

Newsletter

Issue 36, Spring 2016



www.avpc.org.uk

Chairman's Message

Welcome to our Spring 2016 Newsletter.

First let me begin by thanking all those who turned up to sing carols in December. Special thanks must go to Parklands Band, Astley Park WI and Astley Village Beavers and Cubs. The numbers attending meant that we ran out of Carol sheets and refreshments but we will be ready for December 2016!

One of the first duties of 2016, was to set the parish budget, which we decided to keep the same as last year.

Residents will have seen the new planter and new planter base to the Parish Millennium notice board at the entrance to Hallgate. This is the result of a "Neighbourhood Working" project with Chorley Council. We wanted to improve the very popular entrance to Astley Park through Hallgate and enhance the street scene of Chancery Road. We certainly hope that the floral display and new stone work will do just that. Also Chorley Council have promised to have a second attempt at a wild flower meadow at the junction of the Farthings and Chancery Road.

We hope that the next Neighbourhood Working project will deliver a handrail down to the subway from Ravensthorpe. After such a wet, windy and mild winter this does not seem urgent but I am sure the frost and ice



will return and a handrail will help to prevent accidents in the future.

Many residents will have noticed the work being carried out by the Woodland Trust on Westway. As I write the woods look a mess. The Parish Clerk has written to the Trust to find out when the work will be completed. Let us hope that by the time you read this our pleasant green boundary will have been restored!

After the flooding and destruction of the grass verges at the Derian House end of the village it is now pleasing to see the verges have been levelled and seeded ready for the spring weather to do it's magic.

Much time has been spent over the last few months discussing the bus service in the village and the knock on effects. The Parish Council, Councillor Matt Lynch and MP Lindsay Hoyle have

Astley Village Parish Council

Annual Report , 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016

The Council

During the year ending March 2016 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 Keith Robinson as the Vice Chairman.

In this reported year the Council was subject to an election, which was returned uncontested with five elected Councillors, being Cllrs Rod Fraser, Chris Lennox, Laura Lennox, Matthew Lynch and Keith Robinson.

The remaining five seats were filled by co-option at the first meeting following, which was in May, then the Council was joined by Councillors Tim Almond, Allan Bridge, Ian Handley, Douglas Hope and John McAndrew.

In this year we also lost two former Councillors. In February 2016, former Councillor Eric Williams died, he had been a councillor from 2013 to May 2015.

Dennis Sowards died in December 2015. Dennis was one of the founder members of the residents group set up some ten years or so before the village was given permission to have a Parish Council in 1991. Village members set

up the group which campaigned and ran events for some 10 years before the official Parish Council arrived. He served 20 years on the Parish Council until retiring in 2011.

Website

This was given consideration this year and due to new legislation and requirements to publish additional information the Council was able to apply for a grant to aid it in satisfying the new rules. Council received a Government Transparency grant of just over £900 to enable it to have a new website built and buy a lap top computer. The lap top has now been purchased and the new website is currently being built and will be on line in April (see article on page 3).

Newsletter

The A5 format newsletter was well received and given praise by residents. It is published twice a year covering all aspects of the Council's work and is distributed to every household.



Council Employees

The 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 good work for the Council identifying and pursuing aids such as the transparency grant.

Village Plan

The Council reviewed the village plan during the year, which was published in the newsletter. The plan informed the budget setting which was carried out in January for the new year beginning the 1st April. Some of the projects will be worked on with Chorley Council whilst others the parish council will look to aid or develop itself.

Value for Money

The Council spends the money it collects from residents wisely and 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 is looking forward to the coming year and plans to consider at future meetings improved communication methods, such as maybe using Facebook or Twitter, or both, to further build on its new website capabilities.

Laura Lennox
Chairman

LOCAL COUNCIL TAX HELD

The Parish Council held the local element of the Council Tax for local Astley Village residents to £21.16 for the coming year of 2016/2017.

This gives the Council £19,776 to carry out its plans and projects in the village, and equates to approximately 40p per week per household (based on an average band D property).

ASTLEY VILLAGE BUDGET 2016/2017		Carry Fwd	Budget 2016/2017
ADMINISTRATION			
01-1	Room Hire		75
01-2	Office/Sundry		600
01-3	Insurance		350
01-4	Auditors/Accounts		150
01-5	Election/by-election/polls	3,831	
01-6	Employees		14,000
01-7	Employee Contingency Fund	2,250	
COUNCIL			
02-1	Newsletter/Publications		800
02-2	Village Caretaker		800
02-3	Training		150
02-4	Grant fund/local projects & groups		500
02-6	General Reserve	9,690	
PLAN			
03-1	Christmas		250
03-2	Village Improvements	2,042	
TRANSPARENCY GRANT			
04		532	
		18,345	17,675
Precept request @£21.16 (per average band D property)			19,776

NEIGHBOURHOOD WORKING

New stone planters have been installed at the entrance to Hallgate as a Neighbourhood Working project with Chorley Council. Following all the work that has been done to improve Astley Park it seemed a good idea to improve the entrance to the park through the busy Hallgate car park. It also provided the opportunity to enhance our village centre. Hopefully by the time you read this the planters will have been filled too.



New flower beds at the junction of Hallgate installed through the Neighbourhood Working projects group, Chorley Council working together with Astley Village

Councillor Matt Lynch said, "The original intention was to create a new gateway to the Park that not only added to work already undertaken, but also enhanced our village. The final result surpassed my expectations, and it has already received positive comments from residents and visitors alike."



Councillor Fraser said, "It made me feel proud of the place that I live in and I hope residents will feel the same. I was once told that parish councils have no clout and could never get things done, well here is the outcome. Parish Councillors work with all agencies, members of the public, housing associations and on their own initiative."

The long awaited repainting of the zebra crossing has also improved the look of this area. We understand that another flower bed is to be installed by Places for People at the entrance to Great Meadow possibly being built by the same stone mason.



Photo courtesy of Councillor Rod Fraser

Over the past few years seats, flower planters and a new notice board have been installed around the village by the Parish Council as we continue to try and improve our environment (see over).



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DUTCH BARN CLOSE

Residents will be aware of a proposal to create an access road from Dutch Barn Close onto Edgefield. Astley Village Parish Council objected to the proposal on the grounds of the impact on traffic and parking on Edgefield, Studfold and Foxcote by those accessing the hospital and the on-site nursery.

There were concerns about the use of this as a through route to avoid Euxton Lane and the potential for future housing development on the site. The Parish Council also sought information from the Hospital about whether they would seal off Dutch Barn Close from the Hospital side.

Councillor Matthew Lynch said "It was clear from the number of residents who contacted me with similar concerns that we had to make sure every effort was made for this application to be refused and I made representations on behalf of residents to Chorley Council and our MP".

The application was subsequently withdrawn by the developers prior to Chorley Council's Development Control Committee hearing. Whilst the Parish Council welcomes this, we will monitor future attempts by the developers to put forward any similar proposal which does not serve the best interests of Astley Village.

Councillor Matt Lynch



DEFIBRILLATORS

A further project coming from the Neighbourhood Working Scheme is to identify strategic public sites within our Neighbourhood area (Astley Village, Euxton and Buckshaw Village) to place publically accessible defibrillator devices.

If you have a suggested location please let us know so we can feed this in to the project when we consult experts regarding the placing of the devices.

POST OFFICE CHANGES

The Council was contacted regarding some customer difficulties during the relocation of Post Office services in R.S. McColl's.

I have been working with the shop, and area managers and a number of new measures have been put in place.

Staff training had been a concern and this has been addressed by bringing in a more local trainer who is available at shorter notice if and when staff need help. The area manager secured extra funding to enable 10 extra staff hours to fill a shortfall of cover and I have noticed a good improvement both in services and customer relations.

We have to appreciate that most staff had never worked in a post office environment, and to learn everything in such a short time was and still is an impossible task.

I would strongly suggest that if any members of the public have any concerns or questions they contact the shop manager who will be more than happy to help.



Councillor Rod Fraser

PARKING PROBLEMS

The Parish Council continues to receive complaints about parking around Derian House.

As the photographs show, the parking affects Chancery Road, Buckshaw Hall Close, Long Croft Meadow and the drive leading to Derian House itself. The problem is caused by conferences and meetings, not parents and visitors.

Parking also causes concern on the corner of Hallgate at the start and end of the school day. The school send letters to parents asking them to use the car park and not obstruct the bus stop.

The Parish Council has asked for parking restrictions to reduce these problems but have been told that these cases do not meet the criteria. However it will continue to monitor the situation and lobby for a remedy.



BUCKSHAW SCHOOL AND NURSERY

Last September the nursery at Buckshaw Primary School became a nursery class of the school. The voluntary management committee that had run the nursery decided to use the residual monies of the charitable company to fund an extension to the popular nursery and an additional classroom for the school, as shown in the pictures. The nursery class is now run through the governing body, like the rest of the school. The nursery class still offers flexible places for two to four year olds, as availability allows. Parents wishing to see the nursery or book a place for their child should call at the school office. Places for this year are very limited but more will become available in September.



FRIENDS OF ASTLEY PARK

Friends of Astley Park have recently helped the Council to plant reeds and wetland wild flowers in and around the newly excavated reed bed site adjacent to Park Road. As these grow they will transform the area and start to filter pollutants from the river where it enters the Park. We will also be assisting in planting native trees and shrubs in the area which will, as they grow and water quality improves, help attract a wider range of insects, birds and small mammals to the reed bed and the whole area downstream.

We are thrilled that another of our projects is coming to fruition, but it would not have happened without the Council and Environment Agency.



make from the beech saplings we take out and they create a haven for insects, birds and small mammals.

Our recent exhibition in the Farmhouse Gallery, held in collaboration with Chorley Natural History Society, was well attended and we received many supportive comments.

Just starting is a collaborative project with Astley Park Special School. The pupils are to grow woodland wild flower plants for the Park.

In an ongoing collaboration with Buckshaw Primary School, Astley Village, the children are growing oak saplings for the Park from acorns they collected there.

With the council's support we continue to make the park even better and that, combined with ongoing maintenance work, means that we need and would welcome new members.

For information and contact details please visit our web site at www.friendsofastleypark.com or contact Keith Woan on 01257 278759.

Barbara and Maurice Houghton



You may have noticed, as you walk through the woodland area, piles of branches and twigs. These are nature piles, which we

KEEPING THE VILLAGE TIDY

Hello, just wanted to introduce myself. I am Carol Roscoe, Chorley Council's Neighbourhood Officer for Astley Village, Euxton and Buckshaw Village.

Our main role is dealing with environmental crime, ie fly tipping, littering and dog fouling but we also deal with animal welfare and pest control.

We work very closely with the police doing regular patrols with PCSOs and visit schools providing educational talks about our role in the council.

If anyone has any problems with the above my colleagues and I will try and resolve them.

Recently we have had complaints about fly tipping in Astley Village, the majority of it was green waste, this is just a reminder that even garden waste dumped anywhere is still classed as fly tipping, it may not be as unsightly as the usual fly tip but it is still detrimental to the area and can harbour vermin.

Our suggestion is chop up your bushes, trees and grass cuttings and put them in your brown bin or create your own compost collection.

Also if anyone does have large items the council will collect at a



cost of £17.00 for a single item and £31.50 for up to five items, electrical items will be collected free of charge further

information can be found on the council website.

Throughout the year we organise clean up days along with Places for People in February we had a very successful skip day with members of the public helping out.

If anyone needs to contact me regarding any of the above I am available on 01257 515151 Email: carol.roscoe@chorley.gov.uk

01257 696 050

E:mark.booker@independentlivinglancashire.co.uk

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CHORLEY FLOWER SHOW

Chorley Flower Show is back for its second year after a fantastic inaugural event that saw 10,000 visitors enjoy a floral extravaganza, which was nominated as a finalist in the Lancashire Tourism Awards.

The event, which is being run by Chorley Council in the beautiful setting of Astley Park, will attract thousands of green-fingered enthusiasts over the weekend 30 and 31 July.

The focal point for the show will be the Hall itself, as well as the Grand Floral Marquee, with the country's top exhibitors displaying their talents.

There was lots of brilliant feedback from the first show last year and this has been taken on board to make this years event bigger and better and we hope to attract more than 15,000 people this year.



Photograph courtesy of Councillor Allan Bridge, taken 4 March in snow

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(closed for lunch 1.00pm - 1.30pm)

ASTLEY VILLAGE SCOUT GROUP

Well it's been a couple of busy months at the Scout group, we had our 1st ever Beaver and Cub sleepover at Bibby's Farm in January where the Beavers and Cubs had a go at archery, cork guns and indoor climbing. The Cubs also had a go at axe throwing...

January was also a proud moment for six of our Cubs as they were presented with their Chief Scout Silver awards (this is the highest achievement badge available to cubs) at the town hall.

Our Beavers have also been high achievers and three of our Beavers have received their Chief Scout Bronze awards (this is the highest achievement badge available to Beavers)

We have also been out and about with a Beaver visit to St Laurence's Church for a talk about the history of the church and even got the chance to ring the bells.

The Cubs were visited by PCSO Ray who gave them a talk about personal safety and let them sit in the patrol car!! (in case you were wondering you can fit 16 Cubs and 3 Beavers into a police car in one go)

In February we started our first Scout troop. A few of the Scouts took part in a night hike which involved taking a hike of approximately 8 miles setting off at 10.30pm.

We would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to Cllr Matt Lynch for his local councillor grant. This has

been a fantastic boost to the group and we will put it to good use.

If your child would like to take part in any of our sections, the details are:

Beavers- 6 to 8 meet on a Wednesday 6.15pm to 7.15pm

Cubs 8 to 10 ½ meet on a Thursday 6.15pm to 7.45pm

Scouts 10 ½ to 14 meet on a Wednesday 7.30pm to 9.00pm

If you would like to know more about any section or would like to volunteer, please contact Craig Rivers on astleyvillagescouts@gmail.com or 07921 068 956





As we look forward to lighter nights, Spring flowers and hopefully nicer weather, Astley Park WI Members are marking their diaries for future events.

December saw our Institute hosting the refreshments for the Carol Concert, also trying our artistic talents at making Penguins!

For 2016 we have varied Speakers - Donna Hughes to describe a 17th Century Housewife, Flower arranging

by Avant Garden Centre, Arctic Dog Sledding, Hearing dogs, plus a Belly dancing session to name but a few. A visit has been arranged to Salmesbury Hall in June with afternoon tea.

The Magnolia tree planted to celebrate 100 years of the Women's Institute continues to flourish and we look forward to a lovely display later on.

We meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm and extend a warm welcome to new members, why not join us?

M Bonnick



LOCAL POLICE

Subscribe to the "IN THE KNOW" police messaging service

specifically lined to your area, you can do it by following link www.lancashire.police.uk/intheknow or you can phone the office on Chorley 246225 to speak to us.

The team for Astley Village comprises of PC Mike Payne and two PCSOs PCSO Lee Reed and PCSO Raymond Chadwick

PC 3252 Mike Payne

CBM Buckshaw/Astley Village
Mob: 07595074714

PACT Meetings are held at Ravensthorpe Lounge, off Merefield from 7pm to 8pm

Wednesday, 4th May 2016

BUSES THROUGH THE VILLAGE

The evening and Sunday service of the 109a which operates between Chorley and Chorley Hospital via Astley Village was to be taken off the road by operators Stagecoach after Lancashire County Council withdrew funding, as it seeks to save over £64 million from its budget. However following concerns from residents and local councillors, Chorley Council with the support of MP Lindsay Hoyle and county councillors, have managed to secure a deal with LCC. Chorley Council will fund 70 per cent of the cost of operating the route with the county council funding 30 per cent, initially for six months.

Astley and Buckshaw Councillor Matt Lynch said: "We've got six months to show just how important this service is. So we need now to get the message out to residents in Astley Village that they must use this service or we will lose it."

The news is a second boost for bus users in Astley Village after pressure from local councillors, the MP and residents persuaded Stagecoach to restore the link from the hospital, along Chancery Road, to Tesco and along Southport Road, to Chorley Interchange.

COUNCIL INFO

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

Visit the website for information such as meeting minutes and other interesting information.

Full Council Meetings are held on Wednesday's in Astley Village Community Centre beginning at 7.00pm, the forthcoming dates are:

**4 May, 6 July,
7 September, 2 November**

Newsletters are published in Spring and Winter and delivered solus to all Astley Village homes, a circulation of nearly 1500.

The Council has two notice boards located one at the junction of Chancery Road and Hallgate and the other, in the village centre next to the Community Centre.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

The Council's notice board mounted on the shop wall, near to the Pharmacy entrance, is now being used as a Community notice board where groups can post messages about Community activities, events etc.

It is proving popular and is now always full of events.

Send any notices in to the Council Clerk.

ASTLEY VILLAGE PARISH COUNCILLORS

Chairman

Cllr Laura Lennox
Judeland, Tel: 260264

Vice Chairman

Cllr Keith Robinson
Long Croft Meadow, Tel: 278686

Cllr Tim Almond
Long Croft Meadow, Tel: 07496 997 690

Cllr Allan Bridge
Clough Acre, Tel: 231338

Cllr Rod Fraser
Great Meadow, Tel: 07926 848426

Cllr Ian Handley
Broadfields, Tel: 410004

Cllr Douglas Hope
Great Meadow, Tel: 07787 747669

Cllr Chris Lennox
Judeland, Tel: 260264

Cllr Matthew Lynch
Buckshaw Hall Close, Tel: 410257

Cllr John McAndrew
The Farthings, Tel: 262914

SMALL GRANTS FUND

Astley Village Parish Council offers funding assistance to local organised groups for local projects. The grants available are in the hundreds, not thousands.

If your group would like to apply, all they need to do is submit an application form with some details.

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



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