

# RADCLIFFE-ON-TRENT PARISH COUNCIL

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING — THURSDAY APRIL 8, 2010  
GRANGE HALL 7.15pm EVERYONE WELCOME TO ATTEND**

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2009 / 2010**

THE past 12 months have, as is now usual in this and most other parish councils, been busy, and members and staff have tried hard to try to ensure that the work of the council has been carried out as it should on behalf of the near 9,000 residents or so who live in the village.

The 12-month period ending on March 31 earlier this year was an important one for the council in that the newly refurbished The Grange community building, sister unit to our wonderful Grange Hall community facility, came into use during it after a £150,000 refurbishment scheme. The council now has more fine new facilities that are available to the whole parish and we look forward to the success we are confident is before us. The two buildings provide the parish with almost all it could ever want, and activities that have taken place have included a very wide range, from boxing matches to dinner parties, and civil marriage ceremonies to sword fencing.

In the 12-month period in question the council faced many challenges and we feel we coped with them well. One of them in particular was the fact that our status as a Quality Council granted four years ago came to an end and we went through the long and hard process of reaccreditation. And at the end of February we were delighted to be told that the status had been given again to us, for a further four years. We were the first parish council in Nottinghamshire to gain the award and are now the first in the Borough to gain reaccreditation, underlining the fact that we are still running the council the way it should be run and to the total

satisfaction of the National Association of Local Councils.

The continuing problems caused by hooligans is a constant strain on our resources and the pockets of every council tax payer in the parish are hit in that that the council has to meet the bills to repair the damage that is caused.

The actions of the vandals add to the work load of our staff who are already constantly under pressure to ensure that work expected from them is undertaken as required, and both our office and grounds team deserve praise for their efforts.

Close contact is maintained with the Police and the co-operation that exists between us helps to ensure we receive a recognisable service when it is needed. Our local Beat Manager Pc Steve Mathias and his PCSO's are getting known to more and more people and their enthusiasm for the work they undertake is a credit to them.

The work of the council is carried out by its four main committees — Finance and General Purposes, Planning and Environment, Grange Hall and The Grange Management and Amenities — and they meet every six or seven weeks to undertake avenues of work specific to their responsibility. Very often this means that the members are called up both during the daytime and an evening to carry out some duty or other, and the village owes them a thank you, particularly because of course they are all volunteers and are not recompensed in any way for the time they give.

**Coun. Wally Smith**

**Chairman of Radcliffe on Trent Parish Council**

## **AMENITIES REPORT 2009 / 2010**

ANOTHER busy year that began with the reopening of The Grange. We now have a modern, clean and well equipped building that is available for residents to hire at very reasonable rates. The Grange Hall buildings and grounds are a valuable asset to the village.

It is with regret that legislation limits our use of Christmas lights in the village centre. We appeal to traders and house owners to decorate their property. We will continue to increase the lights each year where we are able.

Play parks continue to be a priority, they are inspected regularly and kept to a high standard. A see saw has been added to The Grange playground. We had hoped to benefit from a grant from the Play Builder fund for Valley Road but sadly we were not successful. The Severn Trent Water works at Valley Road continue to frustrate, but we are assured it will be started in the near future. Although we have lost the

grant we remain committed to refurbishing this area.

The cemetery is nearing completion of the 5 year plan, the new hedging will improve the area and our own ground staff will now maintain this area.

Cliff Top remains a favourite with both residents and visitors alike, sadly the few can make it miserable for others by allowing their dogs to foul and not pick it up. Likewise rubbish is being thrown over the cliff, please can we all tackle and question these offenders, or inform the council and we will take action.

Your Amenities Committee remains committed to maintaining the high standards that the village demand please enjoy them.

**Coun. Mrs Josephine Spencer**

**Chairman of Amenities Committee**

# ANNUAL REPORT 2009 / 2010

## **FINANCE REPORT 2009 / 2010**

DURING the 2009/2010 period we have managed our finances within the budget set at the beginning of the year.

The major expenditure for the year was the work for the restoration of The Grange, an important asset to the village. I am pleased to report this project came in under budget.

Careful management of our reserves meant we only had to borrow 50% of the cost of the works instead of the predicted 75%.

For 2010/2011 our proposed revenue expenditure is £334,760, our income is predicted to be £87,870.

With capital repayments of £29,040 we have a precept requirement of £275,930.

This means for a Band D property the council tax precept for parishioners in Radcliffe will be £83.79 an increase of just 83 pence or a 1% increase on last year.

I am, alongside our auditors, happy that the financial affairs of the parish council in this village are managed professionally and all monies received are used for the benefit of the residents of Radcliffe On Trent.

**Coun. Gordon Moore**

**Chairman of Finance and General Purposes Committee**

## **PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT REPORT 2009 / 2010**

THIS year we have two large schemes in the area that are working towards submitting planning applications.

The first of these is the brownfield site at the former RAF base at Newton, not in our planning area but of considerable interest to us because of the potential impact on the traffic flow on Shelford Road.

The site is derelict and cannot be left like that, but unlike the Asylum Centre and Eco Town we do have a say on what will happen there. This is in the form of an advisory committee to the company that will be making the planning application. The committee is made up of councillors from the surrounding area.

The application is expected to be for 500 to 1,000 houses (in addition to 165 houses that already have planning permission). It will be divided into different character areas and will include employment provision to cut down the need for commuting.

The second application is expected to be to build up to 450 houses behind the RSPCA. This site is on Green Belt land and it is also shown on the Environment Agency's map as an area liable to flooding.

My view on this is that the Green Belt should be preserved and that it is not for building on. As for building on the floodplain, I wouldn't wish it on anyone to have their house flooded even if they could insure it in the first place.

To give you a guide as to what the numbers mean, Radcliffe has about 3300 houses.

Now for the usual request. We always welcome feedback so if you have any strong feelings about these schemes one way or the other we would like to hear from you.

**Coun. Rodney Brears**

**Chairman of Planning and Environment Committee**

## **GRANGE HALL & THE GRANGE REPORT 2009 / 2010**

THE Grange Hall and The Grange Management Committee exists to oversee the management of these two magnificent buildings that are in the heart of Radcliffe, on behalf of the residents. This year has seen the completion of the old Grange and I am sure that all who have seen it will agree that it was money wisely spent, and Radcliffe now has two great buildings of which it can be proud.

The parish council have maintained the old pricing structure and a room can be booked for as little as £4.00 per hour making it affordable for all.

The Grange Hall has been used this year for dinners, dances, dramas, salsa, slimming, keep fit, yoga, films, quizzes, weddings, and fairs, it's first pantomime and a first food festival, parties and pilates and much more!!

Over the year it has helped to raise thousands of pounds for local, national and international charities and organisations, as well as creating lots of fun for people who have been here to events. It has become the heart of Radcliffe.

I would like to thank the Grange Hall and The Grange Management Committee for all their ideas, time and input and the team of staff who manage the buildings on a day to day basis, they keep the bookings flowing in, keep it cleaned, maintained, safe and secure.

These are truly well used and treasured buildings — and are the envy of many other local villages and towns. I am sure that all organisations who have benefitted from any fundraising held here are grateful.

**Coun. Mrs Melanie Mckechnie**

**Chairman of Grange Hall and The Grange Management Committee**

*If we don't know the answer we may know someone who does.....*

⇒ The parish council can be contacted on 0115 933 5808 or by email at [clerk@rotpc.com](mailto:clerk@rotpc.com)

⇒ or it may be you need to talk to Rushcliffe Borough Council on such matters as collection of council tax, refuse collection, street cleaning, off-street parking, planning, sports, recreation and swimming pool facilities and provision of accommodation for the homeless, and they can be contacted on 0115 981 9911

⇒ or Notts County Council on 0115 982 3823 to talk about such matters as highways, pavements, street lighting, on street parking, Social Services and education

⇒ Nottinghamshire Police can be contacted on 0300 300 9999 ext. 6262 for non emergency calls

⇒ Radcliffe on Trent Advice Centre operates on a Thursday morning at Grange Hall and can be contacted on 07968 642243

⇒ Radcliffe Health Centre is available on 0115 933 2948 (emergencies) or 0115 933 3737 for appointment