

## PARISH OF GRINGLEY ON THE HILL

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 14TH APRIL 2010

Present: Councillor D Foreman in the Chair.

Four members of the Parish Council, Mrs. K Bailey – PTFA, Mrs. P Foreman – Gringley Playgroup and one member of the public were also present.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from the Clerk, Councillor L Foster, Councillor A Chambers, Councillor H Dunkley, Mr. R Warren and Mrs AM Morley.

**2. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE 2009 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

The minutes of the 2009 Annual Parish Meeting were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

**3. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

Councillor Foreman read the following report:

As I am writing this report, the nomination papers for the forthcoming Parish Council Elections are being submitted. Three of the current council are not standing for re-election, and I would like to thank Dave Foreman, Paul Hargrave, and Trisha Hilton for the time they have committed to serving the community. Dave Foreman has been vice-chairman of the council for a number of years, so has done more than his fair share for the council. Thanks Dave for your service and for your support to various chairmen over the years.

I understand that nine nominations were received by Bassetlaw District Council by the closing date for the nine positions on the council, and therefore on 6<sup>th</sup> May these nine will be deemed to have been elected. I would like to thank those councillors who have put their names forward and to the three new members. Welcome to the council, and I hope that you will enjoy your time on the council.

I would also like to thank Peter Baines, our clerk, and Bob Skelton, our handyman, for all the hard work they put in on behalf of the village over the past 12 months.

Detention Centre Site:

For many years, the future of the Detention Centre Site has been the most significant issue in the village, and it continues to be so. As I reported in last year's annual report, Miller Homes have acquired the site, and submitted detailed planning permission for 68 dwellings in the autumn of 2008. Of these, 20% will be classified as "affordable". On the 8<sup>th</sup> April 2009, these plans were passed by Bassetlaw District Council, although there are still one or two outstanding matters to be resolved before formal planning permission is issued.

As part of the deal between the interested parties, Miller Homes will build a new 4000 sq. ft. Community Centre. They have already prepared detailed plans for this building and these have been agreed with representatives of the Parish Council. A condition of the planning permission will 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 within two years whichever comes earlier.

Miller Homes are obviously keen to start this project, having spent a significant amount on the project already, but in the current economic climate it is not clear

when a start will be made. Your council keeps in regular contact with Miller Homes, the last meeting between the parties having been in March, when a number of matters were discussed. The Community Centre will be provided with a basic kitchen, but other items of internal equipment and furniture will need to be provided by the community. This will include the stage, seating etc, so a significant amount of fund raising will be needed. As soon as the Miller Homes start on site, the steering group which was set up in 2007 will be reconvened, and will have the responsibility of managing the fund-raising activities, which will include making submissions for third party funding.

We now wait for Miller Homes to make the decision to start work, and naturally we hope that this will be sooner rather than later! 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.

#### Snow and grit:

The past winter saw the village suffer from a surfeit of snow and, at times, a lack of grit! However, generally the village remained just about passable, and the District Council responded well, most of the time, to requests for more grit. A request is being submitted for additional grit bins at the junctions of Finkell Street and Middlebridge Road, and the junction of Low Street and Middlebridge Road, although we are aware that they have received many such requests from other villages, so at this stage we cannot guarantee that they will be supplied. We will be following this up as the year progresses. I would like to thank all those who helped grit particularly treacherous spots round the village, and for the "Dunkerque" spirit showed by many in the way they provided assistance where and when needed. My special thanks go to Bob Skelton for the work he put in to make grit available round the village.

#### Playing field:

The playing field continues to be used during the football season, although not as much as we would have hoped for. If any team would like to use the facilities in 2010, hire of the pitch is unchanged at a bargain £20 per match. Please contact the Clerk. Action has been taken to improve the return on the electricity meters so that they more accurately reflect the current cost of power and contractors have recently been appointed to undertake the replacement of the "soft" surrounds to the various items of play-ground equipment with wet pour material which will have a much longer life than the existing tiles.

#### 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, as I reported last year, 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. The Council will be discussing the future of the website in a forthcoming meeting, and would welcome input from the community.

#### Welcome Pack:

The welcome pack which was produced last year has been a useful aid to newcomers to the village, and we have done our best to hand deliver one to everyone moving into the village. If you have missed out and would like a copy, please contact the chairman or clerk, or call in at the Post Office. As soon as the new council has been declared, a new 2010 version will be produced.

#### Best Kept Village Competition:

The village once again entered the Nottinghamshire Best Kept Village Competition, and finished up as runners-up in our category to Everton, for which we received a cheque for £50 and a certificate. I would like to thank everyone who helped spruce up the village for this, and who continue to pick up litter throughout the year.

#### Grass cutting:

We have recently changed the contractor for all the Parish Council owned grassed areas in the village. "Helping Hand", who did an excellent job in adjacent villages last year, is now cutting these. We have renewed the playing field grass-cutting contract with North Notts Landscapes who have generally performed well over the past year. We hope that you will be pleased with the quality of all of the work.

We welcome comments from members of the public over the quality of cutting and action is always taken to make the contractors 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, none of these can be described as "high speed". Unfortunately, a large proportion of the village can get neither, and either has to accept very slow broadband speeds or even slower, and more expensive, 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. The different political parties talk of universal access to broadband, but to date there seems to be no will to make it happen. Perhaps the new government will make a greater effort to solve this problem.

We have again raised this issue with Miller Homes, as we are certain that buyers of the new houses will demand good broadband speeds, and there may well 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:

Our village Primary School, St. Peter's, was finally able to give the go-ahead for the building of the new Foundation Stage Unit at the school in late summer 2009, and the work was completed on schedule and the unit opened as planned in January (a few

days late as the school itself opened a few days late for the Spring term, because of the heavy snow.) The official opening will be undertaken by the new Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham later this month.

In view of importance of this project to both the school and the wider community, the Parish Council 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, which is included in the 2010/2011 budget.

#### Emergency Plan:

John Hargreaves has been working hard to review the village Emergency Plan, and the council would like to again 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.

#### Car parking:

There have been a number of complaints to the council about vehicles parked on pavements, and in dangerous locations within the village. The council would request that all motorists are considerate to other road and pavement users when parking.

#### 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, and our new Beat Manager PC Nathan Thomas. 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. The new non-emergency telephone number is: 0300 300 99 99.

#### Litter-pick:

Once again we will be supporting the Bassetlaw District Council sponsored litter pick on Sunday 25th April – meeting outside the Blue Bell at 10.30 a.m. I would be grateful for as much support for this as possible – if we have a good number of people this should only take an hour or so. Children are very welcome to take part – bring along your parents! Protective gloves and bin bags will be provided.

#### 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, and on the new display board on Fairpiece.

#### 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, or come along to a meeting and raise it then. If anyone has issues to raise one-to-one with a Councillor there is a surgery for half an hour before every other meeting, the dates of which are on the notice boards.

Quality Parish Council:

In May 2010 the Parish Council will have to seek re-accreditation for Quality Parish Council Status, a prestigious title that was gained in 2006. Through this scheme the Government wants to encourage all parish councils to reach the standards of the best and, in doing so, to demonstrate their status as the local representatives of their communities.

There are many criteria that the Parish Council must meet to be awarded the status.

Some of these are:

- Electoral Mandate
- Qualifications of the clerk
- Council meetings
- Communication and Community Engagement
- Annual Report
- Accounts
- Code of Conduct
- Promoting local democracy and citizenship
- Terms and conditions
- Training

Despite additional criteria being added since we were awarded the original status, the Parish Council has high hopes of achieving re-accreditation.

**4. FINANCIAL REPORT BY THE CLERK TO THE COUNCIL**

In the absence of the Clerk, Councillor Hargreaves reported on the financial status of the Parish Council:

The Parish Council commenced the year with an opening balance of £25,244. Income during the year came to £26,026 and expenditure £19,735, leaving a closing balance of £31,535. Letting the football pitch raised £20, advertising local businesses on the website £20, Best Kept Village prize £50 and cemetery income amounted to £789.

The balance of £31,535 includes an earmarked reserve of £49 Parish Paths Partnership monies, £1,876 playground repair fund and £5000 earmarked for the Chapel of Rest Window Fund.

£ 6,293 has already been committed to repair the safety surfacing around the children's play equipment this spring.

The precept for the financial year 2010-11 remains the same at £21,487.

**5. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE**

There were no representatives from Notts Police present and no report received.

**6. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE GOVERNORS OF ST. PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL.**

Councillor Hilton gave the following report on behalf of the Governors:

The past 12 months have been very hectic for Sf. Peter's School and during this time there have been a number of major changes.

The first of these events was the resignation of our previous head teacher, Mike

Sharp, which took effect at the end of the summer term. Appropriate advertising and selection took place during the summer term, and we were very fortunate to be able to appoint Mr. Andrew Pullin as our new head from the beginning of the spring term 2010. He had previously been assistant head at St. Swithun's Primary School in Retford.

This meant that we needed to appoint an acting head for the autumn term. We were delighted when Miss Bettina Houghton, our class 2 teacher, put herself forward for consideration for this position, and she was subsequently appointed. She led the school extremely well during her term in office, and coped with a number of extra challenges during this time.

Mrs. Wagstaffe was off sick for much of the autumn term, and the governors were fortunate to be able to appoint Mrs. Bailey as a temporary replacement as the class 3 teacher.

Shortly before Christmas the school was notified that it would be subject to an Ofsted inspection before the end of term. Miss Houghton and her team rose splendidly to the challenge, and the school received a very good report. As a church school, the

Diocesan SIAS inspection followed some weeks, later in the Spring term, and once again the governors were very pleased with the outcome.

While all this was going on the new Foundation Stage Unit building was under construction, so it is clear that Miss Houghton had a very interesting time in her stint as acting head!

Pupils:

As usual the number of pupils at school varies significantly through the year. We started the summer term last year with 51, and then had 52 in the autumn term. With the opening of the FSU in January the numbers jumped up to 65, and it is hoped that these increased numbers will work their way up through the school over the coming years.

The Governors would like to thank Mike Sharp for all the work he put in during his tenure as head teacher, and wish him well in his new position. Andy Pull in started as his replacement in January and we are very pleased with how quickly he has settled into the new environment, and the positive impact he is having on the life of the school.

Mrs. Wagstaffe was off for much of the Autumn term, but is now back teaching class 3, and Miss Houghton has returned to teaching Class 2. Miss Rodgers is responsible for the new FSU in the mornings and for Class 1 in the afternoons. To provide the additional

teaching staff required because of the FSU, Miss Parker (aR NOT) was appointed to teach class 1 in the mornings.

Our thanks go to all the staff at St. Peter's for the magnificent way in which they have performed over the past 12 months, in coping with the many challenges which they encountered, and for the time and commitment they devote to the education of our pupils.

The school is also very fortunate to have a large number of volunteer helpers who visit school to provide additional help, and our thanks go to all of them for their time and commitment.

#### Foundation Stage Education:

For many years the lack of adequate facilities to deliver the early years education has been a major hindrance to the development of St. Peter's School, and it is pleasing to report that this problem has now been eliminated. This time last year, funding for the building of a purpose-built Foundation Stage Unit (FSU) was just about in place, and since then the unit has been designed, tendered for, built and is now in use. Our thanks go to all the staff who have put in a lot of extra work over the past 9 months, in planning and preparing for the new building. What Mrs. Foreman and Miss Rodgers don't know about building flat pack furniture isn't worth knowing, and our thanks go to them especially. The governors would also like to thank Mr. Simon Taylor for overseeing the building of the FSU on their behalf, and for the time he spent on the project. The governors also wish to acknowledge, with gratitude, the financial contribution of the Parish Council.

We are delighted that the new Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham will be formally opening the unit in a ceremony on Monday 19th April afternoon at 3.30 p.m. Everyone with an interest in the school, particularly those who have contributed to the fund-raising, is invited to the opening, and to have a look round the splendid facilities.

#### SATS etc:

Ofsted reported that 'national test results, school assessments, pupils' work and the lessons seen indicate that standards by the end of Year 6 are above average. Typically, pupils have made good progress in reading, mathematics and science but only satisfactory progress in writing.' However, Ofsted acknowledged that 'improving writing has been a priority and this is having a positive impact on pupils' progress.'

#### Curriculum

The school offers a balanced and varied curriculum which is enriched by off-site visits, including an annual residential trip to Edale for children in Years 5 and 6. Also the school provides a number of extra-curricular activities and the school is grateful to everyone involved in providing additional activities for the pupils - this includes a craft club, drama club, football Hi-5 netball and recorders.

#### Future developments

All schools participate in a self-evaluation and self-improvement process, and we are assisted in this by our School Improvement Partner. His role is to analyse the school's performance, in the light of the available contextual information, which includes the results of SATs, and to prepare an Annual Performance Dialogue for discussion with the Headteacher. Performance targets are then agreed with the Headteacher. Another vital tool for evaluating the school's performance is the Ofsted inspection. Following the inspection in December 2009, the school has identified areas for continued

improvement; the intention is to capitalise on the opportunities presented by the FSU with a view to making outstanding provision by (a) linking the areas of learning fully to the planned range of exciting topics (b) maximising space and facilities to promote highly effective learning and (c) producing stimulating and imaginative role play areas. Also, the school plans to extend the use of ICT so that it is used consistently well to support the children's learning and to provide them with good quality opportunities to develop skills in areas such as monitoring and control.

#### PTFA

The school is very fortunate to have a very enthusiastic and successful PTFA, and the governors would like to thank them and their supporters for their hard work in raising funds for the "little extras" at school. Please support future events, over the coming months.

#### Governors

If anyone is interested in becoming a governor they should make contact in the first instance with either the Head Teacher or the Chair of Governors. Appointments are made by a number of bodies, and it is useful to know of people who have any interest, as vacancies do occur from time to time.

Finally, on behalf of the governors, I would like to thank all the staff, my fellow governors and the many volunteers, who contribute so much to the continued success of St. Peter's School. The coming 12 months will hopefully be a little less hectic than the past year, and will be a period of consolidation, and of embedding the new FSU into the daily life of our school.

### **7. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE PARENTS TEACHERS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION**

Mrs. K Bailey gave the following report:

St Peter's C.E. Primary School PTFA is a committee of 12 teachers and parents who are dedicated to organising social events and raising money to purchase the extras, which the school budget can't buy. Since our last report to the parish Meeting, we have donated £1000 towards the fund-raising required towards the cost of the new FSU.

We now hope to provide funds to buy water bottles for the school football team and for outdoor equipment to support learning in the FSU.

Each year our fund-raising events follow a similar pattern. In recent years, the Summer Term has seen our sporting event for all the family. In 2009, this was the 'Rounders and Reggae' evening which raised in the region of £450. We also hold a Leavers' Disco to celebrate the end of term for which there is a nominal charge purely to cover costs.

This Autumn Term we have held:

- A Quiz Night to welcome new parents; £56 raised
- A Phoenix Card Sale; £70
- The sale of Christmas cards designed by the children; raised £104

- Our Christmas Fair which was very well attended and a lovely community event, despite the pressure of the OFSTED inspection on the following Monday! This raised a fantastic £490

We recently held an Easter Bunny Drive, which brought in just over £250. Coming up in the remainder of the Spring Term, we have a family Bingo Night and we will be serving refreshments at the Gringley Open Gardens on the 25th April – if anyone knows of people who would be prepared to support us by baking or even serving on the day, we would be really grateful to receive extra help!

Our main Summer event for 2010 will be ‘Rock n Rugby’ on June 25th, at which our new Headteacher’s band will make their debut – this promises to be another fun-packed evening for the family!

The committee would like to express our thanks to all the people who have supported our events in the past year, helping to raise such fantastic sums of money to support work in school. At present, our committee has its compliment of parents and teachers, but we currently have no ‘friends’ of the school on the PTFA. We are always delighted to welcome new members onto our team and details of future events and meetings can be found on the school notice board.

#### **8. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE GRINGLEY PLAYGROUP.**

Mrs. P Foreman gave the following report:

This has been a year of change for our playgroup, as it has for the school. The year began as normal with the group meeting in the school hall every Friday afternoon during the school term, with about 18 children and babies on the register. Parents and carers paid £1 per child, which included a small snack for the child and a hot drink for the parent. I had a volunteer helper most weeks and together we put out all the tables and equipment after the school lunch had finished and hopefully, before any children arrived. This could be quite a rush.

There were some weeks when it became inconvenient for the school to have playgroup in the hall - e.g. when a play was being rehearsed or a fund raising event needed to be got ready etc and there were times when craft activities caused a 19t of mess but on the whole it worked quite well and the school and playgroup were, and still are, mutually supportive.

We had the usual seasonal events which were celebrated with cards or crafts created by the children and of course Christmas when a party was enjoyed. Santa, being very busy at that time of year, did call at the school on the last Friday before the holidays and he left gifts at the hall door but unfortunately could not stay. He was however, spotted passing by the hall window - I think it might have been his sleigh bells that gave him away!

After Christmas our school saw many changes, not least the opening of the Foundation Unit. This is now where we hold the playgroup and is much better as it has been purpose built for young children and is not needed for any other activity on Fridays. Our only difficulty is with the cost of running the group as my regular volunteer helper wanted to retire and so we now have to pay another member of staff. For this reason, we have reduced the sessions to approximately 1 session per fortnight and increased the charge to a more realistic £2.50. We are trying this for the first year until we find out if the costs are being covered and then will review the situation, hopefully going back to weekly meetings. The numbers so far are encouraging and the sessions in the new unit are proving popular with several new children coming regularly.

Last term saw us having some input from Sure Start, who have been very helpful in offering to run an occasional musical meeting and offering support and guidance to any parents who would like to take advantage of their help.

This is an exciting time for all of us at the school and playgroup and it feels as if the future is very promising.

**9. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.**

There were no representatives from the Village Hall Management Committee present and no report received.

**9. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE GRINGLEY TODDLERS GROUP.**

There were no representatives from Toddlers Group present and no report received.

**10. TO DISCUSS ANY MATTERS RELEVANT TO THE PARISH AND RAISED BY LOCAL ELECTORS**

There were no matters raised.

The meeting closed at 8:10pm