

Grassmoor, Hasland and Winsick Parish Council

GRASSMOOR, HASLAND AND WINSICK PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2011



Councillor Pam Hemsley

CHAIRMANS' REPORT COUNCILLOR PAM HEMSLEY

It is with great pleasure that I present my first Annual Report since taking over as Chairman of the Parish Council in May last year. I have enjoyed my first year as Chairman although I realise what a difficult act I have to follow succeeding Betty Hill who retired as Chairman last year after 17 successful years at the helm.

This May saw the Parish Council elections which in the end were uncontested. David Chapman, also our local County Councillor, stood down from his role as Parish Councillor. Whilst we thank David for his work over the last 4 years, we also welcome Eugene Grant who has joined the Council.

The Parish Council as ever, collectively worked to improve life for local people, something which is increasingly important in the current difficult financial climate both locally and nationally. The County Council has taken the decision to withdraw financial support provided to the Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre. The Centre is a voluntary group which works in local communities such as Grassmoor, to provide benefits advice and support. In order to help maintain the service, the Parish Council has significantly increased the grant it provides to the Centre.

This year has also seen significant progress in the campaign to have the Grassmoor Lagoons cleaned up—something which the Parish Council has pressed for over many years. Remedex have been appointed as the company responsible for the clean up works and the planning process is nearing its conclusion. All being well, work will start on the site in the near future.

1. MEMBERS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

There are 11 Members of the Parish Council.

Mrs PJ Hemsley (Ch)	211 North Wingfield Rd, Grassmoor	01246 851385
Ms J A Hill (V/Ch)	5 Tennyson Way, Grassmoor	
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 B Garbutt	127 North Wingfield Rd, Grassmoor	01246 850322
Mr E Grant	Croft House Farm, 1 Gill Lane, Grassmoor	01246 850419
Mr K Hemsley	211 North Wingfield Rd, Grassmoor	01246 851385
Mrs E A Hill	51 Tennyson Way, Grassmoor	01246 852216
Mrs L Thomas	95 North Wingfield Rd, Grassmoor	01246 857787

Grassmoor, Hasland and Winsick Parish Council

2. OFFICERS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk

Mr Roy Ackrill, Manor Cottage, 114 The Green, Hasland, Chesterfield S41 0JU
Telephone – 01246 461095 Email – grassmoor.pc@sky.com

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—2010/2011

Councillor	Attendance	Councillor	Attendance
I F Barlow	10 (11)	K Hemsley	10(11)
Mrs J Bedford	10 (11)	Mrs P J Hemsley	11 (11)
A H Booker	4 (11)	Mrs E A Hill	8 (11)
Mrs A Browne	6 (11)	Ms J A Hill	9(11)
D Chapman	4(11)	Mrs I Thomas	10 (11)
B Garbutt	7 (11)		

There were 11 meetings of the Parish Council during the 2010/2011 year.

4. PRECEPT

The Parish Council set a precept for 2010/2011 of £100,290. In 2011/2012 the precept has been set at £101,794 which represents a 1.5% increase.

5. PARISH COUNCIL ACTIVITIES DURING THE PAST YEAR

CCTV

During the year the Parish Council decided to renew its CCTV system in order to provide enhanced coverage. The Council has worked closely with Advance Monitoring Solutions based in Barlborough to examine in detail the coverage provided by the cameras. Technological advances since the original system was installed has meant that it has been possible for coverage to be improved despite the fact less cameras are being used. An additional camera has been provided on Norfolk Avenue covering the entrance to Barnes Park. The control system in the Community Centre has also been replaced and the cameras are regularly viewed to identify any faults which are subsequently rectified as speedily as possible. The new system which cost £23k in total has proved to be far more reliable and flexible than the old system.

GRASSMOOR COMMUNITY WEBSITE

The Website has been redesigned and updated following some technical difficulties with the old version. The address for the site is www.grassmoor.org, please take the time to have a look and the Parish Council hopes you approve of the changes.

Grassmoor, Hasland and Winsick Parish Council

GRASSMOOR LAGOONS

The process to clean up the Grassmoor Lagoons has continued to make good progress during the year. Following the appointment of Remedex as the successful tenderer for the clean up works, work has started on obtaining the necessary planning permissions required. By necessity, this is a very detailed and complex process involving several different agencies. It is also a lengthy process which it is important to get right. Remedex are working closely with the relevant agencies to ensure that the process runs as smoothly as possible. The project is currently running a little behind schedule but hopefully work on the site should start in the summer.

Funding for the £4.9m project to the clean up works has been secured. The Parish Council is in regular contact with both Remedex and the County Council regarding progress and it has made representations to ensure that the works start as soon as possible. Further information on the clean up works can be obtained by visiting the website set up specifically for the works via the following link

www.grassmoorlagoons.info/default.html.

There will inevitably be some odours arising from the works when they commence. Remedex will do everything they can to keep these to a minimum and the situation will be regularly monitored.

GRASSMOOR COMMUNITY CENTRE

It is pleasing to report that it has been another successful year at the Community Centre. The remaining Community Priorities funding has been utilised on activities based around the Centre which has undoubtedly assisted with the success. Overall however, bookings are up previous years with more activities taking place in the Centre. Thanks go to Susan Brighthouse and all the staff at the Centre and also to members of the Management Committee for their work to make the Centre such a valuable resource for the local community.

DERBYSHIRE UNEMPLOYED WORKERS CENTRE

During the year, Derbyshire County Council took the decision to cut its grant funding to the Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre, a move which could potentially have a significant impact on residents of the Parish had the Centre no longer been able to provide services to the community.

The Centre provides expert legal and benefits advice free of charge and has been responsible for ensuring that many local people have received the full benefits to which they were entitled. The Centre has held regular sessions in the Community Centre for several years so many members of our community will have benefited from their services.

To help secure the services of the Centre in the Parish, the Parish agreed to increase its grant funding to the Unemployed Workers Centre from £300 to £1,000. The Parish Council considers that increase in funding will be more than offset by the financial benefit the Centre will bring back to the local community.

The advice sessions provided by the Centre are held every Thursday between 10am-12 noon at the Community Centre.

Grassmoor, Hasland and Winsick Parish Council

GRASSMOOR PARISH PLAN

The Parish Plan Steering Group under the Chairmanship of Rob Whitehead has completed the Parish Plan. A copy of the Plan can be viewed on the Grassmoor Community Website: www.grassmoor.org Alternatively a copy can be obtained from the Parish Clerk who you should also contact if you want to know more about the Plan.

The Plan has been put together following consultations with the local community, voluntary groups and other interested parties. It covers most aspects of local life. The report has been divided in to 6 key themes covering:

- Local Facilities
- Local Activities
- Highways Issues
- Sports Facilities
- Crime, Nuisance and Disorder
- Environmental Issues

The Report makes 35 recommendations which are designed to improve life for residents of the Parish. Some can be relatively easily achieved. Others will require close working with partners and detailed funding applications to be submitted. Some will be sorted and agreed quickly, others however, will be longer-term complex projects which may involve detailed discussions and further consultation. Given the current financial climate, some projects may never get off the ground. It is important however, that efforts are at least made to bring them to fruition.

The recommendations have been pulled together in to an action plan forms part of the report. The Steering Group will monitor progress against the implementation of the recommendations. It is important to note that the Plan is a “living” dynamic document which will be updated and amended as time progresses. Recommendations can be taken off or new ones added in. There will be opportunities for the local community to help shape the Plan in the future by participating in future consultations on what you want to see happen in the Parish. The Website and future editions of the Newsletter will keep you updated on the Plan’s progress.

MILL LANE ALLOTMENTS

The year has seen continued improvements to the allotment site at Mill Lane. The majority of allotments are well maintained and it is pleasing to report that there is a waiting list for plots at present. The School plot has also continued to flourish. Thanks go the Graham Hardy for his voluntary efforts in making the School plot so popular and successful.

Last year, members of the Parish Council sponsored and judged the Best Kept Allotment competition. It proved a difficult task. Joint winners were Phil Dart and George Skelton. The School also won an award for outstanding achievement.

The Parish Council has also supported the Allotment Association in developing a project to provide raised beds for disabled plot holders. The Parish Council would like to thank all those involved in the running of the Association for their efforts to improve the site. The allotments are a popular local amenity as a result.

Grassmoor, Hasland and Winsick Parish Council

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The Parrish Council as usual arranged the Remembrance Sunday Service in Grassmoor. It is pleasing that over 100 people attended the Service. For the first time, the Council decided to try out using a marquee to shelter those attending from the elements. Whilst the weather was fine on the day, the general view was that the marquee was a good idea. It will therefore be used in future years if necessary.

6. OTHER ACTIVITY DURING 2010/2011

In addition to the above the Parish Council has:-

- Funded the general maintenance of Barnes Park and Winsick Park including the play equipment.
- Employed a Streetcleaner to keep local streets and the parks as free from litter as possible.
- Provided new and replacement litter bins and dog waste bins.
- Provided grit bins at various locations in the Parish.
- Continued to fund the TV Licence Scheme for the over 60's.
- Maintained local bus shelters.
- Provided financial assistance to a variety of local organisations and activities.
- Funded the maintenance of Hasland Cemetery.
- Provided 35 hanging baskets In Grassmoor and Churchside.
- Supported the Holiday Play Scheme organised for local children by Tupton Hall School.

7. PARISH COUNCIL ACTIVITIES FOR 2011/2012

During 2011/2012 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 Parish Council will be working closely with the Parish Plan Steering Group to implement the recommendations contained in the final Parish Plan report.

Barnes Park

The Parish Council and the Parish Plan have both identified Barnes Park as an area which is in need of improvement. The Parish Council will be looking at ways in which the Park can be improved. We may well want to hear your views at some stage. We will keep you informed of progress through the Website and the Newsletter.

Grassmoor Country Park

The Parish Council is in initial discussions with Derbyshire County Council and North East Derbyshire District Council about possible improvements and new facilities in the Country Park. Again, we may want to hear what you think as local residents.

Grassmoor, Hasland and Winsick Parish Council

8. PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS 2010/2011

Set out below are the provisional Parish Council accounts for 2010/2011. 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 2010/2011 are currently with the External Auditor for approval.

	Year ending 31 st March 2011 (£)	Year ending 31 st March 2010 (£)
Balances brought forward	74,631	70,394
Annual precept	100,290	98,325
Total other receipts	13,064	8,264
Total	187,985	176,983
Staff costs	25,079	24,803
Loan interest/capital repayments	21	21
Total other payments	99,690	77,528
Total	124,790	102,352
Balances carried forward	63,195	74,361
Total cash and investments	63,195	74,361
Total fixed assets and long term assets	1,741,047	1,763,323
Total borrowings	325	336

Information and Help - Useful Contacts

<u>Service</u>	<u>Authority</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Authority</u>
Allotments	GPC	Planning Permission	NEDDC
Building Regulations	NEDDC	Public Footpaths	DCC
Bus Shelters	DCC/GPC	Recreation/Parks	GPC/NEDDC
CCTV	GPC	Refuse Collection	NEDDC
Council Tax Collection	NEDDC	Registration - Births/Deaths/Marriages	DCC
Consumer Advice	DCC	Register of Electors	NEDDC
Dog Wardens	NEDDC	Remembrance Sunday Service	GPC
Education	DCC	Social Services	DCC
Environmental Health	NEDDC	Street cleaning	NEDDC/GPC
Housing	NEDDC	Street lighting	DCC
Libraries	DCC	War Memorials	GPC

Grassmoor, Hasland and Winsick Parish Council

COMMUNITY CENTRE ACTIVITIES

PILATES CLASSES

Grassmoor Community Centre

Mondays

6.7pm Beginners and Therapeutic

7-8pm Intermediate

Please contact Lizzie on 01246 291139 or 07785 923923 for further information/booking form.

RINGWOOD BRIDGE CLUB

If you are interested in joining the Club, please contact Iris on 01246 855535 or Mick on 01246 850660.

Mondays 9.30 am– 12.30pm & 1.00pm—4.00pm

Tuesday 2.00-4.00pm & 7.00pm—10.0pm

Wednesdays 10.00am-1.00pm & 7.00-10.00pm

Grassmoor Over 55s

Friendship Club

Every Tuesday

2.00-4.00pm

Come along for a game of bingo and dominoes and occasional trips out

For further details contact

Pam Hemsley on 01246 851385.

Luncheon Club

Mondays 12.30-1.30pm

3 course meal for £3.50

At Grassmoor Community Centre

To join the Club contact Janice Bedford on 01246 857900

Little Learners Pre-School

Little Learners celebrated it's first year at the Centre in May and continues to be a welcoming, innovative and successful Pre School, now based at the Centre during the week. It is run in term time, by Louise Lee and Diane Jones with professional, qualified staff and is OFSTED registered. It offers children, between 2 and 5 years, the chance to develop their skills and confidence in the comfort of a safe, friendly and fun environment.

For more information on times and charges please call 07866074319.

New Street Tots

Thursday mornings 9.00-11.00am

Grassmoor Community Centre

Mother and Toddler Drop-In for under 5s

For further details contact Janice Bedford on 01246 857900

Grassmoor Community Centre

If you want to know anything about your rights or welfare benefits and what you are entitled to then visit the advice sessions held at the Community Centre:

**Derbyshire Unemployed Workers – every Thursday –
10.00am – 12.00pm**

For further details contact the Community Centre on 01246 857900

OR CONTACT:

**North East Derbyshire District Council Working
Communities Project**

For free information, advice and support, contact North East Derbyshire District Council's Community Employment Officer, Mark Szadura on 01246 217534 or 07973343383.

Members of the Community Centre Management Committee

Member	Representing	Telephone
Mrs J Bedford (Chair)	Luncheon Club	
Mr I F Barlow	Parish Council	01246 854050
Mr E Grant	Parish Council	01246 850419
Mrs P J Hemsley (V/Chair)	Parish Council	01246 851385
Ms S Kirkland	Sure Start	01246 852228
Ms E A Hill	Parish Council	01246 852216
Mr M Gavigan	Bridge Club	01246 850660
Mrs L Thomas	Friendship Club	01246 857787