



GRANGE PARK PARISH COUNCIL

Grange Park Community Centre, School Lane,
Grange Park, Northampton NN4 5FZ

www.grangeparkpc.org



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2014/15

The past year has seen much of the Council's effort being directed towards ensuring that the large commercial planning applications within the parish take into account the needs of our existing Parishioners. We are, however, only consultees and cannot always influence the outcome.

The Council has also had numerous meetings both with the Public, BT and Northampton County Council to ensure that the financial implications are met to roll out Superfast Broadband to all Parishioners within the last quarter of the financial year 2015/16 and this schedule remains on track. The good news is that preparatory survey work on the network in the area has already started and will help to provide more detailed planning work to come. We'll keep you updated on progress.

In undertaking a review of the work of Council over the last year, it is of course difficult to cover everything but a number of key achievements do stand out as worthy of mention:-

- Replacing the MUGA matting adjacent to the Community Centre
- Installation of a new innovative play park adjacent to Woodland View Primary School
- Close oversight of the maintenance and upkeep of the green open spaces to the highest standard, ensuring we achieve best value
- Regular Community Events: Summer Event , Firework Display
- The Parish Council now provides a further means of communicating with the community by the use of Facebook, parish website and twitter accounts. These sites will continue to be developed on an ongoing basis and comments and feedback from Parishioners is always welcomed.
- Run ,manage the café/bar facilities at the Community Centre. The majority of feedback has been extremely positive
- Recruit and employ local residents to work within the above facility
- Improving the standard of the football pitches/cricket square at Foxfields Country Park
- To work in partnership with volunteers to formulate a new youth club commencing April 2015.

As such, I would like to record my thanks to all members of Council for their effort and contribution throughout this time, all of which is on an unpaid, voluntary basis. I would also like to thank our Parish Clerk and all the staff who have worked very hard to maintain the consistently high standards that we have set for the parish. On many occasions this has been in their own time. Thank you.



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Finance

The Parish Council receives income from a number of sources but the main one is our precept, which we pay as part of your Council Tax. We have been able to keep our precept unchanged for the last couple of years. In 2015/16 we decided to increase our precept by 3%. There were a number of reasons for the increase including the financial contribution towards the installation of superfast broadband, upkeep of green open spaces and the installation of a vehicular access to the allotments. In the past few years, we have balanced our budget by taking money from our reserves rather than increasing our precept. In 2014/15 we paid for a new playground, new MUGA matting, conversion of café/bar and upgraded our contract to maintain the green open spaces to a high standard. We do recognise that this level of investment is not sustainable so this year we decided to increase the precept slightly.

Income received from April 2014 until March 2015

Reserves from previous year :	£	32, 815.79
Income from this year:	£	458,181.99
Expenditure :	£	466,062.05

TOTAL LEFT IN THE BANK AT THE END OF THE YEAR £ 24,935.73

As ever, we strive to deliver our services under a best value principle and this year we have once again trimmed our running costs.

Grant Payments

The Parish Council seeks to maintain a balanced provision of grants with the principles of best value being applied in considering all applications. Grants to organisations or charities serving the community as a whole take priority. The purpose of the grant should be in the interests of and bring direct benefit to the parish or its inhabitants. The Grant may be a contribution to the funds of a charitable body for the furtherance of its work in the local community. A total of £900 was paid in grants during the year 2014/15. The following organisations were recipient of grants:

- Grange Park Rangers Football Club
- Wootton Grange Bowls Club
- Grange Park Scout Group
- Grange Park Pre-school



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News from the Parish Council

The Parish Council promotes the work of the Council and ensures that it communicates with residents and businesses in the parish in an efficient and timely manner. It does this through the quarterly newsletters, noticeboards, website www.grangeparkpc.org and Facebook [www.facebook.com/grange park parish council](https://www.facebook.com/grange_park_parish_council)

Our website: www.grangeparkpc.org has news, updates, information on the Parish Council meetings, agendas and minutes from these meetings, details of your councillors and information on local organisations .

We are continually looking at new ways to keep in touch with the residents in our parish.

Meetings

Parish Council meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month at the Community Centre commencing at 7.30pm. The first part of the meeting, public questions and reports are received.

All Council meetings are open to the public and press although legislation permits their exclusion during consideration of commercially sensitive information or personnel issues.

If you have any issues , please feel free to contact the Parish Clerk at parishclerk@grangeparkpc.org who will make sure that it is passed to the members of the Parish Council for consideration.

Martin Smith
Chairman of Grange Park Parish Council

