 01777 818532
fairview@lineone.net
Malcolm Taylor 01777 818574
mavis@taylor9027.fsnet.co.uk

Clerk
David Wright 01709 813360
theclerk@gringleyvillage.org.uk
3 Kingswood Close,
Firbeck,
Worksop,
Notts.
S81 8LJ
www.gringleyvillage.org.uk



Newsletter Autumn 2006