

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

GRANGE PARK PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 07/08

Published May 2008

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List of Council Members and Staff

Name	Home/Mobile Tel	E-mail Address
Chairman Cllr A Walker 45 Wake Way Grange Park NN4 5BG	01604 706134 07785920908 (Mobile)	walker.a@btinternet.com
Vice Chairman Cllr M Smith 6 Lark Lane Grange Park NN4 5BD	07872 691348 (Mobile)	martin.smith12@btconnect.com
Cllr C Nobbs 10 Foxglove Close Grange Park NN4 5DD	01604 875188	Charlie@dunelm.org.uk
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Cllr T Jainu-Deen 7 Old Close Grange Park NN4 5BJ	01604 707896	tjd@trader.force9.co.uk
Cllr G Proudley (Mrs) The Brock 4 Foxglove Close Grange Park NN4 5DD	01604 674414 07973 212478 (Mobile)	gillproudley.grangeparkpcc@ntlworld.com
Cllr D Ramsay 21 Squirrel Close Grange Park NN4 5DL	01604 761129 07787 172844 (Mobile)	Derek.ramsay@virgin.net
Cllr S Cates 55 The Meadows Grange Park NN4 5BU	07887 626153 (Mobile) 01604 701787	steve.cates@metronetrail.com stephencates@aol.com
Cllr J Foster 20 Squirrel Close Grange Park	07803 886706 (Mobile)	jenny.foster@abbey.com
Cllr A Stansfield 11 The Meadows Grange Park	Contact Parish Office	amandastansfield@hotmail.co.uk
Cllr C Rees 24 Cony Walk Grange Park NN4 5DJ	01604 875131 07960018770	clive.rees100@btinternet.com
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Caretaker: Mr J Lawrence	07971 165468	

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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.

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 this is due to the collapsing of the sewer near The Grange Inn Public House. All road maintenance and street lighting is therefore still the responsibility of the respective housing developers.

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.

Foxfields Pavilion

Foxfields Country Park will shortly legally be handed over to the Parish Council and plans have been approved by South Northamptonshire District Council to build a Sports and Recreation Building, sports pitches and associated parking. All plans can be viewed at the Parish Office or alternatively on www.southnorthants.gov.uk .

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The Pavilion has been funded by successful negotiations with Prologis (who were required to implement the park and Ride Scheme) have kindly agreed that they will provide a substantial, voluntary contribution towards the Pavilion and Car Park. We have also submitted a grant application to the football foundation for match funding. The Parish Council will also be making a contribution and a grant application has been submitted to South Northamptonshire District Council. We expect all the above to be determined by the summer.

Foxfields Paths

During the year some work on the Footpaths at Foxfields Country Park would have taken place. The works will include some of the badly damaged areas to be tar sprayed with a chip finish – this work has cost in the region of £23,000.

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.

Quality Council Status

The Council is continuing to obtain the necessary requirement to attain Quality Status. Quality Status will give the 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. The Neighbourhood Watch Team is responsible for liaising with the Local Police on behalf of the Parish Council and parishioners on local crime and disorder matters. The group has met on several occasions together with some sub-group meetings with the Community Safety Team. Meetings have been well attended with some 20+ attending the public meetings. Crime and the fear of crime was one of the areas of common concern among residents in our Parish. Driving down crime and through working closely with the Police, Youth Services and Environmental teams we can help ensure that our Parish is a safe and welcoming place to be. One of the main objectives of the Neighbourhood Watch Group during 2008 will be to continue to promote Community safety in our area and a greater awareness of the need for safety in the home

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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 open days, leaflet drops on a number of issues regarding the building of the New Pavilion at Foxfields Country Park and more recently the proposed development of 450 dwellings at the Frontier Site (Old Ikea Site).

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

Training

A few councillors this year have attended the 'Flying Start Course'. This course is to provide new Councillors with the tools to ensure an effective start to their careers within the first tier of local government.

The Parish Clerk also attained 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. If you have any suggestions then please e-mail the Parish Clerk on gppc-clerk@btconnect.com

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Dog Bins

Grange Park Parish Council has installed an additional 2 bins so far this year and our intention is to install another 2 at Grange Park Spinney and by the Park at off Quintonside. Grange Park Parish Council therefore empty and maintain 10 bins in total.

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

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.

The Community Centre has also had some building work done this year to extend the Parish Office in order to create a meeting area and to build additional outdoor storage space.

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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	£132,701
Annual Precept for	£109,207
Total receipts or income less the precept	£102,988
Total Expenditure	£153,490
Total Fixed Assets (Community Centre)	£920,754
Total Borrowings	£ 0.00
Total Balance carried forward to 2008/09	<u>£174,881</u>

The above figure is allocated for the following projects:

Lighting at Spinney Wood	£10,000
Muga (Mat Accrual)	£5,000
Contract 4 – Maintance of openspaces	£66,272.03
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	£22,423.97
Total	<u>£174,881</u>

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