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## **GRANTLEY, SAWLEY, SKELDING AND EAVESTONE PARISH COUNCIL**

### **2015 ANNUAL REPORT**

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#### **Councillors**

John Scannell (Chairman), Martin Kirbitson (Vice-Chairman), Stuart Green, Trevor Kitchen, June Learoyd, Mike Lumb and Martin Soley have all served on the Council throughout the year.

#### **Meetings**

The Parish Council has met 7 times since the last Annual Parish Council meeting. An extraordinary meeting was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2015 to consider a large number of consultations on planning applications.

#### **Planning**

- The Parish Council has considered 20 planning applications throughout the year – a 150% increase on 2013/14!
- Proposals have ranged from a riding arena to extensions to dwellings, flues and agricultural buildings.
- The Parish Council has noted developments with the preparation of Harrogate Borough Council's Local Plan and has been represented at workshops on this subject. The abolition of the settlement hierarchy and emerging policies are likely to have a potential impact on future development in this parish.

#### **Parish Room Proceeds**

The following is a summary of activity throughout the 14/15 Financial Year and of the current position:

- 3 grants were made from the Sawley Small Grants Scheme, totalling £621.70.
- In addition the first annual donation to Sawley in Bloom was made - £320.
- The proceeds also paid for servicing the church clock and legal advice re. Sawley Village Green (a total of £625).
- At the end of the financial year £121,212.93 was placed in longer term investments:
  1. £50,000 – Co-operative Bank, 1.5% – matures on 21/7/15.
  2. £34,920.69 – Cambridge Building Society, 1.5% – matures on 21/7/15.
  3. £36,292.24 – Castle Trust, 2.75% – matures on 1/3/17
- The total balance of the Parish Room Proceeds as at 31/3/15 was £138,928.98.

#### **General**

- The Parish Council has continued to operate the Grantley & Sawley Oil Club which now has 29 members. 8 orders have been placed throughout the year, with an exceptionally low price of 32.35p/l being achieved in January 2015.
- The Parish Council continues to operate the parish caretaker scheme whereby DTMS Ltd from Fellbeck are contracted to carry out 8 hours of maintenance works each month. Tasks undertaken this year include inspecting and maintaining the playgrounds, strimming at Picking Gill and litter picking.
- The Parish Council has taken legal advice in respect of the access and maintenance issues across Sawley Village Green. This matter is ongoing.
- The Parish Council has ascertained the ownership of the common land in the parish. It is looking in to registering those areas which are in its ownership.
- A Himalayan Balsam Picking Party was held in conjunction with volunteers from BT Openreach to reduce the amount of this pernicious weed at Picking Gill. A trial control of the bracken on this site has also been undertaken with the results imminently expected.
- Results from speed monitoring exercises in Sawley are still awaited.
- North Yorkshire County Council's decision to stop paying for verge cutting through villages will have an impact on the Parish Council's budget. The Parish Council continues to contract Farm & Land Services Ltd to carry out regular cuts of the public areas in Grantley and Sawley.
- The Parish Council continues to support the work of Ripon Citizens Advice Bureau and the Friends of the Nidderdale AONB.
- After inviting representatives from Galphay's successful community broadband scheme to address the September 2014 meeting, Councillor Lumb co-ordinated ongoing efforts to bring this service to Grantley. Sawley is now served by a mainstream fibre-optic service.
- The Council has responded to consultations by North Yorkshire County Council on the future of library and bus services in this County.
- The Parish Council will work to meet the requirements of the new Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities by increasing the amount of information it displays on its website: [www.gssepc.btck.co.uk](http://www.gssepc.btck.co.uk)