

Misterton Parish Council

Summary of the accounts for the year ended 31st March, 2006

The Parish Council began the year with a balance of £7,125.32 and ended it with a closing balance of £42,465.71. During the year two 2004/05 cheques totaling £50 were returned to bank unpaid.

The major receipts were the precept (£43,570), which is the local charge on the Council Tax, and £33,333 from the sale of a small piece of land at Church Drive (see earlier). The precept had to rise from £30,630 in the previous year to £43,570 to cover budgeted expenditure. Other small grants were received from Bassetlaw District Council in the form of Cemetery Grant and Concurrent Grant, together with a donation of £1,000 from the Lincoln Co-op towards the skate park. A grant of £20,227.50 from WREN towards the skate park was paid direct to the contractor by WREN.

The major items of expenditure were upkeep of amenities such as the Sports Field, salaries and administrative expenses.

Total fixed assets at 31st March amounted to £653,797. The reason for the big increase is that the insurance values of the Village Hall and Victoria Institute are now included.

RECEIPTS

Annual Precept	43,570.00
Bassetlaw Annual Grants	2,428.00
Interest on Investments	489.33
Sports Field Hire	207.86
VAT Refund	4,175.73
Insurance Settlement	935.43
Sale of Land at Church Drive	33,333.00
Skate Park Donation	1,000.00
Miscellaneous Income	28.53
86,167.88	

PAYMENTS

Payroll	16,439.45
Amenity Expenses	9,811.80
Skate Park	2,239.60
Administrative Expenses	11,301.72
Christmas Charity Distribution	155.00
Local Donations	2,044.48
Village Hall	60.03
Victoria Institute	395.00
Joint Burial Committee	3,460.00
VAT on Payments	4,970.41
50,877.49	

Contact Details

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June 2006



Misterton
Parish Council
Annual Report

2005/06



Chairman's report

First, I would like to thank all councillors for their voluntary hard work during the year, and in some cases the last four years. I emphasise voluntary, as being a councillor brings no rewards – and sometimes a lot of hassle! - except satisfaction at our efforts to do the best for our Parish and to represent our needs to other Authorities. I would particularly like to mention the excellent service given by Dave Manning who didn't stand for election, and has been replaced by Councillor Norman White. A thank you, too, to those members of the public who maintain an interest in our work, and other village helpers.

We started down the road to Quality accreditation in September 2003. We decided to go for accreditation for two reasons: the first was to demonstrate that we provide a quality service, and the second was to give us the best possible chance of survival in any future local government reorganisation. Well, there's now no doubt that there'll be a shake-up of principal councils within the next two years, and there's a lot of uncertainty about what's intended at "Neighbourhood" level. It's commonly accepted that the Quality scheme was set up by the Government to test the resolve of local councils, and it's a fact that take-up has been poor. Hopefully those of us who've grasped the nettle will be looked on favourably. The great news is that we were awarded Quality Accreditation on 12th May, 2006 – more to follow in the summer newsletter.

This year we're entering Category A (over 2000-population) of the CPRE Nottinghamshire Best Kept Village Competition – our first entry in many years. Although we have our critics, who think that there are too many black spots in the village, it's the Clerk's experience from Everton and Gringley that entering the Competition spurs on improvements. In any case, we're allowed to request problem sites beyond our control to be excluded. We've nothing to lose.

We've launched our own competition to find the most-improved premises, and already I've noticed improvements and seen people tidying up the front of their houses. The closing date for the competition is 31 July and all that's needed are 'before and after' photos.

This year's village litter-pick was a great success, ably supported by the Fire & Rescue Service. Volunteers picked up more litter this year, but spotted far fewer examples of dog fouling. Nevertheless, dog dirt continues to be a cause of concern, and we've provided 10 dog waste bins.

We received funding in 2005 for a housing needs survey, and the results pointed to the need for some affordable housing in Misterton. This may have tipped the scales in persuading the District Council to grant planning permission for the five affordable houses at Church Drive. We sold a little piece of land to the developers to facilitate access, and received payment of £33,333, plus reimbursement of all our legal and valuation fees. The sale wasn't guaranteed until late March, and so couldn't be included in the budget. In any case, the capital receipt is only available for capital, as opposed to revenue, spending.

The need for infrastructure to precede development is one of our main concerns. There's a need for adequate drainage, education, health, highways, housing, police, recreation, etc. I should stress that the District Council is responsible for planning decisions. We only have the right to make observations on planning applications, but rest assured that we take this role very seriously.

Talking of infrastructure, thanks go out to former District Councillor Barry and our Councillor Boulby for arranging the public meeting over sewerage problems. Also, our thanks go out once again to P.c. Dave Cooper, who made such an outstanding contribution to policing in Misterton, and who was transferred to the Retford area earlier this year.

On 1st March this year the new Misterton Community Trust came into being, with the Parish Council as trustee. We now have responsibility for the Village Hall, which we plan to sell, if possible, and the Victoria Institute. The village is being consulted on these matters.

The Parish Council, District Council and Police have signed their tenancy agreements for the community project at the old Co-op, and building work should start soon.

Threatened with High Court action by Andromeda Trading Ltd, we have recently sought Counsel's Opinion as to whether Andromeda has a right of access across the common land next to the former Packett Inn. As previously stated, our prime aim is to preserve in perpetuity the rights enjoyed by parishioners over the common land.

The current position regarding Langleys' proposals is that they've dropped their plans to apply for planning permission for a community building on the Sports Field. They've been

granted planning permission for four live/work units at the old research and development site and have applied for permission for 69 dwellings on the old factory site. Their applications don't include a new doctors' surgery, and they're proposing to build round the social club. The position of the Parish Council and MAP is that, subject to certain conditions, which include dealing with the problem of contamination of the soil on the site and the provision of an adequate number of affordable dwellings, we'll not oppose the current application subject to the Sports Field being given to the Parish Council.

The first big achievement from the Parish Plan was completion of the new skate park last June. It's a massive, externally funded success. Other recent improvements at the Sports Field include a new barrier and gate in the car park area.

The Sports Field and village amenity areas were again beautifully maintained. The Summer Gala was a washout, but hopefully the sun will shine on us this year. The Christmas illuminations were beautiful as ever, and this year we're hoping to work with the Co-op to decorate that building too. Our new District Councillor, Councillor Simpson, has agreed to do what he can to secure demolition of the old bank of Station Street.

The Christmas Charity Distribution was made as usual, and councillors continue to play an active role on the various village charities. Donations were made to local voluntary organisations in the usual way. This year we're also giving medals to the primary school children to mark the Queen's 80th birthday.

Finally, I'm proud to be associated with Misterton Parish Council. A lot has been achieved during the year – and there's more to do. There are some big projects in hand and I'm sure that, if we remain focused on them, we can achieve something for this village. I would particularly like to thank the Clerk, David Wright, for all that he does in his role as Clerk, and for the Parish – far beyond what is asked of him as Clerk.

**Hazel Brand
Chairman**