
GRANTLEY, SAWLEY, SKELDING AND EAVESTONE PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT 2012/13

Councillors

- The following members have served throughout the year: John Scannell (Chair), Martin Kirbitson (Vice-Chair), Trevor Kitchen, June Learoyd, Michael Lumb and Martin Soley.
- Rachel Wigginton served from the 2012 May elections until September.

Meetings

- The Parish Council has met 8 times since the 2012 Annual Parish Council Meeting.
- 6 of these meetings were ordinary meetings of the Council when a full agenda of business was transacted.
- A further 2 meetings to consider planning applications and other urgent items of business were also held.

Planning and Development

- The Parish Council has been consulted on 20 applications during the past year a significant increase on the previous twelve months.
- Proposals ranged from a fly-fishing lake, to a new dwelling in Eavestone, to a holiday let, to a garden room and extensions to existing properties.
- The Council has monitored developments brought about by the Localism Act 2011.
- The Parish Council has continued to object to proposals for a dwelling at the Coal Stock Yard site as it considers that this is an inappropriate location for development and any security concerns can be alleviated through existing consents. The outcome of the owner's latest appeal against refusal of planning permission is awaited.

Parish Room Proceeds

- The total balance of the Parish Room Proceeds as at 31st March 2013 was £147,607.20, of which:
 - £117,277.25 was invested in three separate bonds with Santander, Cambridge Building Society and Skipton Building Society.
 - £3,670.62 is allocated for distribution through the Sawley Small Grants Scheme.
 - £26,243.04 is allocated towards capital projects such as improving recreation provision in Sawley and a new bus shelter.
 - £416.29 is being kept as a 'float' to cover any administrative costs.
- £3,066.37 of interest was earned on the proceeds during the 2012/13 financial year.
- During the 2012/13 financial year the Parish Council awarded £665 in the form of three grants from the Sawley Small Grants Scheme to fund work by the Sawley Arts Group and to help towards the cost of two Sawley residents undertaken educational courses.
- The Parish Council has liaised with Fountains P.C.C. on works to renovate and repair Sawley Church Clock. The majority of these works have been completed at a cost of £5353.
- Two consultations have been carried out with Sawley residents which showed strong support for the provision of trim-trail equipment on Sawley Village Green. A working group is now developing final proposals with the Council's preferred supplier – Playforce.

General

- The Parish Council now has its own website: www.gssep.btck.co.uk which is filled with information about the work of the Parish Council and provides a point of contact for the public to use.
- The Parish Council has funded half the cost of the new noticeboard in Grantley. The board will be used to display Parish Council, community and village hall news. The village hall committee have funded the remaining cost.
- The Clerk, funded by the Council, has set up a successful oil buying co-operative in the parish. 15 households from the parish have joined and two orders (totalling nearly 12,000l) have been placed.
- The Parish Council continues to maintain the playgrounds in Grantley and Sawley and is looking in to options for new equipment at Sawley. A new post office role play panel was installed in Sawley funded by commuted sums, through Harrogate Borough Council.
- The Parish Council adopted a new Code of Conduct as required by the Localism Act 2011. This will be monitored as further training becomes available.
- The Parish Council has continued to operate the parish caretaker scheme which was partially funded by the Yorkshire Dales LEADER scheme.
- The Parish Council has registered with HMRC for PAYE and implemented a payroll system for employment of the Clerk.

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- The Parish Council has corresponded with Highways North Yorkshire to try and seek resolutions to a number of problem roads in the parish. The Council was grateful to former County Councillor Paul Richardson for his involvement in securing resurfacing works in Grantley.
- The Parish Council has supported local MP Julian Smith and Harrogate Borough Council in their efforts to bring faster broadband to this area.
- Liaised with Fountains school and The Grantley Arms about concerns regarding parking in Grantley during the day.