

and are in profit to the tune of £224, which will be donated to Diabetes UK, along with miscellaneous donations of £11.96.

Thanks go to everyone who assisted in marketing the calendars, and particular thanks go to Octagon Communications for design and publication.

Sports Field

Thanks go to Bassetlaw District Council for giving us £1,527 to provide three new seats, which will be installed by Spring.

Community Speed Watch

We consulted residents about Community Speed Watch in our Autumn newsletter, but only two volunteers came forward. We need a minimum of six. We've decided to have one last attempt to recruit volunteers to staff the Scheme, which is administered by Nottinghamshire Police.

The Police provide equipment, which is shared amongst 3 or 4 villages, training and village signage. Each volunteer must be prepared to dedicate at least one hour per week every few weeks. Active volunteers monitor traffic speed during daylight hours at specified locations within the 30mph zones. Other volunteers may wish to carry out clerical/administrative tasks. The Police write to offenders identified, asking for their assistance in keeping speeds down; persistent offenders are subject to targeted enforcement.

We need to know if you're willing to dedicate at least one hour per week as a trained community volunteer. Please contact the Clerk to the Council.

Large Print

Copies of this newsletter and all our publications are available in large print if required. Just contact The Misterton Centre.

Last Word

Clearly, we cannot commit the new Parish Council to continued publication of newsletters, but if it does intend to continue, then no doubt the next one will be published in late Spring or early Summer. However, a wide range of information and advice is available at The Misterton Centre. You can also use the contact details below. We try to keep everyone up-to-date with significant developments using Parish News. You can also read agendas and approved minutes of meetings, etc. at The Misterton Centre, Library and Post Office, pubs, club, various shops and cafes and on the web site: www.misterton-notts-pc.gov.uk.

Contact Details

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
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Winter 2009/10



Misterton
Parish Council
Newsletter

WINTER 2009/10



Framework for the Future

We originally said that we'd distribute a full analysis of the recent questionnaire exercise – warts 'n' all – to every household. However, on completing the analysis, we find that it would cost around £1 per household. So, we've deposited copies in The Misterton Centre and Library, and on the website: www.misterton-notts-pc.gov.uk. Go to published documents.

We're distributing a synopsis of the analysis with this newsletter.

The Parish Council

This will be the last newsletter published by the current Parish Council, as full elections take place in May. If you're interested in standing for election, you'll find information on the notice boards in late March. The elections are scheduled for 6th May, but we understand that, should there be a general election that day, the parish council elections will be put back three weeks.

Misterton Parish Council has been successful in recent years, with some noteworthy achievements for the village, such as:

- Achieving Quality Accreditation – co-first in Bassetlaw
- Producing the first Parish Plan in Bassetlaw
- Top-three placings in the 2007 and 2008 Council of the Year Competitions
- Population category winners in the 2006 CPRE Nottinghamshire Best Kept Village Competition and Best New Entry
- Nottinghamshire representative in 2006/07 Calor English Village of the Year Competition - won the Business Award for Central England
- Establishing The Misterton Centre
- Major capital investment at the sports field
- Significant movement on rationalisation of public buildings
- Resolving the long-running Station Road common land problem, with a sale for £106,500 and covenants to protect the rights of the commoners
- An award of £10,000 to save the Primary School swimming pool.

Unfortunately, we've had a miserable time of things for a couple of years or so as a result of various things, details of which follow.

To begin with, a small group of people ('our detractors') have made our lives a misery with their carping, criticism, complaints and objections over our running of the Parish Council. They're entitled to do this, and there's nothing unlawful about it, but it has taken the gloss off things. Criticism is valuable if it's constructive. Unfortunately, what we've suffered has not been to that end, and has served no purpose other than to alienate public minded people.

Our Chairman, Hazel Brand, has had a particularly torrid time in other respects too. Something she does voluntarily is to act as one of the three parish council representatives on Bassetlaw District Council Standards Committee. Unfortunately, she's been made the subject of a very vicious, and unlawful, (but so far unsuccessful) attempt to remove her from the Standards Committee. To this day, she doesn't know why she's been attacked in this way, and she can only surmise.

Then, things reached a low point in October, when Hazel received a particularly obnoxious anonymous letter, purporting to come from three Misterton residents, containing information leaked from someone at Bassetlaw District Council about the attempt to remove Hazel from the Standards Committee. This was followed shortly afterwards by four more anonymous letters purporting to come from Misterton residents, sent to members' homes, one of which was particularly disturbing. The matter has been reported to the Police. We've no idea who wrote these letters, and are certainly not suggesting that our detractors wrote them.

We've very recently discovered that a person or persons unknown has forged a note to Bassetlaw District Council, purporting to be written by our members. This has also been reported to the Police.

Parish councillors receive no remuneration for doing what is very often a thankless task, but they should not have to suffer the kind of vilification that they've had to suffer. Not only is it unfair to them, it's also unfair to their families.

And, as for the Clerk, no-one knows how he's stuck it in recent years, victimised, and with his good name tarnished by scandalous lies, including suggestions that he's dishonest.

Two people are on record as stating they want regime change at the Parish Council, with one of them particularly wanting removal of Hazel and the Clerk.

There's much more, including an intimidatory email to Hazel, which required us to resort to legal action.

And, the District Council has also defamed members and the Clerk in an official report, by including untrue defamatory statements made to the Deputy Monitoring Officer by certain individuals. Some really horrible things were said by these people about the Clerk in particular, and then published by the District Council even though there was no evidence to support them, and even though the District Council was asked not to.

So, where do we go from here? Well, some members have become so thoroughly disenchanted by everything that's happened that they're not prepared to take it any longer, and will not submit themselves for re-election in May.

It's been a privilege to serve the people of Misterton, but for some of us, enough is enough.

Finally, it should be said that all this has probably cost Misterton council taxpayers in the region of £5,000 during the current financial year in the form of legal fees and other costs.

Council Tax and Future Projects

After reducing your Council Tax by 25% for this financial year, we're increasing it for 2010-11 by 2%, in order to cover our running costs which of course increase in line with inflation.

We do, however, have some saved capital money (that can't be used to support the Council Tax), which has been earmarked for various projects, including the new village gateway signs and a road in the Cemetery.

You Asked. We Acted

Over the last couple of years we've regularly published information about the things we're doing at The Misterton Centre. Here, in this final newsletter of the current administration, we'd simply like to say that The Misterton Centre is now very much part of the fabric of Misterton life and surrounding villages. It's proved to be a great success. Yes, we still have a few diehards who continue to boycott it on cost grounds, but at an average annual cost per household on the Parish Council Tax of around £9, we think it provides excellent value.

Don't forget, that if you've any public service enquiry, we'll either deal with it, or put you on the right track. Just call in.

Winter Gritting

A major cause of concern in Misterton is the refusal of the County Council to routinely grit Fox Covert Lane, Gravelholes Lane and Grovewood Road. The County Council operates a priority policy on routes to be routinely gritted, and, unfortunately, these three roads don't qualify. We've made serious representations on road safety grounds, plus the fact that these routes are used by the emergency services, but without success.

We've also asked for more grit bins - regularly stocked, and raised the problem of people 'stealing' from the bins to for their own use. This means there's no grit for the public roads.

Misterton Village Calendar

The decision to produce a full-colour Misterton village calendar for the first time proved to be a winner. At the time of writing we've sold 356 copies,

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