

PARISH OF GRINGLEY ON THE HILL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 15TH APRIL 2009

Present: Councillor H Dunkley in the Chair.

Five members of the Parish Council, Notts Police Beat Manger Janine Roe and one member of the public were also present.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted by Mrs W Noble St Peter's PTFA and Councillors Hargreaves, Hargrave, Foster and Foreman.

2. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE 2008 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The minutes of the 2008 Annual Parish Meeting were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

3. REPORT OF THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE

Beat Manager Janine Roe gave a brief summary of crimes recorded in March and steps that members of the public can take to protect property and vehicles.

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Councillor Hugo Dunkley gave the following 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 8th, 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 layout 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 its 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 playground 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), 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, receive 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 landlines, 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 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 26th 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 £21,487, 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.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT BY THE CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

The Clerk reported on the financial status of the Parish Council.

The Parish Council commenced the year with an opening balance of £18,529. Income during the year came to £26,212 and expenditure £19,588, leaving a closing balance of £25,153. Letting the football pitch to a single team this year raised £120.

The balance of £25,153 includes an earmarked reserve of £131 Parish Paths Partnership monies, £676 playground appeals fund and £4000 earmarked for the Chapel of Rest Window Fund. Additional funds will be used to repair the safety surfacing around the children's play equipment.

The precept is £21,487 for the new financial year, an increase of 2.5%, being the first for 3 years.

6. GOVERNORS OF ST. PETER'S C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Councillor Dunkley delivered the following report:

Pupils:

As usual the number of pupils at school varies significantly through the year. We started the summer term last year with 59, with 51 in the autumn term and 53 in the spring term. This seems to a typical picture for us. Over the last few years we have seen a maximum figure of 63, and a low figure of 44. Initial information on the September 09 intake is encouraging.

Staff:

We were pleased that Mrs. Wagstaffe was able to get back to work at the beginning of the summer term last year, after her broken knee. However, another sad riding accident meant that she was again out of action at the end of March. We hope that she makes a rapid recovery from her dislocated elbow. Nicola Mason returned from Maternity in the spring term. The school is very fortunate to have a large number of volunteers who come in to school to undertake a variety of tasks. The governors are very grateful for the time and commitment they devote to furthering the education of our pupils.

Foundation Stage Education:

For many years the lack of adequate facilities to deliver the early years of education has been a major hindrance to the development of St. Peter's School. This has often meant that children in the village have gone to other surrounding villages for pre-school facilities, and then stayed on for their formal primary school years. For the past 12 months the governors have been actively working on the provision of a purpose built unit, on the school grounds to enable pre-school and reception year children (3 – 5 years olds) to be adequately catered for. Funding of 90% of the cost of the project has been obtained, and we are now at the final stages of gaining approval from NCC for this to go ahead. The plan is that this unit will be operational from the start of the spring term in 2010.

SATS etc

SATS were completed in May last year, and results were generally very encouraging. In a school as small as ours, results can vary dramatically year to year – however, the key objective is to ensure that all pupils meet and ideally exceed their potential, and much work goes on to monitor each individual pupil against his/her predictive performance. Where there is a shortfall between predicted and actual results, action can quickly be taken.

As usual there is a fairly continuous stream of new initiatives from central government which have to be absorbed by the staff, and delivered, as appropriate.

Curriculum

All schools participate in a self-evaluation and self-improvement process, and we are assisted in this by our SIP. The key objectives currently are the raising of standards in English with particular reference to writing, and a “Big Writing” project has been introduced across the school, the creation of the Foundation Stage Unit, and the introduction of APP (Assessing Pupil Progress),

Extra-curricular activities

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.

Website:

Work on the new school website is virtually complete and it is hoped that it will be up and running with the next few weeks.

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 looks like being a very busy and exciting time for the school.

7. REPORT OF THE ST PETER'S SCHOOL PTFA

The Clerk read out the report submitted by the PTFA

St Peter's PTFA is made up of 12 members, the Head Teacher plus 3 members of staff Pam Foreman, Emma Rodgers with Bettina Houghton also acting as Treasurer. The rest of the members are all parents. Wendy Noble Chair, Chris Moody Vice-Chair, Kate Bailey Secretary, Vally Tremelling, Sarah Woodward, Fiona Law, Karen Newsome and Amanda Butler. We are a lively bunch with loads of enthusiasm and tons of 'good humour and good will.'

Summer Term 08 – Raised £756

During the Summer Term 08, a village-wide fund raising event was held with the theme 'Caribbean Cricket.' A steel band accompanied Cricket matches between a parents team and a St Peter's team. Dodgeball games were held for the little ones and the refreshments included burgers cooked on open oil drums, banana cake, fruit and marshmallow skewers with chocolate sauce and non-alcoholic fruit punch. A record number of tickets were sold (in excess of 180) and we raised £356! To finish off the term we held a Pampered chef event, a Ladies Bistro night out, a ladies end of term lunch and an end of term Disco for the children. These events raised in the region of £400 between them.

Autumn term 09 raised £122

Into the new Autumn term 2008/9, a Curry Night just for Dads, was held at Agra 3 in Blythe. This was well attended and raised a further £82, with another end of term Christmas Disco, bringing in another £40.

Our plans for a Village-wide Christmas Fair were put on-hold, as our school children, the staff, parents and the community, collectively grieved the loss of Calum Glendenning.

Spring Term 09 £ 671

On into the Spring Term 09 and we held our regular Bingo event, raising £226 and then 'Easter Bunny Drive' -a twist on the usual Snowman Drive theme. The parents and children had a wonderful evening sporting 'flashing bunny ears' in pink or black whilst trying to win some super Easter prizes. Easter lucky dips and 'Hunt the Easter Bunnies' for the under 6's, plus 'Pin the Tail on the Bunny' made for a great family night out, and raised just over £250. We also held an ipod 'guess the time competition' which raised over £75 and one lucky pupil won 4GB iPod!

The last event held during the Spring term, held at a member's house, a Coffee morning with the opportunity to buy Phoenix Trading Cards & gift wrap. The tally so far for this event is £120 raised

What have we spend the money on?

At the request of the Head Teacher, Mr Sharpe, St Peter's PTFA agreed to underwrite the running costs of the school minibus up to £1000 for one year and then in addition, pay for the cost of diesel for school trips. This has meant that the cost of school trips has been kept at to a minimum and all children benefit for the fund raising.

The PTFA have also recently paid £1200 to update the school library. New shelves, carpets seats and cushions have made the reading experience bright and cheerful. Our grand library opening will be on Friday 24th April 09

Plans for the rest of the school year

We are planning another large summer event along the same lines as last year on Friday 3rd July 09 – possibly a ‘Rounders and Reggae’ theme. Summer rounders with a live band a BBQ on the school field – watch out for the adverts – all will be welcome.

St Peter’s PTFA would like to thank all the parents and volunteers for their help and support in making this year another very successful year for fund raising for the children of St Peter’s School and in doing so, creating great fun for all the family.

8. REPORT OF THE GRINGLEY PLAYGROUP

No report available

9. VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

Simon Parker, Treasurer and Booking Clerk of the Village Hall Committee, gave the following report:

Arthur Staves, Chairman of the Gringley Village Hall Management Committee, sends his apologies and has asked me, in my role as Treasurer and Booking Clerk, to attend and deliver the Village Hall report in his absence.

During the year ending 31st July 2008, the accounts showed a surplus for the year of £1538 and although it is too early to be precise, we anticipate a reasonable surplus for the current year ending in 31st July this year.

The Village Hall derives much of its income from the hiring out the facilities to local groups including Dance Classes, Body Balance Classes, W.I., Soft Furnishing Classes, Antique Classes and the Toddler Group. Additional income is generated by fund raising activities organised by the Management Committee and include Village Ventures live performances. Village Ventures is the rural and community touring scheme for Nottinghamshire and features high quality professional dance, drama and music from the best of both national and international touring groups and performers. The scheme is coordinated by Nottinghamshire County Council and most shows play to a full house.

Using the Beacon Magazine, we have also begun promoting the hiring of the Hall and its facilities for private functions and parties within the village and this has helped increase our income during the current year.

Fortunately, the current year has seen no significant expenditure being required on the general maintenance of the building although the general fabric of the building continues to deteriorate, especially the roof. Essential repairs are quickly attended to and although the our bank balance continues to be in a healthy state, a major refit of the existing building, for example a new roof, would probably be beyond our resources. It is generally felt by the Committee that the current building perhaps has a life span of around another three to four years before serious repairs will be inevitable. Hopefully by then we will have a new community centre on the former borstal site.

The Management Committee as ever is grateful to the regular hirers of the Village Hall and the income which this brings in. The Committee meets regularly throughout the year and is kept fully up to date on all matters.

10. GRINGLEY TODDLERS GROUP

No report available

11. MATTERS RAISED BY LOCAL ELECTORS

- The Clerk reported that a resident had complained about the yew trees on either side of the Eastern cemetery path being overgrown. It was agreed that the matter be discussed at the April Parish Council meeting.

The meeting closed at 8:13pm.

Signed:
Chairman

Date:

Dog Mess

It was reported that dog mess was still a problem in the area of Gringley Hall and the Post Office. The Clerk to the Parish Council undertook to contact the dog warden at Bassetlaw District Council again to inform him of the ongoing problem and request more signs are put up. It was suggested that the school children could design posters, which may be more effective than the Bassetlaw District Council supplied ones.

Litter Bins

A resident asked if it was possible for the Parish Council to request additional litter bins on Finkell Street. The Clerk undertook to ask.

The meeting closed at 8:20pm