

Misterton Parish Council

Summary of the accounts for the year ended 31st March, 2005

The Parish Council began the year with a balance of £6,791.52 and ended it with a closing balance of £7,125.32.

The major source of income was the precept, which is the local charge on the Council Tax. This rose from £26,000 in 2003/04 to £30,630. Other small grants were received from Bassetlaw District Council in the form of Cemetery Grant and Concurrent Grant. A small number of donations were received in respect of a new seat, the skate park and Parish Plan.

The expenditure went mainly on upkeep of the Sports Field, amenity areas, Village Hall, Cemetery, donations to local organisations, salaries and administrative expenses.

Total fixed assets at 31st March amounted to £185,936. These were reduced from 2003/04 mainly as a result of the removal of the toilet block in the Sports Field. It had been out of use for several years and was demolished for safety reasons.

RECEIPTS	£
Annual Precept	30,630.00
Bassetlaw Annual Grants	2,902.00
Donations	810.00
Interest on Investments	365.77
Sports Field Hire	220.93
VAT Refund	461.97
Miscellaneous Income	24.12
35,414.79	

PAYMENTS	£
Payroll	12,443.12
Amenity Expenses	7,072.54
Administrative Expenses	6,720.76
Christmas Charity Distribution	155.00
Local Donations	2,399.83
Village Hall	2,024.95
Joint Burial Committee	3,460.00
VAT on Payments	804.79
35,080.99	

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One vacant seat

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June 2005



Misterton
Parish Council
Annual Report
2004/05

Chairman's report

Thanks to all Councillors for their voluntary hard work during the year, and to other village helpers.

Last year the Sports Field, amenity areas and Cemetery were again beautifully maintained, and the Christmas illuminations were as beautiful as ever. The Summer Gala was a big success - this year's will be held on Saturday 13 August.

The Christmas Charity Distribution was made as usual, and Councillors continued to play an active role on the various village charities. The Parish Council made donations to local voluntary organisations, including a new donation to Five Villages First Responders.

We continued to scrutinise all planning applications – regrettably Bassetlaw District Council does not always heed our comments.

A new challenge is to tackle dog dirt, which is a problem for everyone, but especially children, who run about on grassed areas, and older people, whose sight may not be as good as it once was. This results in dog dirt being brought into homes, shops, school, etc. Dog dirt is also a health concern, with serious disease a potential threat. On our recent litter pick, we identified 62 separate dollops of dog dirt. Responsible dog owners already clear up after their dogs and use the village litter bins. Now, in an attempt to draw attention to the problem, we've decided to install a number of red dog waste bins around the village.

In our bid for Quality accreditation in 2006, we introduced a quarterly newsletter, which is well received. And congratulations to the Clerk who was runner-up in the national Clerk of the Year competition. His professional input is another strong point in our bid for accreditation.

Implementation of the Parish Plan continues, with infrastructure considerations being important, as is the need to provide affordable housing and adequate policing. These are becoming major issues as Misterton is growing rapidly. Three meetings have now taken place between MAP and Langley Homes' Architects, with a view to getting social benefit from redevelopment of the Jenkins Newell Dunford factory site. The situation remains promising, and a further meeting is planned shortly, when hopefully MAP and the Parish Council will be able to support a planning application for the site. We're aiming for survival of Misterton Sport

Social Club (albeit in a new form), a new health centre, some live/work units and a transfer of ownership of the Sports Field to the Parish Council. We would like a station, and a local landowner has offered a site, but we see this very much as a long-term aspiration.

Another south-east Misterton issue that we're talking to the authorities about is flooding during times of heavy rain and the surcharge of sewers.

A number of major issues have been ongoing throughout the year, and a village consultation event recently took place to update residents and to seek their views. The Village Hall is unviable mainly due to lack of a car park and the need for modernisation, and the view of the meeting was that the Parish Council should accept trusteeship with a power of sale.

The Victoria Institute is in very poor condition, abandoned by its trustees. The Parish Council has no legal involvement with it, but residents expressed the view that trusteeship should be vested in the Parish Council, with a power of sale. However, a strong wish was expressed that we should use capital receipts from the sale of the Village Hall to improve the Victoria Institute and return it to public use. We'll have to spend around £4000 just to get it wind-and-watertight for insurance purposes, but would hope to recoup that money from the proceeds of sale of the Village Hall.

Andromeda Trading Ltd. has written to the Parish Council, expressing an interest in either converting the Victoria Institute to a pub or redeveloping the whole of the old school site, field and adjoining property, in exchange for providing facilities such as a new library. Residents' views were that the whole of the publicly owned part of the site in question should stay in public ownership, but that modernisation was required. Concerns were expressed over having a pub next to children's facilities. A 148-name petition was submitted opposing the proposal.

Following the village consultation meeting, the Parish Council has decided to press ahead with plans to assume trusteeship of the Village Hall and Victoria Institute. It is opposed to the suggested development at the old school site.

Nothing has changed regarding housing development at the Packet Inn site since the Spring newsletter was published.

We're still waiting to hear whether Andromeda Holdings Ltd. is able to overcome the legal obstacle over access and the problem with building a road on the common land. As previously stated, our prime aim is to preserve in perpetuity the rights enjoyed by parishioners over the common land.

Subject to contract, we're going ahead with the Community Contact Point at the old Co-op shop, in partnership with Bassetlaw District Council and Nottinghamshire Police. The Contact Point will provide offices for the Parish Council, Bassetlaw District Council and the Police, together with an interview room and other shared facilities. We will, at long last, have a base for the Police once again in Misterton. We also know that Bassetlaw District Council is to provide videoconference facilities. It's likely that, once the place is up and running, other organisations will wish to join us.

The planned skate/BMX park on the front of the multi court is now on track, with funding secured. All being well, it will be up and running during the summer. This is the first big achievement of the Joint Parish Plan, and will hopefully be the first of many. Congratulations are due to everyone involved with the Plan.

There are two areas where we didn't make progress: the possibility of a new play area on Grange Estate was dropped owing to local opposition on the Grange estate; and continued efforts to get something done about the Old Bank failed to persuade Bassetlaw District Council to take action.

So, as we look ahead to the rest of 2005, I'm sure it's going to be another exciting year. The challenges and opportunities facing the Parish – and the Parish Council – will only increase in the future and, by becoming a quality parish council, we will have a better chance of surviving any local government reorganisation and be able to continue to represent the views of our parish to the best of our ability.

**Hazel Brand
Chairman**