

Annual Report of Astley Village Parish Council

Year April 2014 to March 2015

The Council

During the year ending March 2014 the Parish Council worked hard to maintain and improve the village for its residents.

Councillors

During the period the Council was chaired by Councillor Laura Lennox with Councillor Rod Fraser as the Vice Chairman.

In this year the Council ran with one vacant Councillor seat. All the Council seats will be up for election in May 2015.

Astley Village Newsletter

The newsletter was given new consideration by the Council and will continue to be the Council's primary way of communicating with residents with two issues per year covering all aspects of the Council's work and will be distributed to every household.

It underwent a re-design in the last issue and is now a glossy A5 leaflet style, which has been well received by residents.

Website

The website, for those of you with internet access, is updated regularly and provides much information on the Council's finance, activities, projects and developments in the village. In addition it contains all Council minutes and documents relating to its business.

Council Employees

The village's two village caretakers, Ronnie and Jamie, contribute so much to the excellent condition of our village, litter picking, tidying and doing other tasks such as putting up the Speed Indicator Device, planting up the flower beds and more. Debra Platt, the Clerk, also continued her excellent work for the Council.

Value for Money

The Council spends the money it collects from residents wisely and use it is for the benefit of Astley Village residents. Based on a band D council tax property in the village, the approximate cost is 40p per week for the Parish Council's services during the year. This is collected by Chorley Council and costs a total of £21.16 for the year. We hope you agree this is very good value for money.

The Council increased the village improvements budget to continue with the additional works in the village centre. This year it joined forces with Chorley Council to help it fund the changes in the centre with the new fencing, area adjacent to the community centre and noticeboards. It also installed a new flower bed opposite the Broadfields junction and new seat at the bus stop by Great Meadow.

Summary

The Council looked forward to the challenges it faces in the coming years, due to changes to the Tax Base figures for the Parish Council. These changes will affect its ability to raise the same levels of precept it has done in the past and may affect the level of services to its residents. This is evident by some cost cutting measures it has implemented such as the reduction in the number of meetings held in the year, from 10 to 6, making meetings now every other month and newsletters down to two per year.

Laura Lennox
Chairman, April 2015