

Grassmoor, Hasland and Winsick Parish Council

GRASSMOOR, HASLAND AND WINSICK PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2008

CHAIRMANS' REPORT COUNCILLOR BETTY HILL



Councillor Betty Hill

It is with great pleasure that I once again present the Annual Report of the Parish Council for 2008. It has been a difficult year for both the Parish Council and myself. The Parish Council has been forced to take some very difficult decisions particularly with regard to the precept it levies to raise funds. The higher than average increase in the precept was levied reluctantly but it recognises that the maintenance of the parks in the Parish and also the support for the Community Centre are important for the local community.

The Parish Plan process has begun. The Parish Council

support but do not lead the Parish Plan process. The Plan is a community plan of what local people not the Parish Council want and desire. It is important therefore that you get involved and tell the Steering Group what you want. The Parish Council will be involved in trying to deliver the outcomes identified in the Plan. It won't be easy and it will not happen overnight. It will not be possible to deliver all that local people wish for. I can assure you however, that the Parish Council will work closely with other agencies to deliver as much as possible of what is wanted in the Parish.

On personal note may I thank all those who supported and wished me well me during my recent illness. Your support was greatly appreciated.

1. MEMBERS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

There are 11 Members of the Parish Council.

Councillor	Address	Telephone
Mrs EA Hill (Chairman)	51 Tennyson Way, Grassmoor	01246 852216
Mrs PJ Hemsley (V/Ch)	211 North Wingfield Rd, Grassmoor	01246 851385
Mr I F Barlow	4 Oak Road, Grassmoor	01246 854050
Mrs J Bedford	7 Vernon Rise, Grassmoor	
Mr A H Booker	21 MacDonald Close, Grassmoor	01246 856073
Mrs A Browne	2 Durham Avenue, Grassmoor	01246 857188
Mr D Chapman	26 Chapel Road, Grassmoor	01246 851789
Mr B Garbutt	127 North Wingfield Rd, Grassmoor	01246 850322
Mrs E Greenall	Mile Hill House, Winsick	01246 274716
Mr K Hemsley	211 North Wingfield Rd, Grassmoor	01246 851385
Ms J A Hill	5 Tennyson Way, Grassmoor	

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2. OFFICERS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk

Mr Roy Ackrill, 3 Collishaw Close, Hasland, Chesterfield S41 0ES

Telephone – 01246 236878

Email – grassmoor.pc@virgin.net

Responsible Financial Officer

Mr G Huckerby, 134 Moorland View Road, Walton, Chesterfield S40 3DF

Telephone – 01246 270258

3. RECORD OF MEMBERS ATTENDANCE AT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Councillor	Attendance		Councillor	Attendance
I F Barlow	11 (12)		Mrs E Greenall	9(12)
Mrs J Bedford	10 (11)		K Hemsley	10(12)
A H Booker	8 (12)		Mrs P J Hemsley	11 (12)
Mrs A Browne	10(12)		Mrs E A Hill	7 (12)
D Chapman	6(11)		Ms J A Hill	9(12)
B Garbutt	7 (12)			

There were 12 meetings of the Parish Council during the 2007/2008 year.

4. PRECEPT

The Parish Council set a precept for 2007/2008 of £87,500. In 2008/2009 the precept has been set at £95,000 which represents a 8.57% increase.

5. PARISH COUNCIL ACTIVITIES DURING THE PAST YEAR

GRASSMOOR LAGOONS

The Parish Council has continued to pressure the County Council to ensure that the clean up works on the Lagoons go ahead. The County Council has made significant progress during the year towards commencing works to clean up the Lagoons. Twenty-four applications had been received to undertake the clean-up works. These applications had been reduced to six and following further analysis, the number of companies had been reduced to three. These three companies had recently been invited to formally tender for the clean-up works. The tender process would hopefully be complete by the end of this summer with the works commencing as soon as possible thereafter. It is estimated that the total cost of the clean-up works would be in the region of £5m and will take around 5 years to complete.

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CCTV

The Parish Council has experienced considerable problems over the last 12 months with the CCTV system which has unfortunately meant that coverage has not been as consistent and reliable as would have been liked. The problems were outside of the control of the Parish Council and were we believe, caused by a contractor accidentally damaging the cable connecting the CCTV system to the control unit. The damage to the cable also caused an irreparable problem with the control system which cost several thousands of pounds to repair. Thankfully this cost has been re-claimed from our insurers. It is pleasing to report that the majority of the problems have now been rectified and the cameras have been successful in identifying those responsible for several local incidents recently.

To add to the problems, the company which installed and maintained the system went out of business which meant that we have had to find a new company to maintain the system on our behalf. The Parish Council now use the Advance Group for this purpose and we are confident that they have the expertise to undertake the work. The positioning of the cameras has been reviewed resulting in 5 cameras positions being altered in order to provide a better coverage of problem areas. In addition, the system will now be managed by Advance from its base in Barlborough rather than the Community Centre. This will allow for quicker fault diagnosis and repair as well as allowing targeted monitoring of the cameras at times and/or locations where particular problems are being experienced. Monitoring of the cameras costs money so unfortunately 24 hour monitoring is not possible within the resources of the Parish Council. The camera at Winsick has now been erected and should be operational in the near future.

Linked to the CCTV system, the Parish Council is working with the Derbyshire Chamber and the Police to try to get "Shop Watch" operational in shops within the village.

MILL LANE ALLOTMENTS

The Parish Council to support the Mill Lane Allotment Association in its efforts to tidy up the site. The Allotment Association has worked very hard to improve the condition of the site and this has been reflected in the fact that all plots have now been allocated and there is a waiting list. Grassmoor Primary School has a plot on the allotments and a gate directly linking the School with the allotments will be in place soon to make it easier and safer for the children to get to the site. The Parish Council would like to thank the Association for working hard to achieve this improvement.

GRASSMOOR COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Parish Council has continued to support the Community Centre particularly with support for staffing costs and it continues to work closely with the Community Centre Management Committee to try to ensure that the activities at the Centre are as varied as possible. The Management Committee and the Parish Council have agreed after lengthy negotiations with the Police that a local Police Office should be located at the Centre. The office will be situated in what is currently the IT room. The computers will be relocated to the Community Café area. It is hoped the adaptation works will be carried out in the near future. The office will give local people the opportunity to meet directly to discuss issues of local concern with the Police.

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PARISH PLAN

The Parish Plan process has been formally started. Following an open public meeting in February a Parish Plan Steering Group was established made up of representatives of local community and voluntary groups, two Parish Council members and some local people who are simply interested in being involved in the process. The Steering Group is chaired by Rob Whitehead.

The Group has met on several occasions and has established six themed working groups through which more detailed work on these subject areas will take place. The groups are:

- Community Engagement
- Older People
- Children and young people
- Leisure and Sports
- Environment and Community Safety
- Churchside, Corbriggs and Winsick

The most important factor in producing a Parish Plan is that it should be based on the results of extensive consultation with local residents. With this mind the Steering Group will be organising a series of consultation exercises and events. You may have already been asked to complete a "Love it/hate it" form—if you have not you may well get the chance to do so in the near future. If you do, please take the time to fill in the form as it will be very useful in giving us a rough idea what the people of the Parish want. A more detailed consultation exercise will follow in the autumn based on the emerging themes from the love it /hate it survey. For more information on the Plan visit the Grassmoor Community Website — www.grassmoor.org.uk or contact the Parish Clerk.

The Steering Group is to have a stand at the Grassmoor Carnival. There will be an opportunity for you to find out more about the Plan and to tell us your views. Prize draws will be held for both children and adults who help us with the consultation exercises. We look forward to meeting you.

SUPPORT FOR VOLUNTARY GROUPS

The Parish Council has continued to support local voluntary and charitable organisations during the year. In total the Parish Council donated £750.00. Groups who benefitted include Grassmoor St John Ambulance, the County Air Ambulance, Derbyshire Coalition for Inclusive Living and the Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre.

CITIZEN ADVICE BUREAU—ADVICE SESSIONS

The Parish Council again made a significant grant to the Citizen Advice Bureau to enable 9 hours of generic advice work to be delivered from the Community Centre every week. Funding has been committed for this purpose again in 2008/2009. for details of the advice sessions please see the notice in the Community Centre section of the Newsletter.

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6. OTHER ACTIVITY DURING 2007/2008

In addition to the above the Parish Council has:-

- Funded the maintenance of Hasland Cemetery
- Funded the general maintenance of Barnes Park and Winsick Park
- Employed a Streetcleaner to keep local streets and the Parks as free from litter as possible.
- Provided the hanging baskets In Grassmoor and at Churchside
- Continued to fund the TV Licence Scheme for the over 60's
- Worked closely with the Police, and North East Derbyshire District Council to help stamp out abuse and harassment of local shopkeepers
- Maintained local bus shelters
- Maintained the Grassmoor Community Website—www.grassmoor.org.uk

7. PARISH COUNCIL ACTIVITIES FOR 2008/2009

During 2008/2009 the Parish Council will continue to provide local services and support to local groups and it will work closely with partners to make Grassmoor a better place in which to live. Specific projects include

Parish Plan

The main focus of the Parish Council's activities for 2008/2009 will be the completion and implementation of the Parish Plan. Your input is most important and welcome so please keep an eye out for details of activities associated with the Plan. There will be a considerable amount of work to do to produce and develop the action plan arising from the final Plan. It is hoped that the Plan will be completed in late February 2009. The Plan will be formally launched at an open event to which all the local community will be invited. Details will be publicised locally and on the Community Website — www.grassmoor.org.uk

Free Summer Holiday Activities

The Parish Council has joined other local Parish Councils in committing £1,000 towards the costs of running a programme of free activities for young people during the summer holiday period. The closing date for applications is 18 July. For further details contact see advert overleaf. It is hoped to run similar activities during future school holiday periods.

Preparation of the Grassmoor Community Response Plan

In the event of an emergency situation occurring in the Parish, the Council has a potentially key role to play in supporting the County and District Councils and the emergency services. This could involve providing sand bags or opening the Community Centre in the case of an evacuation. The Parish Council will develop its Emergency Response Plan in the coming year.

8. PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS 2007/2008

Set out overleaf are the provisional Parish Council accounts for 2007/2008. In compiling the accounts, the Parish Council is required to prepare them in accordance with laid down rules and regulations. The Parish Council's Independent Internal Auditor concluded that the Council has complied with relevant procedures and controls expected for a council of this size. The Parish Council Accounts for 2007/2008 are currently with the External Auditor for approval.

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	Year ending 31 st March 2008 (£)	Year ending 31 st March 2007 (£)
Balances brought forward	91,678	86,513
Annual precept	87,500	85,000
Total other receipts	8,417	17,033
Total	187,595	188,546
Staff costs	23,508	20,187
Loan interest/capital re- payments	21	21
Total other payments	92,544	76,660
Total	116,073	98,868
Balances carried forward	71,522	91,678
Total cash and invest- ments	71,522	91,678
Total fixed assets and long term assets	1,761,876	1,748,391
Total borrowings	358	378