

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

# **GRANGE PARK PARISH COUNCIL**

## **ANNUAL REPORT 08/09**

**Published May 2009**

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## GRANGE PARK PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Home/Mobile Tel	E-mail Address
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<b>Vice Chairman</b> Cllr M Smith 6 Lark Lane Grange Park NN4 5BD	07872 691348 (Mobile)	<a href="mailto:martin.smith12@btconnect.com">martin.smith12@btconnect.com</a>
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Cllr T Jainu-Deen 7 Old Close Grange Park NN4 5BJ	01604 707896	<a href="mailto:tjd@trader.force9.co.uk">tjd@trader.force9.co.uk</a>
Cllr M Aluko 5 The Meadows Grange Park	Contact Parish Office	<a href="mailto:mike@aluko53.wanadoo.co.uk">mike@aluko53.wanadoo.co.uk</a>
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Cllr S Cates 55 The Meadows Grange Park NN4 5BU	07887 626153 (Mobile) 01604 701787	<a href="mailto:steve.cates@metronetrail.com">steve.cates@metronetrail.com</a> <a href="mailto:stephencates@aol.com">stephencates@aol.com</a>
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Cllr N Wilson 15 Finney Drive Grange Park Northampton NN4 5DT	07780 539222 (Mobile)	<a href="mailto:neilfinney32@tiscali.co.uk">neilfinney32@tiscali.co.uk</a>
Cllr N Stansfield 11 The Meadows Grange Park NN4 5BW	Contact Parish Office	<a href="mailto:nigelstansfield@hotmail.co.uk">nigelstansfield@hotmail.co.uk</a>
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## **Chairman's Report**

On behalf of the Council, I would like to express my thanks to Julian Wesson our editor for the Parish newsletter and Martyn Fearn our administrator for our website. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all my fellow councillors for their time, hard work and commitment and finally I would like to personally thank the Parish Office Staff Tracy Sampson, Sarah Ramsay, John Lawrence and Graham Blatchford for all their hard work and commitment in keeping the Parish Issues and Community Centre running smoothly.

During the year we have received a number of resignations due to personal commitments which has given the opportunity to co-opt new members. We would like to welcome Cllr Louise Ellington, Cllr N Stansfield, Cllr N Wilson and Cllr M Aluko.

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](mailto: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 7:30pm. 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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The Parish Council has also agreed with the highways Dept at the County Council to cut the grass verges along Saxon Avenue and part of Bridge Meadow Way. This was agreed as the highways only cut it four times a year and the Parish Council decided this was not an adequate cutting regime as it is viewed by everyone entering/exiting the Parish.

Grange Park Parish Council has recently installed lights within Spinney Wood by Woodland View Primary School ) the upkeep and maintenance of these lights only will be the responsible of the Parish Council and can be reported to the Office on 01604 702938 or alternatively e-mail: parishclerk@grangeparkpc.org

## **Foxfields Pavilion**

As you are all aware the construction of the new facility on Foxfield commenced in early January.

For those who missed previous articles in the Grange Park Newsletter, this is the culmination of over 2 years hard work, involving the successful bid for Football Foundation funding, design, planning consents and so on. We were also delighted to obtain financial support from Prologis who were a key developer in Grange Park and who have an ongoing interest in the warehousing units by J15. Thanks to them once again and to SNC for their support.

As is often the case, the legal process has slowed us down considerably. In reality we have lost over 9 months from our original timetable.

Nevertheless, it is exciting to see the work commence and if all goes to plan, the building should be completed in July/August. The building is primarily sports oriented (football and cricket) but we have included a fairly sizeable meeting room which will provide some relief for users who are currently constrained by availability at the Community Centre.

The bid also included funding to improve the drainage on the playing areas this work began on the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2009 .A whole new system is being laid by specialist contractors. It was agreed by all that this work was a necessity given the often saturated ground conditions which currently mean the pitches are not fit for football in the winter months. As these areas affected will need to be reseeded during May- July, we would appreciate that the other areas of the Country Park are used for recreation and sporting activities.

We will endeavour to keep you advised of progress in future newsletters but you will have a good insight into progress when you pass the site.

If you have any general queries or perhaps have an interest in hiring the facility, then please contact the Parish Clerk.

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## **Foxfields Paths**

The paths at Foxfield are kept under constant review.

## **Multi-Use Games Area**

Grange Park Parish Council has been able to secure a grant of £6,000 from South Northamptonshire District Council to provide a Multi-Use Games Area at a site located by Grange Valley Greenway (near Budgens). The Parish Council have also contributed some additional funding to for the ground works for the Games Area and also to provide a youth shelter and hopefully a skateboard ramp. We are just waiting for the legal ownership of land to be transferred from Prologis to Grange Park Parish Council.

## **Quality Council Status**

The Council are pleased to announce that they have achieved Quality Status as from October 2008. The Council are now continuing to obtain an additional qualification in order to attain the power of well being. This will give the Parish Council more power and influence over local issues

## **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 1.500

A Pet Show was also organised and well supported despite coincided with Father's day.

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.

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## **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

## **Public Consultations**

During the year Grange Park Parish Council has consulted the public by using the Grange Park News, detailing parish issues and updates on Foxfields Country Park , Community Activities, Planning etc. A Parish Surgery was held on a Saturday morning inviting residents to attend in order to express their views in ways in which to improve the community, but it was disappointing at the lack of response.

## **Vandalism**

A large 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.

## **Training**

The Parish Clerk has obtained the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CILCA).

## **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. The Parish Council has also organised a Database for SMS alert – if you would be including on this list and receive items of information via text on your mobile phone please forward your mobile phone details to [smalert@grangeparkpc.org](mailto:smalert@grangeparkpc.org).

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## 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 'B' 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](http://www.grangeparkpc.org)

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.

## Finance

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

### Financial Records from April 07 – April 08

Balances brought forward from March 2007	£174,881
Annual Precept for	£112650
Total receipts or income less the precept	£159,051
Total Expenditure	£219,083
Total Fixed Assets (Community Centre)	£1004.193
Total Borrowings	£ 0.00
<b>Total Balance carried forward to 2009/10</b>	<b><u>£166,159</u></b>

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The above figure is allocated for the following projects:

Lighting at Spinney Wood	£10,000
Muga ( Mat Accrual)	£5,000
Contract 4 – Maintenance of openspaces	£57,551
Foxfields Pavilion	£35,000
Foxfields Country Park (Cricket – artificial pitch)	£10,000
Unpaid Gas Bill	£12,185
Game End at the Spinney	£14,000
Paths at Foxfields Country Park	£22,423.
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£166,159</u></b>