

Astley Village Parish Council Newsletter

April 2014

Chairman
Cllr Laura Lennox
Judeland
Tel: 260264

Vice Chairman
Cllr Rod Fraser
Great Meadow
Tel: 07926 848426

Cllr Ian Handley
Broadfields
Tel: 410004

Cllr Mike Handley
Browns Hey
Tel: 275228

Cllr Chris Lennox
Judeland
Tel: 260264

Cllr Matthew Lynch
Buckshaw Hall Close
Tel: 410257

Cllr John Nuttall
Great Meadow
Tel: 234552

Cllr Keith Robinson
Long Croft Meadow
Tel: 278686

Cllr Eric Williams
Ravensthorpe
Tel: 369451

Council Clerk
Mrs Debra Platt
9 Ambleside Avenue
Euxton, PR7 6NX
Tel. 01257 234004
clerk@avpc.org.uk

Meetings - Council Meetings for 2014 are on Wednesday in Astley Village Community Centre beginning at 7.00pm:
7 May, 2 July,
3 September, 5 November

Newsletter is to be published in Spring and Winter and delivered to every Astley Village property.

Notice Boards are located: at the junction of Chancery Road and Hallgate and the other on the wall by the Chemist.

Website - The Council's website is kept up to date with news, council papers and events - see address at the foot of the front and back pages.

Precept set for 2014/5...

The Council set its precept budget for the coming financial year and froze the cost to residents.

The figure has been maintained at £21.16, per average band D household. This is an average payment per household of approximately 40p per week.

The Parish Council provides services such as the Village Caretakers who litter pick all around the village, the newsletter, the Council's website, maintaining its amenities such as noticeboards, Christmas celebrations, and creates new features or enhances areas, such as the village green with new seats, information board and planting. Copy of basic budget on page 3.

The Parish Council also supports local groups and may be able to assist local groups applying for funding through its scheme, see article page 3.

Councillor Vacancy...

There is a vacancy for a Parish Councillor which has arisen due to the resignation of Connie Joyce.

The vacancy is to be filled by co-option so if you are interested in serving as a Councillor, write to the Clerk giving details of interests, experience and reasons for wishing to serve.

Legislation changes now means younger adults can become Councillors from the age of 18 years.

The Council's website has more details on being a Councillor, eligibility criteria, the procedure for a casual vacancy etc.

Chairman's Message...

Welcome to this edition of the parish newsletter.

Dear Residents

There was a large turnout for the Christmas carol singing event near the Christmas tree in December. The evening was mild and dry and so lots of people joined us for festive refreshments in the community centre after the carols. However the mild winter weather, has also meant that we have been subjected to hurricane force winds on several occasions. Trees along Chancery Road and along the path to Westway ponds were damaged. Parish Councillors ensured that dangerous branches were reported to Chorley Council and were dealt with quickly.

Two of our Parish Councillors have been engaged personally in environmental work. Matthew Lynch cleared a forgotten footpath and Keith Robinson has been planting snowdrops along the newly renovated steps in Astley Park, along with children from Buckshaw Primary School.

Residents of Astley Village can contact the Parish Clerk or Councillors about environmental problems and we will notify the relevant authority or ask our village caretakers to deal with minor issues.

In January the Council set the budget and agreed to leave the precept, that each household pays, the same as last year.

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place in May. All residents are welcome to attend this meeting or any of our bi-monthly Council meetings.

The daffodils throughout the village are in full flower as I write, including some newly planted ones in the large raised bed outside the Community Centre. The Parish Council has asked Chorley Council to renovate this area through its Neighbourhood Working programme. Hopefully, I will be able to report in the Autumn Newsletter if our request has been accepted.

**Councillor Laura Lennox
Chairman**



Rail electrification and access to Buckshaw Parkway Station

Residents may be aware of the planned electrification of the railway line between Manchester and Preston by Network Rail which will be undertaken between May and December 2014. The work involves ground lowering and rebuilding of a number of bridges in the Chorley area and will result in the closure of the line at various stages. Replacement bus services will be provided. There will also be road closures which will have an impact on traffic in Chorley.

The Parish Council has been keen to keep up to date with the electrification plans and to seek to minimise disruption for local residents. Councillor Matthew Lynch has attended meetings arranged by Network Rail to make representations on behalf of the Village.

Councillor Lynch has also been working with Lindsay Hoyle MP to campaign for better access to Buckshaw Parkway station and the Parish Council has written to Network Rail in support. With access only currently from the Buckshaw Village side, those people from Astley Village wishing to use the station from Euxton Lane have to take a significant detour, which could be resolved if a new pedestrian access to platform 2 was created. Whilst there are issues relating to Runshaw College and loss of ticket revenue, all parties involved agreed to give further consideration to the feasibility of creating access to platform 2.

Cllr Chris Lennox

Changes to Astley Village Post Office

Residents may be aware of the recent consultation about proposed changes to the Village Post Office. This will involve the relocation of the Post Office to the retail counter within McColls; longer hours; and the continued provision of most of the current services. The proposed change date is in April when the Post Office would close for a short time whilst the counter is relocated.

The Parish Council welcomed the longer opening hours but in their response to the consultation drew attention to:

- Concerns about the security of staff and customers on an open retail counter
- The loss of privacy and confidentiality for customers
- The loss of some services such as international parcels, transcash and payment by cheque
- The shortness of the consultation period, timescale for change and the lack of any clear layout plans
- The potential for longer queues and lack of space

Parish councillors now understand that these changes may be delayed until after the summer.

Cllr Chris Lennox

Paths in Astley Village



Photograph by David Hurst courtesy of The Chorley Guardian

Astley Village is fortunate to have a large number of footpaths but these can become problematic for residents when they are not cleared.

Councillor Matthew Lynch spent a weekend clearing one footpath, which had become filled with thick mud, leaves and grass cuttings. The path runs alongside Buckshaw Primary School and leads on to Great Meadow. Councillor Lynch decided to do the work himself after being contacted by residents. He has received very positive comments and after liaising with Chorley Council, who own the path, is pleased to report that they will clean it on a regular basis.

Councillor Lynch has also been working with Places for People to clear paths they are responsible for. He has suggested to them that they hire a mechanical cleaner to remove the worst of the moss at least once a year.

If any resident is aware of paths in the Village that need clearing or cleaning they should get in touch with parish councillors or the Clerk to the Council. We will then investigate who is responsible for the path and request the local Council (Chorley or Lancashire) or Places for People to add it to their maintenance schedule.

Cllr Chris Lennox

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on

Wednesday, 7th May 2014
start 7.00 pm

Astley Village Community Centre
Hallgate, Astley Village

This meeting is held for the public
it is a statutory meeting of local government
electors registered for Astley Village.

It is a public meeting and the electors opportunity to
raise questions or put forward any suggestions to the
meeting. Your support will be appreciated.

This meeting is the Annual Parish Meeting, not a meeting of
Astley Village Parish Council. The Annual Parish Meeting is
open to all electors and must be held once a year between
the 1 March and 1 June. It may be summoned by the
chairman of a Parish Council (if there is one) under Local
Government Act 1972, Schedule 12 Para 17 (1) and shall, if
present, preside at this meeting.

Laura Lennox
Chairman of
Astley Village Parish Council

Annual Report 2013/2014...

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.

Jayne Thomas and Connie Joyce both retired and Councillors thanked them both for their commitment to the Council. Eric Williams joined in September 2013 but there remains one vacancy for a Councillor.

Astley Village Newsletter

The newsletter was given much consideration by the Council at its budget setting meeting. It will continue to be the Council's primary way of communicating with residents but, some cost cutting measures needed to be made. It will now be produced twice a year, covering all aspects of the Council's work and distributed to every household.

Website

The website, for those of you with internet access, is updated regularly and provides a wealth of 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

No review of the year would be complete without paying tribute to the work done by our two village caretakers, Ronnie and Jamie, who contribute so much to the excellent condition of our village. Debra Platt, the Clerk, also continued her excellent work for the Council.

Value for Money

The Council strives to spend the money it collects from residents wisely and it is used 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.

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

Financial Summary

Summary of Receipts and Payments		
Year: 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014		£
Receipts		
Balance carried forward		5,661
Precept	22,980	
Bank Interest	9	
Advertisements	75	
Misc income	240	
Total Receipts		<u>23,304</u>
Receipts Total		28,965
Expenditure		
Administration (elections, employees, office)	14,141	
Council (newsletter, grants, training)	1,590	
Projects	1,061	
Vat on purchases	265	
Total Expenditure		<u>17,057</u>
Balance (total receipts less total payments)		11,908

Precept for 2014/2015...

Precept Budget for 2014/2015			Carry Fwd	Precept Budget
Admin	01-1	Room Hire		75
	01-2	Office/Sundry		550
	01-3	Insurance		600
	01-4	Auditors/Accounts		150
	01-5	Election	2,300	1,200
	01-6	Employees		12,600
	01-7	Employee Gratuities Fund	2,250	-
Council	02-1	Newsletter/Publications		550
	02-2	Village Caretaker		1,100
	02-3	Training		150
	02-4	Grant fund/local projects & groups		500
	02-5	Other/emergency/subs		150
	02-6	General Reserve	6,260	-
Plan	03-1	Christmas		250
	03-2	Village Improvements		500
	03-3	Flowers/planters/seats/entrance		350
	03-4	Litter bin programme		350
			10,810	19,075
		Less Balances/incomes		- 262
		Band D resident pays £21.16		<u>18,813</u>

Annual Council Meeting...

The Annual Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 7th May following the Annual Parish Meeting (as noted on page 2).

At the Annual Council Meeting the Chairman is chosen by the Council.

Small Project Fund...

The Parish Council offers funding assistance to local organised groups for local projects.

The grants available are in the hundreds, not thousands.

If your group needs could benefit from assistance with a project or purchase of a piece of equipment, submit an application form with some details.

Contact the Parish Council for a copy of the grant criteria or see them on the website.



Chorley 269021 or 246225
 Crimestoppers
 0800 555 111
 General Police enquiries
 line 101

Astley Village and Buckshaw Village
 neighbourhood policing team:

CBM PC Mike Payne, PCSO Chris O'Lone,
 PCSO Wade Brown, PCSO Vicki Cochrane

PACT Meetings are held at alternate
 venues below, 7pm to 8pm:

AV: Ravensthorpe, off Merefield,
 ASTLEY VILLAGE

BV: Small meeting room, Buckshaw
 Village Community Centre, Unity Place,
 BUCKSHAW VILLAGE

Wednesday 9th April 2014 - BV
 Wednesday 21st May 2014 - AV
 Wednesday 2nd July 2014 - BV
 Wednesday 13th August 2014 - AV
 Wednesday 24th September 2014 - BV
 Wednesday 5th November 2014 - AV
 Wednesday 17th December 2014 - BV

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 any of the advertisers contained in this publication and is
 unable to accept liability for anyone using their services.

EVERYDAY ADVENTURE ON YOUR DOORSTEP!

We're opening a Scout Group in Astley
 Village and we want you to be part of it.

Volunteering for Scouts is easier than you
 think. Whether you can spare an hour a
 week or a few days a year, we have
 hundreds of opportunities both behind the
 scenes and working with young people.
 With full support and training, you can
 experience the fun, friendship and
 adventure of Scouting for
 yourself, all on a flexible
 basis.

Contact Andy on
 07827 344136 for more
 information.



Spring in Astley Village



Newsletter designed and published by
 Debra Platt 01257 234004, printed by
 Townsend Print 01257 268951.

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