

PARISH OF GRINGLEY ON THE HILL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 16TH APRIL 2008

Present: Councillor J Hargreaves in the Chair.
Eight members of the Parish Council and four members of the public were also present.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillor Hilton

2. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE 2007 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The minutes of the 2007 Annual Parish Meeting were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

3. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

I should first like to thank all councillors for their voluntary hard work in the past year. It is often a thankless task, but the satisfaction is knowing that we are doing the best for our Parish.

We were without a Village Handyman for most of last year, but we welcomed Bob Skelton who joined us in November. Bob is doing an excellent job as village handyman, long may he continue.

Unfortunately, as in 2006, we did not progress beyond the first round of the Best Kept Village Competition in 2007. We have, however, decided to enter again in 2008. Entering does give us a lever to get jobs done and in addition, a tidy, weed free village does give us a more pleasant place to live. I come back to an old hobby horse of mine, if everyone spent 15 minutes a week tidying up outside their properties, we would have a good chance of progressing further in the competition

As reported at the last Annual Parish meeting, much of the Parish Council's time has been taken up with the development of the Home Office Site in West Wells Lane. The Parish Council's approach to this development has been to implement the requirements of the 2004 Parish Plan, which states "Treat the development of any eventual Community Centre on the former Detention Centre Site as a major priority for the village.

In July of last year, the Home Office submitted an outline planning application for the development of the whole site to include 72 houses and the developer to build a 4000sq ft Community Centre for the village. This application was approved, with the Community Centre having to be started before construction of the properties and for it to be completed before 80% of the houses were sold or two years whichever comes the earlier.

The development is to contain 20% of affordable houses and there is to be a £30,000 contribution towards integrated transport.

We are lead to understand that Miller Homes of Wakefield have bought the site. We have had numerous meetings with Miller Homes over the design of the new Community Centre. It is controlled to a maximum of 4,000 sq ft, which is more than double the floor area of the existing Village Hall. Their proposed layout for the new Centre was made available for inspection in the Village Hall last month. 55 people came to inspect the drawings and their comments and proposals were very much appreciated. Hopefully, these ideas can be incorporated in the final design. The Parish Council is keen to ensure that village residents are involved in the development of the New Community Centre and with this in mind we are to set up a Steering Group of 6 to 8 people to see the project through to completion.

The Wharf project was first mooted some three years ago. The major part of the construction work was carried out in September of last year. The site has only been partly developed, with well over half the site been left as scrubland so as not to disturb the wild life on the site. The site includes a path down to the canal; a circular picnic table with four built in chairs, a bench, a circular seat around a tree and a wooden framed litter bin. At the time of writing, we are still waiting for an interpretation board to be fitted.

East Retford Football Club and the Wheelie Old Boys have used the football pitch, at the Playing Fields, this past season. North Notts Landscapes are continuing to maintain the Playing Fields. We have recently had to remove some conifer trees from the far end of the Playing Field and have the remainder topped. We are still investigating the possibility of having allotments at the far end of the playing Fields, but to date there has been only a small demand for allotments.

After a few complaints over the quality of the grass cutting in the cemetery last summer, this year, we have changed from North Notts Landscapes to company called Cottage Gardens for the grass cutting in the cemetery and village sites. To date we have received positive responses over the quality of their work. We have installed a new Notice Board by the entrance to the cemetery. Previously, the cemetery regulations were posted inside the entrance to the Chapel of Rest and were not readily visible. There is now no excuse for anyone not abiding by the cemetery regulations. The WI has continued to do their excellent work on maintaining the Garden of Rest. The Chapel of Rest has suffered some roof damage in the recent storms which is being repaired and we are still building up a fund to have the windows replaced.

A thank you to Mr Blackledge for supplying the tree, Hugo and his team for erecting the tree and to Trisha and Keith Hilton for supplying the electricity for the lights.

The village has 21 paths of various lengths, which can be combined for longer walks. The paths are well sign posted and the local farmers keep a clear path through their fields. There is still some repair work to be carried out by the Bassetlaw contractors.

A recent survey on Broadband connection carried out within the village indicated that a large percentage of village residents who responded are very unhappy with the inadequate Broad band facility within the village. The Parish Council are putting pressure on BT to improve the supply to the village. We are aware that businesses have moved out of the village because of inadequate Broadband and this becomes

more important with a potential additional 72 houses in the village in the next few years.

Along with many other Parishes in Nottinghamshire, our village is producing a Community Emergency Plan. A major emergency could occur at some time in the future, and it is wise to have such a plan in place. The plan is not intended to replace the expertise of the Emergency Services, but to complement it in a local response. A circular has recently been distributed around the village and the outcome will be analysed at the end of April.

In the next financial year, the Parish Council intends to make donations to: - The Five Villages First Responders, Neighbourhood Watch and the Beacon Magazine.

Approved minutes, annual reports, information leaflets and quarterly news letters are available: - in the post office, the Blue Bell, Misterton, Retford and Worksop libraries and on the Web Site.

To improve communications to all village residents, consideration was given by the Parish Council to fully funding the Beacon Magazine so that it could be distributed free of charge to all village households. The Beacon Magazine team preferred to keep their independence and to continue with the current arrangements. The Parish Council would encourage every household to take the Beacon Magazine. The charge is only £3 per annum. If you do not receive a copy; we would encourage you to contact Ann Dobbs at the Stables in Horsewells Street and make arrangements to have a copy delivered.

Security within the village is still of great concern with the level of crime being too high. We welcome the presence of our new PCSO, Stephanie Jones, whose presence we often see in the village. We hope that this presence will help to reduce crime. Our village has joined a local Safer Neighbourhoods Group, which was set up last autumn. Key elements highlighted as being of concern are speeding, parking outside schools and antisocial behaviour.

Other items that the Parish Council has been involved include the foul water leakage in West Wells Lane where Severn Trent and the Bassetlaw District Council Environmental Department have failed to resolve the issue. Despite protests at Nottingham City Hall, LaFarge were given planning permission to quarry sand from the Trent at Sturton le Steeple. A large quantity of this sand will be transported daily along the dual carriageway.

The Parish Council precept, of £20,963 will remain at the same level for the third year.

In conclusion, I should like to remind you that the public are welcome at the Parish Council meetings and that all councillors are available at any time. If you are aware of a problem in the village do not hesitate to contact members of the Parish Council.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT BY THE CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

The Parish Council commenced the year with an opening balance of £12186. Income during the year came to £24,901 and expenditure £17654, leaving a closing balance of

£19,433. Letting the football pitch to two teams raised £440.

The balance of £19,433 includes an earmarked reserve of £616 Parish Paths Partnership monies and £3000 earmarked for the Chapel of Rest Window Fund.

The precept is maintained at last year's level of £20,963 for the new financial year.

5. PARISH PLAN

The Chairman delivered the following report:

The Parish Plan, completed nearly four years ago, is an ongoing working document, which is referred back to on making decisions on village matters.

In the past year, we have had installed additional litterbins, and additional salt containers. Now we have a new village handyman in place his role is being developed and he is doing a very satisfactory job.

We insisted that the new Notice Board in the Cemetery be in keeping with the character of the village.

Part of the plan was concerned with the school. Such items as developing child-care facilities by considering pre-school provision and a walking bus were included. Paul Hargrave and myself had a meeting with the school last year. I have recently written to the head teacher, but have had no reply. As such I cannot comment on whether any progress has been made in this area.

As reported last year, a "Good Neighbour Scheme" was set up in early 2007. We have 23 volunteers who are happy to take part in the scheme. We had a mobile phone as the contact for the whole of last year, but this generated only a very small demand. This was suspended at the early part of this year and the contact for use of the service is now the Gringley Surgery or the Misterton Centre. We made several hospital trips last year and the service is continuing to be used.

The Plan includes a section on the Local Economy. There are very few businesses in the village that directly serve village residents, so it is important that we support the few businesses that do serve the public to ensure their survival.

When the plan was produced, there was concern over security in the village. The level of crime is still very high. We welcome the presence of our new Police Community Support Officer, Stephanie Jones, whose presence we often see in the village. We hope that this presence will help to reduce crime.

I have already mentioned the new Community Centre in my Chairman's report. Completion of the new Centre could be up to three years away, so we are pleased to see that the existing Village Hall is continuing to be well maintained until the new Community Centre becomes available.

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

Councillor Dunkley delivered the following report:

Pupils:

Current numbers at school are 54 compared to 49 at the beginning of last year. Numbers continue to fluctuate, and over the past couple of years, we have seen as many as 63, down to as low as 44. Until such time as pre school-age facilities are available in Gringley, we will continue to “lose” children from our village to other village schools. For this reason, the governing body set up a working party at their last meeting to investigate the options open to the school, with a remit to come back to the summer term meeting with some firm proposals. The very successful toddler group shows that there is a latent demand for this sort of facility.

Staff:

The main teaching team at school has remained unchanged through the year; although at the end of the autumn term Mrs. Wagstaffe suffered a broken knee in an accident with a horse. We were fortunate enough to be able to replace her with Mrs. Slater and Mrs. Clarke, sharing her job and this has provided the children with continuity. Mrs. Wagstaffe is itching to get back and we hope she will be able to take up the reigns again shortly. Since the end of the year, Nicola Mason, one of the teaching assistants, has gone on maternity leave, and a temporary replacement has recently been appointed. We continue to benefit from a large number of volunteers who go to school to assist in a wide range of tasks, for which the governors are most grateful. During the year, the school achieved the Gold Standard in the Nottinghamshire “Healthy Schools” initiative, which was very pleasing, and our thanks go to the kitchen staff for achieving this.

Ofsted and Diocesan reports

During the year, the school was subject to both Ofsted and Diocesan Inspections. The Ofsted report was generally very good with all aspects of the school being judged as good. An Action Plan has been created to address the key points raised during the inspection, where improvements in boys’ writing skills were identified as an area for improvement. The Diocesan Section 48 inspection also went well, and a similar action plan has been developed. The school maintains an on-going Self Improvement Plan, which is developed with the help of the school’s Improvement Partner, and this ensures that aspects of the curriculum where improvements are identified are planned and action monitored.

Curriculum

The key measure of success is now the CVA or the Contextual Value Added – basically a measure of the improvement of children’s abilities between their entry and departure from school. We have seen a continued improvement in this measure over the past three years to the present level of 100.2 . All schools with high performing intakes find maintaining that high level of performance a challenge, but I am sure the staff will continue to make every effort to push up our performance further in this area.

Buildings

During the year we held a formal opening ceremony for the new extension carried out by Howard Worsley, the Director of Education at the Diocese. In the autumn term lead was stolen from the roof of the school and this led to damage to some of the carpets etc. Since the turn of the year, new toilet facilities have been installed.

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, and the many volunteers, who contribute so much to the continued success of St. Peter's School.

7. PARENT TEACHERS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

Mrs K Bailey read the report of the Parent Teachers & Friends Association:

The purpose of the association is to raise money for extras to enrich the curriculum and broaden the children's learning experience. It also organises fun family events to foster community spirit. From July 07 to March 08 the following events were held:

- § Summer Fayre, which raised £1000 and was a lovely atmosphere despite the rain.
- § End of term disco and party.
- § Halloween fancy dress party – great costumes from both the children and adults, raised £160.
- § Christmas Fayre – really well attended, raised £630.
- § Snowman Drive - £160.
- § Bingo Night - £212.

Funds raised were spent on added quality reading books, year 6 leavers' presents, a Christmas gift of a quality book to every child in the school, and funding for the gardening club.

Future events planned for 2008 are ladies evening, a family walk and a Caribbean Cricket Carnival.

8. REPORT OF THE GRINGLEY PLAYGROUP

Mrs P Foreman presented the following report in behalf of the playgroup:

Over the last year we have continued to meet on Friday afternoons between 1.30pm and 3.30pm in the school hall. There are approximately 12 children and babies from birth to 4 years old who visit with a parent or carer as well as the 6 reception children from class 1.

I run the group, with Val Briggs and Jody McPartlin very ably helping with setting up, organising activities and preparing refreshments. Everyone helps with the clearing up; even the children seem to enjoy the tidying away.

The activities are planned to provide a wide range of experiences and social activities for the

children and include jigsaws, drawing and colouring, sand play, train sets, dressing up and also lots of messy crafts that many parents would rather not have in their own homes - paint, glue, play dough etc.

We try as far as possible, to work on themes appropriate to the time of year and the Church calendar and from time to time we are able to display some of the children's work in the school hall - painted harvest pictures in the Autumn, firework collages for bonfire night, lots of Christmas decorations, spring flowers, Easter baskets. On one occasion some art work was used as part of a family school display at Retford Oaks. One of the advantages of running such a group in school is that the children and parents can get to know the staff and the building, ready for later when the children are old enough to start in the reception class, and the teachers are always very pleased to meet new members, show them around and answer questions.

We are pleased not to have needed to call on the financial assistance of the Parish Council during the last year but remain very grateful for the help we have received in the past.

9. VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

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

My report this year follows a similar pattern to that of last year.

The village hall continues to be well used with the toddler morning on a Wednesday being very popular. Our main classes and source of income are - antiques, body balance, soft furnishing, and the children's dance classes.

We have organised two more shows in conjunction with the village ventures scheme, which have been well supported by the public.

I am pleased to report that both shows made a profit towards the hall's upkeep so we will continue with them for the time being.

We still struggle to maintain the building, especially the roof. The main problem being the wood beneath the covering, which is in poor condition and according to our roofer there is nothing substantial to nail the felt to. It would mean a major expense and disruption to the running of the hall if we decided on a complete new roof. At this moment in time with the possibility of a new community centre on the horizon, it seems more sensible to keep going as best we can for the next year or two until it is completed.

10. GRINGLEY TODDLERS GROUP

Gringley Toddler Group was set up in January 2007. It is a successful group and to date there are 37 children registered who meet every Wednesday morning at the village hall. We average 16 children per visit who travel from West Stockwith, Beckingham, Clayworth and Walkeringham.

The group charge an entrance fee of £1.50 per child and £1 per sibling, this fee includes a drink and healthy snack. The group uses the fee to pay the village hall hire, purchase arts and craft materials, musical instruments, puppets and seasonal craft activities.

We raise money through cash back schemes such as the yellow moon craft catalogues and a photographer who visits the group every 6 months. The left over monies are saved towards larger toys and events such as Halloween and Christmas parties.

The group benefits hugely from lots of regular and helpful parents whose support is invaluable.

11. MATTERS RAISED BY LOCAL ELECTORS

- § It was suggested that it would be helpful to newcomers if there were a welcome pack available giving details of village amenities and local information. It was agreed that it was something the Parish Council should investigate.
- § A resident asked if Miller Homes had signed yet. The Chairman stated that he was not aware of the private business of the developer, but it was now apparent that Miller Homes were the people who were to develop the site.

The meeting closed at 8:12pm.

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