

## **PARISH OF GRINGLEY ON THE HILL**

### **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 12TH APRIL, 2006**

Present: Councillor G. Shepherd in the Chair.  
Six members of the Parish Council and  
six members of the public were also present

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillors Hargrave and Tremelling and District Councillor Martin.

#### **2. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

Welcome everyone to the 2006 Annual Parish Meeting of Gringley on the Hill. This meeting is not a Parish Council meeting but a village meeting, your meeting where you can discuss any issues you may have.

There will however be a Parish Council meeting following on where you are most welcome to attend.

The format will be as follows. I will give my report as Chairman of the Parish Council followed by a financial report by David Wright, our Clerk, and then we will have presentations from various village organisations.

#### **People**

I would like to thank my fellow Parish Councillors for their past four years' service, and in David's case many more years than that. I would also like to thank everyone else who has helped in the running and maintaining of the village and as parish Councillors we know how valuable the help is, it is much appreciated.

As you may be aware we have an election on the 4<sup>th</sup> May to elect a new Parish Council for the village, Ian and Terry are not standing for re-election this term but the rest of us are together with I'm pleased to say are 4 new candidates. They are Andrew Turner, Angela Chambers, Linda Foster and Nigel Sennett.

I hope you will all use your votes on the day because it is important to have your say in who you elect to represent your views in the community.

## **Quality Accreditation**

We started down the road to Quality accreditation in September, 2003, and are almost at its end. The Accreditation Panel will consider our application on 12<sup>th</sup> May.

We decided to go for accreditation for two reasons: the first was to demonstrate that we provide a quality service, and the second was to give us the best possible chance of survival in any future local government reorganisation. Well, there's now no doubt that there'll be a shake-up of principal councils within the next two years, and there's a lot of uncertainty about what's intended at "Neighbourhood" level. It's commonly accepted that the Quality scheme was set up by the government to test the resolve of local councils, and it's a fact that take-up has been poor. Hopefully those of us who've grasped the nettle will be looked on favourably.

## **Website [www.gringleyvillage.org.uk](http://www.gringleyvillage.org.uk)**

The village website is improving all the time, but there's still no interest from village organisations in obtaining information. We really need some input to make the website more interesting.

## **CPRE Nottinghamshire Best Kept Village Competition**

In 2005 we won Category C (population 300 to 700) of the Best Kept Village Competition and also the Best New Entrant Award. These were fantastic community achievements given the fact that this was our first entry for many years. The Category C winner's plaque is displayed at The Fairpiece, where it will stay until November, or longer if we win again.

Mr. John Mann, MP formally unveiled the plaque last November, with other dignitaries present. A good number of villagers turned out for the occasion. After the unveiling we enjoyed a superb buffet at the Blue Bell, prepared by Mr. & Mrs. Baxter and staff and arranged and donated by two anonymous benefactors. All villagers were invited to attend.

After last year's success, we intend to retain our title this year, which will involve a lot of hard work. This year we'll be up against Everton, who'll provide tough opposition. Furthermore, Oxtun will want to regain their title from us, and there are a lot of other seasoned campaigners. It's up to us.

Members of the Parish Council will be carrying out a Spring Clean on Sunday 30th April from 10.00 a.m. until noon, starting out at the Blue Bell. Please come along and help. Refuse sacks and gloves will be provided.

## **Parish Plan**

Work continues on implementation of the Parish Plan. New litter bins have been provided, with some bins now being designated as suitable for bagged dog waste. We're also looking at the possibility of introducing a good neighbour scheme. We're going to have talks soon with Bassetlaw District Council about the possibility of incorporating our Village Design Statement into the new Local Development Framework, which will replace the Local Plan in around 2008.

## **Rural Voice**

Because of our success in the Best Kept Village Competition and our initiative in being one of the first parish councils in Nottinghamshire to produce a parish plan, Nottinghamshire Rural Community Council featured Gringley in the winter edition of its news magazine Rural Voice. You can see copies in the Post Office.

## **Housing Needs Survey**

We're pleased to announce that North East Bassetlaw Forum is to provide the necessary funding for Nottinghamshire Rural Community Council to carry out a housing needs survey for us in June. Every household will receive a questionnaire, and it's most important that these are completed. We really need to know whether there's a problem as regards affordability.

## **Gringley Wharf**

At the moment it looks as if British Waterways won't give us permission to develop moorings on the canal, although we've asked for a rethink. However, we still want to improve the site, and that remains on course, subject to public consultation. At the moment we're planning a community archaeology weekend on 21/22 May.

## **Detention Centre Site**

Representatives of the Parish Council, together with Mr. Chris Downton, recently met a Home Office representative to discuss development of the detention centre site. We're currently awaiting further developments, but our stance is that a new community building, of approximately 4,000 square feet, should be provided as part of the package, at no cost to the community, together with allotment provision. If that was the case, the proposed woodland area could be given over to residential development. We'd also wish to see some affordable housing provided.

## **The Buttercross**

We're concerned about vehicles overriding the green area surrounding the Buttercross, so we're going to place three dressed stones on the corners of the green. English Heritage and the Bassetlaw Conservation Officer have been consulted, and support the proposal, although we need to seek formal approval from Bassetlaw.

## **Public Seats**

We've recently provided new public seats, one in the Cemetery and the other at the junction of Leys Lane and Westwells Lane for community benefit.

## **Cemetery**

Our contractors, North Notts Landscapes Ltd, are maintaining the Cemetery in excellent condition. They also maintain other parts of the village for us, including the playing field. Last year we redecorated the exterior of the chapel of rest, and this year we're going to carry out pathway improvements. We've also started a chapel of rest window replacement fund with a starting amount of £1,000.

### **The Village Beacon**

We're currently in negotiations with the owners of Beacon Hill regarding the possibility of a permanent relocation of the beacon on to Beacon Hill.

### **Christmas Illuminations**

At Christmas we provided our own illuminated Christmas tree. We did this because the charge proposed by the County Council was unacceptable. We intend to plant a live tree at The Fairpiece to serve as a Christmas tree in the future.

### **Parish Paths Partnership (P3)**

Work on improving rights of way continues. One of our major achievements was the construction of bridges on path 1. This path, which has now been opened up, had been unusable for many years. It cost the County Council many thousands of pounds to carry out. All paths are now being cut annually by Steve Rose of Calverton – again funded by the County Council.

### **Highway and Street Lighting Improvements**

We now have an excellent relationship with the County Council over highways matters, including lighting and signage, and they gave us great assistance in bringing about improvements in the run up to last year's Best Kept Village Competition. We have to remain vigilant though, as roads deteriorate all the time. We're still awaiting a decision on the provision of lighting along the Beacon Hill Road/Halls Road/Finkell Street route.

### **Planning**

As ever, Planning takes up a large amount of time at the Parish Council. We continue to be particularly concerned over the need to preserve the character of the village. Despite the fact that we can't please all of the people all of the time, you can rest assured that we always do our very best and will continue to do so.

### **Donations to Local Organisations**

The Parish Council, along with other local parish councils, continues to financially assist Five Villages First Responders, based at Misterton, who work with the emergency services to provide an emergency medical response service.

We've also put money in the budget to cover a donation to the Gringley Celtic Football Club, who we'd like to see back playing football at the playing field.

### **Broadband**

Broadband reception continues to be a problem in parts of Gringley, and we've taken the matter up with our MP, John Mann.

## **Council Tax**

Running a village like Gringley takes a good deal of money. This year we've had to raise the precept to £20,963 as a contribution to estimated expenditure of over £25,000. It sounds a lot of money, but actually represents an average of £31 per head of population or £77 per household. Three years ago Bassetlaw District Council started to phase-out Concurrent Grant to parish councils, but have this year stopped the process, so that's a bit of a help.

## **Local Information**

Approved minutes, annual reports, information leaflets and quarterly newsletters can be inspected at Gringley Post Office, the Blue Bell, Misterton, Retford and Worksop Libraries, the One Stop Shop at Retford Town Hall, County Hall, West Bridgford and on the web site. Copies of annual reports and newsletters are also available in the Village Hall.

We try to keep everyone up-to-date with significant developments using Beacon, and a narrative digest of unapproved minutes of Parish Council meetings is now printed in each issue instead of simply publishing excerpts. We also hold bi-monthly councillors' surgeries, which are advertised in Beacon and on the notice boards.

## **Closing Remarks**

That about covers my report for this year but just to remind you that public attendance at Parish Council meetings and or the surgeries is most welcome. So would any feedback on issues of concern.

We do our best to serve the community and unless told otherwise we assume that we do a good job in representing your views.

As I mentioned earlier, there is an election in May, the first full election in Gringley for some considerable time. Please use this opportunity to use your vote.

### **3. FINANCIAL REPORT BY THE CLERK TO THE COUNCIL**

May I begin by saying that the figures that follow are provisional, as the bank statements for March had not arrived when this report was produced.

The Parish Council commenced the year with an opening balance of £13,002. Income during the year came to £21,054 and expenditure £24,422, leaving a closing balance of £9,634.

The balance of £9,634 includes an earmarked reserve of £444 Parish Paths Partnership monies.

As explained by the Chairman earlier, the precept has risen to £20,963 for the new financial year.

#### 4. PARISH PLAN

Councillor Hargreaves submitted a report on progress regarding the Parish Plan.

The Parish Plan, completed in August 2004, is very much an ongoing working document which will be referred back to when future decisions are taken on village matters.

This year, a small committee was set up, consisting of Councillor Tremelling, Councillor Hargrave and Councillor Hargreaves with a mandate to analyse the plan and report back to the Parish Council. Tori Eadington has also shown an interest in being involved with the plan.

Progress has been made in the following areas: -

- The Neighbourhood watch scheme has improved, and it is up and running. It is now easier to join the scheme.
- Additional litter bins have been installed in the village which will accommodate dog waste.
- Signs have been put up in the village to encourage dog owners to clean up after their dogs.
- Two new seats have been ordered and installed, both of which are of Period style, to be in keeping with the village.
- The existing Village Hall is continuing to be maintained, whilst talks are in progress for a new Community Centre on the old Detention Centre site. A Modus Operandi has been prepared on work that needs to be done prior to the building of a new Community Centre. One of the first jobs to be done is a village questionnaire to establish the need for a new Community Centre. This has been prepared and will be circulated very soon. Three other village halls were visited last year which gives us ideas on what is required.

Part of the plan is to promote local businesses; articles in the Beacon have only yielded one response.

In the survey prior to the plan being produced, a very high percentage of respondents felt that a “good neighbour” scheme would benefit the village. The principle behind these schemes has been investigated, and an article will appear in next months Beacon magazine. If there is sufficient interest, a public meeting will be held and a working group established.

## **5. GOVERNORS OF ST. PETER'S C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Councillor Dunkley delivered the following report:

### **Pupils**

As is always the case at a school the size of ours, maintaining satisfactory numbers is a bit of a juggling trick. This time last year the roll was 63, and currently there are 59.

### **Curriculum**

During the year there was the usual list of new initiatives for the teaching staff to absorb – one of the key ones was Workforce Remodeling, the key requirement of which was to provide teaching staff, from September 2005, with 10% of their working time as non-teaching time, for preparation, planning and assessment. This took a little time to bed down, but is now working satisfactorily.

As part of the school improvement plan, the school has invested heavily in additional ICT facilities, including White boards, laptop computers, and an overhead computer projector. Unfortunately, the latter was stolen during a break-in in the Spring '06 half term.

### **New Headteacher**

One of the major events last year was the retirement of Sam Millard who left at the end of the Spring term '05, and we were pleased to welcome Mike Sharp as our new headteacher at the beginning of the summer term last year. Rev. Derek Hollis also resigned his position of Chairman of the Governing body in early '05, following his appointment to a cluster of new parishes elsewhere in the Diocese and his position as Chairman was taken by Richard Warren. Since then the Parish has been in vacancy, but our new Priest-in-charge, Rev. Jonathan Smithurst was installed last week, and will become ex-officio a governor of the school. (Jonathan's first service in the new joint benefice of Clayworth, Everton, Mattersey and Gringley will be Easter Sunday at Clayworth at 10.00 am. – end of ad!)

### **School building**

I reported last year that the new extension was expected to be completed by the time of the celebrations for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the school in September. This anniversary was celebrated in style, but unfortunately delays occurred in the start of the building works. However, the work kicked off in early January and is now almost complete - finishing off will take place over the next 2-3 weeks.

### **Governing Body**

As I reported last year, the new Instrument of Government for the school comes into effect on 31<sup>st</sup> August this year. This governs the number of governors, and which bodies appoint them. The total number of governors remains unchanged – the only significant change is that the Local Authority appointee is replaced by a second parent governor. During the past 12 months two foundation governors resigned – Mrs. Way and Mr. Shepherd, and we would like to thank them for their contribution to the running of the school. They have been replaced by Mr. Simon Taylor and Mrs. McPartlin respectively.

## 6. ST. PETER'S COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP

Mrs. P. Foreman submitted a report on behalf of the Playgroup.

This year, 2005/06 has been another good one for our playgroup. At the present time we have ten babies and children under school age in the group together with the children from the reception class 7 this year, who join us for the weekly session in the school hall on Friday afternoons from 1.30 to 3.30 p.m.

Research has shown that young children learn best through play and while having fun, so each week we try to provide a variety of activities designed to be fun whilst helping the children to learn, use and exercise all the skills they will need to enable them to eventually read, write and learn more formally when they enter school full time. There is usually either sand or water, a construction activity (Lego, stickle bricks, etc.), jigsaws or puzzles, a train set, road way or farm layout, play dough, role play area, dressing up, etc. Bikes scooters and other similar toys have to wait until the weather is good enough for an outdoor session.

Each week we have a craft session, which is usually planned and implemented by one of our talented mums (Jody McPartlin) who discusses her ideas with me during the week so that we can have everything ready for the Friday. Over the last year the children have planted cress, made cards for all the occasions during the year, painted pictures using a variety of techniques, made 'junk' models, collage pictures, made their own play dough, made Easter baskets and lots more.

In January of this year we joined the Bassetlaw Play Forum which is an organisation designed to help schools, playgroups etc. by loaning large items of play equipment and also selling craft items at very reasonable cost. So far we have hired the 'soft play' equipment which the children loved. This equipment filled the school hall and consists of large play mats, tunnels, slides, etc., all made from soft, safe materials so that session was a really fun 'rough and tumble' one. We also plan to invite them back with a ball pool for another session later in the year and hopefully to bring their craft items to sell to school, playgroup or any parents who are interested.

I would like to pay tribute to the adult members of the playgroup. It's easy to forget that as well as the children, the group is good for the mums and carers who come along each week and as well as supporting the group, support each other, offering the help and friendship that we all need especially with young children. If a new member comes along they are soon welcomed and before long chatting as if they had been coming for months.

I would like to say a big thank you to Louise White, an ex pupil of the school and Val Briggs, a grandmother of ex pupils of the school, who are volunteer helpers. They come each week, help me set out the equipment, play with the children, make drinks and help to clear it all away afterwards.

All in all I feel that we have a happy, caring group which, whilst informal, provides an opportunity for children to play together and become familiar with the school building and staff and gives parents or carers chance to meet in a relaxed environment.

We haven't needed to call on the financial help of the Parish Council this year, but are still very grateful for the support we have received in the past. Thank you.

**7. ST. PETER'S SCHOOL PARENTS, TEACHERS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION**

Mr. S. V. Taylor gave the following report:

In the School academic Year Sept 2004 – July 2005 the PTFA successfully organized and ran 6 different events ranging from Snowman drives to Treasure hunts, ending the year last July with the annual Sports day event, which in addition to the usual races had the added attractions of the Fire Brigade and their demonstration of putting out a chip pan fire and we also had on wonderful display of an old Vintage Bus and various Vintage Cars.

So far this year the PTFA has held 3 different functions, the High Light being the Xmas folk evening, which was probably helped along by an ample supply of mulled wine. We are still planning to arrange various other events including again the annual sports day which is scheduled for Sat 8th July. So please come along and support.

We additionally for 2<sup>nd</sup> year running have published a school calendar featuring self portraits drawn by the children and some very interesting ones of the staff and adverts for local business who's donations help to fund the printing costs.

The PTFA would like to thank all those who have supported these events, either by helping or attending. The money raised is greatly appreciated and does help to make a material difference to the school amenities and the activities the children can do.

The money raised is being used to support and help the funding of one of the schools key initiatives, improving ITC, with particular focus of integrating computing into the normal class room activities.

With the help of the village we are improving the amount of funds raised, mainly due to the introduction of the calendar and the success of the sports day event.

But we still need the continued good will of the village as a whole in supporting these events and raising as much funding for the school as possible.

**8. VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE**

Mr., Arthur Staves, Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, gave the following report:

Once again I have to report another year in which the Village Hall Committee has not had to apply for a Parish Council grant. Supporting itself financially has been mainly due to the continuation of various classes, which remain very popular and well-attended. The hall is also used for meetings by the Parish Council, the WI and the Village Hall Committee. We obviously continue to strive for other ways and means in which to make use of the hall.

Under the Nottinghamshire rural theatre scheme we recently organised a country and western night. The event was a sellout and judging from comments and feedback it proved to be a great success, enjoyed by all. Because of this we hope to repeat something similar in the autumn of this year. The idea behind this venture was not solely as a profit-making enterprise, but to use the facilities we have and provide an evening of entertainment for the benefit of our local community.

Not at last there is some progress on the new community hall project, we wholeheartedly offer our help and advice in making this exciting prospect as successful as possible. Until this comes to fruition we will continue to maintain the present building and provide a place for villagers to use and enjoy until that time when the new centre comes into operation.

In closing I would like to pay tribute to the members of the Village Hall Committee, who give their time voluntarily in helping to run this necessary amenity.

**9. MATTERS RAISED BY LOCAL ELECTORS**

No matters were raised.

