

GRANGE PARK PARISH COUNCIL

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

Telephone: 01604 702938

e-mail address: parishclerk@grangeparkpc.org

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CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 12/13

Published May 2013



QUALITY
PARISH
COUNCIL

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Parish Council

Grange Park Parish Council meets at the Community Centre, usually on the first Thursday of each month (except for August). Meetings normally start at 7:30pm. Minutes from each of the Parish Council meetings are posted on their website www.grangeparkpc.org. Please note that in each meeting the minutes from the previous month have to be agreed by council members before they can be published, this can sometimes result in a small delay.

Serving as a councillor on any parish or town council is controlled by the rules and regulations laid out in the Local Government Act 1972 (LGA 1972). Grange Park Parish Council has 12 serving councillors. We are currently at full strength but if anyone has an interest in becoming a future councillor then please contact the Clerk.

Qualifying criteria - A candidate must be:

A British subject or a citizen of the a citizen of the Commonwealth or the European Union

At least 18 years of age

A local government elector for the area of the authority, or for during the preceding 12 months, lived in the parish or within 3 miles of the parish, have owned or occupied land in the parish, or worked in the parish

A candidate cannot:

Hold paid office or employment within the council

Be subject to a bankruptcy restriction order or interim order

Have been within the last five years convicted of any offence and sentenced to imprisonment for more than three months

Relevant skills are:

Good listening skills, Good decision-making skills, good local knowledge

Grange Park Community & Sports Association (GPC&SA)

The above group has been in operation for the last two years. However it was recently decided that the group would look to wind down with responsibilities transferring back to the Parish Council once more.

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Foxfield Pavilion

The facilities at Foxfield include a meeting room, a sizeable education room with up to date audio visual equipment and adjoining kitchen servery; four changing rooms and two official's changing rooms-all with shower facilities; an office and a small kitchen for the use of light refreshments. There are also some football pitches and a cricket table which includes an artificial wicket. The sporting facilities have been greatly used this year. A few teething problems have occurred with parking and litter which GPC&SA are looking into resolving. Following a twelve month trial period under a temporary adjustment, the Council have recently applied for a variation to the planning consent, to extend the operating hours until midnight.



Foxfield Paths & Bridleway

The paths at Foxfield are kept under constant review. The Parish Council has agreed with the Rights Of Way Officer, NCC to erect bridleway signs around the perimeter of Foxfield Country Park. Northampton County Council has agreed to install a slow down sign at the main entrance to Foxfield Pavilion.

Community Activities

The Parish Council started the year by organising the Jubilee celebrations in conjunction with ASDA as main sponsor. There were various children's activities throughout the day including climbing wall, BMX bikes and many others.



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.

On November 5th, we organised our Annual Firework Display which was well attended and greatly appreciated by the majority of residents within the Community (estimated attendance 2000). We employed the services of the same company as in the previous year. Parish Councillors and staff helped all day setting up. Lots of photographs were taken at this event and included in our Parish Newsletter.



For the first time since formation, we held a family Christmas event with a visit from Santa and performance by a professional illusionist. Again the feedback was positive and it was great to provide an opportunity for families to get together in the festive period.

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Youth Club

Grange Park Parish Council have engaged the services of Jenny Evans, Youth Project Leader and her staff who run the youth club at the Community Centre on a Thursday evening and also detached workers connect with the youth on a Friday night within the community. They have arranged many activities within the year which include a trip to the Fire Station at Mereway, Alton Towers, healthy eating and self-esteem workshops and for regular attendees to the Youth Club a Christmas night out ten pin bowling.

Environment

As reported in last year's report, we took the decision to employ new grounds maintenance contractors. The council are very pleased with the impact R&G Grounds Maintenance have had on Grange Park. Ken and his team have done an excellent job improving the appearance of grass and planted areas. Ken has adopted the role of Contract Manager and willingly engaged with residents to resolve many of the issues raised. We feel the overall appearance has been enhanced with a larger area falling into the contract with costs remaining flat.



The areas which are yet to be included in the contract are Grange Valley Greenway (area at the back of Woodland View Primary School), Barratt's development and the District Centre. If you have any suggestions or feedback regarding any areas of open space, please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Office who will forward your concerns to the contractor and hopefully a solution can be found.

Vandalism

In 2012/13 we have on-going vandalism. The safety of children is being put at risk with items of play equipment being tampered with. If you see or suspect any damage is being caused please report it to the Parish Council Office or phone the Police on the non-emergency number of 101.

Communication

The Parish Council are always looking at new ways to improve their communication. At present we 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.



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Dog/Litter Bins

Grange Park Parish Council have numerous dog/litter bins within the Parish. We empty and clean them on a weekly basis. It is also essential that you make sure that all litter and dog fouling are kept clear of the cricket square and football pitches located at Foxfield Country Park. The number and location of the bins is kept under constant review so please let us know if you have any suggestions.

Community Centre/Foxfields/Multi-Use Games Area



The Community Centre/Pavilion and the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) is now managed by Grange Park Sports & Community Association. The Community Centre is very busy and hiring slots have been allocated to Community Groups like Brownies, Kumon, Youth Club, etc. The Pavilion is also proving to be very popular with groups including Ozmotion, Zumba Musical Minis, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Dance Fusion and Explorers. At weekends and mid-week Grange Park Cricket Club are using the cricket table and Grange Park Rangers and Wooldale Football Clubs are using the Football pitches for training sessions and matches. A timetable of activities is advertised within the community centre, on the GPC&SA website on www.grangeparkcsa.org and quarterly in Grange Park Newsletter.

The MUGA 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.

Information for hiring the halls and MUGA can be obtained by contacting 01604 701431 or using the booking form which is on the following website www.grangeparkcsa.org.

Allotments

The Parish Council have submitted two further applications for the Lark Lane allotment site; one for vehicle access and the other a retrospective application for the change of use from Public Open Space to Allotments. We await news from SNC for a date when the applications will be heard by Planning Committee. SNC are in on-going discussions with the HSE and National Grid regarding the high pressure gas pipeline which runs underneath the allotment site.



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Road adoptions

Road adoptions continue within the Parish on a staged basis (and not as quickly as we would like). The spinal road (Wake Way) was adopted some time ago and since then a significant number of other streets have been completed. This means that those streets that have been adopted will become Highway maintainable at public expense. A plan showing the precise extent of the adoption can be inspected at the offices of Northampton County Council. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate in contacting the Parish Office on 01604 702938.

Councillors

During the year we welcomed two newly co-opted councillors (Stuart Ash and Natalie Jackson) whom we hope will enjoy their time and bring their own approach and freshness to the Council.

Councillors and Staff Contact Details

<u>Name</u>	<u>Home / Mobile Tel</u>	<u>E-mail Address</u>
Chairman Cllr Martin Smith 6 Lark Lane Grange Park NN4 5BD	07872 691348	martin.smith12@btconnect.com
Vice-Chairman Cllr Claire Fry 25 Badger Lane Grange Park NN4 5DH	07846 279325	claire.fry70@o2.co.uk
Cllr Anthony Walker 45 Wake Way Grange Park NN4 5BG	01604 706134 07785 920908	walker.a@btinternet.com
Cllr John Proudley 4 Foxglove Close Grange Park	Contact Parish Office	john.proudley@virgin.net
Cllr Mike Aluko 5 The Meadows Grange Park NN4 5BU	Contact Parish Office	mike.aluko@grangeparkpc.org
Cllr Nigel Stansfield 11 The Meadows Grange Park NN4 5BU	Contact Parish Office	nigelstansfield@hotmail.co.uk

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Councillors and Staff Contact Details continued

<u>Name</u>	<u>Home / Mobile Tel</u>	<u>E-mail Address</u>
Cllr John Walker 4 Abington Richmond Grange Park NN4 5EB	01604 660387	jonatabing4@aol.co.uk
Cllr Steve Allen 97 Woodlands Grange Park NN4 5BZ	Contact Parish Office	steve23allen@btinternet.com
Cllr Jonathan Davies 117 Woodlands Grange Park NN4 5BZ	07831 210970	Jonathan.Davies@grangeparkpc.org
Cllr Sean Dawson 70 Woodlands Grange Park NN4 5FX	07739 987979	seangdawson@o2.co.uk
Cllr Natalie Jackson c/o The Grange Inn Grange Park NN4 5DP	Contact Parish Office	Natalie.Jackson@grangeparkpc.org
Cllr Stuart Ash 17 School Lane Grange Park NN4 5FZ	07711 279165	stuart.ash@grangeparkpc.org
Parish Clerk: Tracy Sampson	01604 702938 07971 165349	parishclerk@grangeparkpc.org
Bookings: Su Smith	01604 701431	bookings@grangeparkpc.org
Caretaker: John Lawrence	07971 165468	
Caretaker: Graham Blatchford	07511 051899	
Caretaker: Fay Fletcher	07971 165468	

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Finance

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

Financial Records from April 12 – April 13

Balances brought forward from March 2012	£	59,099.78
Total receipts	£	216,146.26
Total Expenditure	£	238,875.89
Total Balance carried forward to 2012/13	£	36,370.15

The Parish Council decided this year (2013/14) not to raise the precept. As ever, we strive to deliver our services under a best value principle and this year we have once again trimmed our running costs.

Every year we award financial grants to a range of local amenity groups, the 2012/13 financial year was no exception and in fact we awarded grants to the Brownies, cycling club and Grange Park WI.

Our annual accounts comply with the statutory requirement of Local Councils Governance and Accountability Legislation in regard to audit. We undergo an internal audit and our financial activities and governance is assessed by an external auditor appointed by the Audit Commission.

We entered 2013/14 in a strong position to undertake new projects as opportunities arise and we continue to source external funding whenever possible.

It is always good to hear comments, whether positive or negative, about the work we undertake in the village. We cannot be everywhere and rely on residents informing us of things that require attention and even making suggestions for improvements. We cannot operate without this feedback and are extremely grateful to those residents who take the time to assist us in our work.

Cllr R M Smith

Chairman of the Parish Council