

GRANGE PARK PARISH COUNCIL
Grange Park Community Centre, School Lane, Grange Park, NN4 5FZ
Telephone: 01604 702938

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ANNUAL REPORT 09/10

Published May 2010

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GRANGE PARK PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

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Chairman's Report

On behalf of the Council, I would like to express my thanks to all my fellow councillors for their time, hard work and commitment and I would like to personally like thank the Parish Clerk, Tracy Sampson and the other office staff, John Lawrence, Graham Blatchford , Sarah Ramsay and Paul Mason for all their hard work and commitment in keeping the Parish Issues and Community Centre running smoothly and to Julian Wesson our editor for the Parish newsletter and Martyn Fearn our administrator for our website

I would also like to give a special thanks to our Vice Chairman Cllr Martin Smith for all the extra time he has given up to deliver, manage and implement the Foxfields Pavilion Project.

During the year we have received only one resignation Gill Proudley who resigned due to personal commitments which has given the opportunity to co-opt a new member. We would like to welcome Cllr C Fry.

All Councillors give up their personal time and commitment voluntarily for the benefit of the community. If anyone is interested in joining the Parish Council then please e-mail your details to the Parish Clerk on parishclerk@grangeparkpc.org

Parish Council Activities

Meetings

Grange Park Parish Council meets at the Community Centre on the first Thursday of each month. Meetings start at 7:00pm. The agenda is posted on the notice boards within Grange Park at least 3 days before the meeting. The Noticeboards are located at the Community Centre, outside Budgens and at the entrance of Foxfields Country Park. Minutes from each of the Parish Council meetings will be posted on our website approximately 1 month after the meeting date. These meetings are open to the Public and Press

Highways

The roads within Grange Park have still not been adopted although meetings have taken place with Northampton Highways Authority and the developers to process this issue in the near future.

The only roads which have been adopted within the Parish are Saxon Avenue and Rowan Way (by the commercial buildings). All road maintenance and street lighting is therefore still the responsibility of the respective housing developers.

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Foxfields Pavilion

The Sports and Recreation building at Foxfields Country Park has been a slow process, the main reason for the delay is that the Parish Council had to terminate the contract of the appointed builder Inspire Contracting due to default in their contract ' Failure to proceed regularly and diligently with the works of the JCT 2005 Intermediate Building Contract'. We have now been lucky to appoint a local builder Chris Smith who will complete the remaining works within the next 6-8 weeks. The drainage work is nearly completed with just some minor remedial work to be done later in May (weather permitting)

Cricket Square

A new cricket square has been installed at Foxfield Country Park in June of this year. The funding for this project had been given to us as compensation from Henry Davidson Developments and payments from Chiltern Hundreds Housing Association for forgoing the freehold on the health facilities located at Grange Park. The above compensation could only be spent on projects associated with Foxfields. It is hoped that the above facility will be used in 2010/11 once the outfield drainage works have been completed and settled. If anyone is interested in playing cricket then please contact Grange Park Cricket Club on Phone: 01604 677476 or email: info@gpcc.co.uk

Foxfields Paths

The paths at Foxfield are kept under constant review.

Multi-Use Games Area

Grange Park Parish Council has considered the possibility of installing a Multi-Use Games Area to be open and used by the youths of Grange Park. Unfortunately due to planning regulation/conditions we have been unable at present to find a suitable site.

It was agreed in November that we have funding to provide a youth shelter at Grange Valley Greenway. We are currently waiting for the legal transfer of land.

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Community Activities

Once again this year the Parish Council organised a Community Firework Display which was well attended and appreciated by the majority of residents within the Community. Estimated attendance 1500.

The events committee in conjunction with two local residents organised a Family Fun Day on the 31st May 2009. The day was very successful, supported and well attended by many residents.

During the school holidays the Parish Council arranged with South Northamptonshire District Council the use of a skateboard ramp and climbing wall every Wednesday evening from 4.30 – 6.30pm

A Pet Show was also organised and well supported .

Neighbourhood Watch is active within the community and regularly meetings are organised, if you have any concerns, please contact your local co-ordinator.

Ongoing attempts have been made to start a Youth Forum within the Parish but needs more active participation from the youths in order to progress any projects.

Environment

A 3 year Maintenance contract has been entered into with Quartet Design and Frosts Landscapes which will include litter picking, playground inspections, grass cutting (some areas only) and arboreal work. The areas which are not yet included in the contract are Alamien and Spinney Woods, Grange Valley Greenway (area at the back of Woodland View Primary School), Wootton Brook Country Park and the District Centre. If you have any suggestions or complaints regarding any areas within the above contract, please do not hesitate in contacting the Parish Office who will forward your concerns to the contractor and hopefully a solution will be found

The Parish Council have also agreed to a 3 year programme for the thinning of the pioneers within the Parish – the first phase has been done this year and the second phase is due later in the Autumn 2010

Public Consultations

During the year Grange Park Parish Council has consulted the public by using the Grange Park News letter, noticeboards and the website , detailing parish issues, updates on Foxfields Country Park , Community Activities, Planning etc.

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Vandalism

A small amount of vandalism has been caused this year to the playgrounds within the Parish and the cost to reinstate them to a Health and Safety standard comes from the parish budget. In order to eliminate any further costs, if any member of the public notices or witnesses any vandalism acts then please do not hesitate in reporting the incident to the Police on 0845 370 0700 and the Parish Council.

Communication

The Parish Council are currently looking at ways to improve their communication. At present they have a newsletter, website, notice boards and do leaflet drops to all residents when public consultation comments are required. If you have any suggestions on how this can be improved, please do not hesitate in e-mailing the Parish on parishclerk@grangeparkpc.org.

Dog/Litter Bins

Grange Park Parish Council has installed additional dog/Litter bins within the Parish this year in anticipation that residents will use them. We also empty and clean them on a weekly basis.

Bowling Green

The Parish Council are pleased to announce that the Bowling Green located behind the Community Centre has recently had the green inspected for the first time in order for Wootton Grange Bowls Club to join the league and have obtained a 'A' Grade. Certificates are displayed within the Community Centre. If anyone is interested in joining the Club, please contact 01604 768327

Community Centre

The Community Centre is owned and managed by the Parish Council. It has been a very busy year for the Community Centre with nearly all hiring slots being allocated to Community Groups like Scouts, Brownies, Kumon, Youth Club, Disco dancing etc. We advertise all these activities and more within the quarterly Grange Park Newsletter. Information for hiring the halls can be obtained by contacting the Parish Office or on our website. www.grangeparkpc.org

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Grange Park also has a Multi-use Games Area which is located adjacent to Woodland View Primary School. It is an astro-based surface and the size of two 5 a side football pitches with flood lights and secured fencing. It can be hired out from 1800hrs onwards all week and all day at the weekends.

Allotments

The Parish Council decided with the support of the local residents especially the Chairman of the Allotments Association (Mr Barrie Randall) to support financially the set up of 100 allotment plots at Lark Lane, Grange Park. The work is anticipated to start at the end of March and to be open to the general public by May 2010. If you would like more details, please do not hesitate in contacting Barrie Randall on 07834 195543 or email gpaa@live.co.uk

Finance

Please see below our financial position at the end of the year.

Financial Records from April 09 – April 10

Balances brought forward from March 2009	£166,160
Annual Precept for 09/10	£125,266
Total receipts or income less the precept	£218,342
Total Expenditure	£338,056
Total Fixed Assets (Community Centre)	£1937,219
Total Borrowings	£ 0.00
Total Balance carried forward to 2009/10	<u>£171,712</u>

The Parish Council have decided this year (2010/11) so as to keep the precept at a reasonable rate, to use all the remaining balance from 2009/10 within our day to day budget requirements.

Due to VAT issues the Parish Council have been advised by HM Revenue and Customs that we would need to set up a separate Management Committee to run the hiring facilities at the Community Centre and Foxfields Sports and Recreation Pavilion. The Parish Council have appointed a Solicitor from Hewiston's to lead and manage us through this process. Formation, consultation and implementation will happen during 2010/11.

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School Catchment Area

In January 2010, a large number of the residents joined our Full Parish Council Meeting to discuss the proposed changes to Grange Park secondary school catchment area. The Council agreed to arrange a public meeting and invite the Local Education Authority to give a presentation on the consultation document. The date was Monday 18th January 2010. It was agreed that if any resident would like to discuss the issues further then to contact Paul Denton (Chairman of the Residents Action Group)

The Parish Council agreed to support the action group in a number of ways to fight the changes being proposed by the Northampton Education Department.

A H J Walker

Chairman of the Parish Council