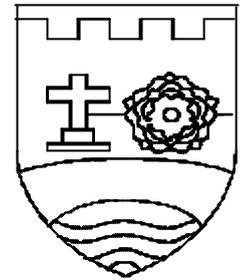


Croston Parish Council Newsletter



March 2009

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Tel

Anne Peet (Chairman)	600012
Beryl Thompson (Vice-Chairman)	600900
Kath Almond	600368
John Forrest	601216
Chris Gibbons	601962
John Kearton	600766
Stefan Mosalski	601300
Stephen Parkinson	601025
Sally Thompson	600625

Alan Platt (Clerk to the Council)
can be contacted at:

9 Ambleside Avenue
Euxton
Chorley
PR7 6NX

Tel: 01257 234003

e-mail:

crostonpc@btinternet.com

website:

www.crostonparishcouncil.org.uk

Parish Council Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month in The Old School commencing at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Noticeboards

Keep up to date with Parish Council activities. The noticeboards are located on the Village Green and outside the Co-op.

Local non-for-profit organisations wishing to include A4 sized posters to publicise forthcoming events etc should contact the Clerk or Councillors.

Advertisements

The Parish Council does not endorse or recommend any of the advertisers contained in this publication.

Council Tax Freeze!!

For the coming financial year the Parish Council has held the Parish Precept. The amount payable by Croston residents will remain the same for 2009-2010.

Given the current financial climate the Councillors felt they should assist residents wherever possible so, by careful budgeting and prudent financial management, the Council has been able to avoid an increase in the portion of residents council tax bills, payable for the precept.

Despite the lack of an increase in cost to residents there are no planned reductions in services provided by the Parish Council. In fact, some funds will be set aside for a major project to improve the Recreation Ground. We shall also be seeking grant funding towards this project and, if we are unsuccessful in our applications, we will have to build funds up for the project over the coming years.

Services provided by the Parish Council from the Parish Precept include the Village Lengthsman, the ongoing maintenance of the Recreation Ground and Play Area and the Village Green, mowing of the Recreation Field and the Village Green and a number of the grass verges throughout the village. The Christmas Tree and lights, spring and summer planting of the tubs and beds around the village, wayside seats, emptying of dog waste bins and the relevant insurance cover are all also provided by the Parish Council.

Village Green

The Council's project to improve the seating and noticeboard areas on the Village Green will finally start in March.



LOTTERY FUNDED

The work has been delayed slightly by the weather, and the submission of a planning application to remove a Rowan tree to avoid future damage, by its roots, to the new surface. Unfortunately, despite there being not one single objection from residents to the proposal, Chorley Council's Conservation Officer and Arboricultural Officer were not happy with it so, to avoid any further delays, we shall work around the problem as best we can and hope there are no problems in the future as a result.

The project, with total costs of around £7000, has been made possible by a grant of £3600 from Awards for All for which the Parish Council is extremely grateful.

Steve Wignall, from Bretherton, will be carrying out the works.

Croston Acorns Nursery

6B Station Road
Croston
01772 601074

www.crostonacornsnursery.co.uk

Nursery places available for
Birth to Pre-school.

Open 8.00 am to 6.00pm
51 weeks a year

Excellent relationships with
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and
Bretherton Endowed Primary
School

All staff fully qualified.

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Please ring and make an
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and pick up a prospectus.

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Chairman's Report

As this is the first newsletter since Christmas, I would like express our grateful thanks to the members of the Croston Festivities Group for all their hard work organising a wonderful day last December. It was very pleasing to see both residents and visitors of all ages enjoying the varied activities which were well planned and organised. I am looking forward to next December!

As you will have read on the front page, after careful thought and mindful of residents concerns during this period of recession, the Parish Council has agreed to a 0% increase in it's precept for the coming financial year. We plan to continue with our planned improvements to the recreation ground with the help of grant funding once the work on the village green has been completed.

With spring just around the corner, once again our thoughts turn to gardening and this year's floral displays in the village. A meeting has been organised for Wednesday 1st April at 7.30pm at The Old School for any-one interested in volunteering for our newly formed 'Croston in Bloom' group. No experience is necessary - just a willingness to join us as we try to improve the appearance of our village for both residents and visitors alike.

May I remind all residents that they are very welcome to attend our monthly council meetings at the Old School. If you have any questions or concerns this is the ideal time to come and tell us.

Anne Peet

Chronicle of Croston

Unfortunately the contact number for Croston based photographer, Justin Nugent, published in the last newsletter was incorrect.

Justin has undertaken a project to provide a pictorial record of the entire village as it is in 2008/2009.

The correct contact details are:
01772 600029 (during normal business hours).

07596 220437 or at
justinted@hotmail.com

'Striding Edge' at The Old School

Cumbrian Ceilidh band 'Striding Edge' will be performing at Croston Old School on Friday 22 May. The concert of songs, from their new album of folk music with a Cumbrian flavour, will begin at 7.30pm.

The four piece band are touring Lancashire as part of the 'Spot-On Rural Touring Network' (cont in next column)

'Striding Edge' (cont)

which provides subsidised shows for rural venues.

Tickets for the concert will soon be available from 'Favourites' on Town Road (01772 600142) or Croston Old School (01772 603600) at a cost of £8.00.

Refreshments will be available or you are welcome to bring your own.

Thanks

We received many positive comments about the Christmas lights, once again.

Thanks go to Graham and Cath Wilson, for donating the tree, David Twist and Chris Bidwell for their help in getting the new underground connection to the trees on the Green, Ron Kearton for delivery and help and Parish Councillors for putting the tree and lights up.

Additional thanks also go to Parish Councillors John Forrest and Steve Parkinson for putting up the silhouette lights along Town Road.

North West in Bloom

Our request for volunteers to form a group to try to improve on our regular 'Runners Up' spot in the competition, by planning and overseeing this year's entry, was met with an extremely disappointing response - deafening silence - not one single resident contacted the Council!!

Despite this underwhelming response, the 'Croston in Bloom' Group will hold its first meeting on Wednesday 1 April 2009, 7.30pm, at The Old School, Church Street and anyone willing to get involved is invited to come along.

Local community involvement is encouraged across all areas of the competition from designing and planting floral displays, to highlighting and cleaning up 'grot spots'. Anyone, gardeners and non-gardeners, who would like to help, join in, or just come along to share ideas is welcome to attend.

On a much more positive note the Parish Council would like to thank a couple of generous residents, who wish to remain anonymous, for a very kind donation of £200, which we will put towards this year's entry.

Public Footpath 1

We are also looking at a project to improve the public footpath by Twin Lakes Industrial Estate that starts at the railway bridge. The first stage will be to get the 'official' route diverted to follow the one used at the moment.

Watch this space for news.

The newsletter is published every quarter. Any local non-profit making organisations wishing to include articles or advise of forthcoming events etc. should contact the Clerk or Councillors.

Freedom of Information

The Parish Council has adopted a Publication Scheme under the Freedom of Information Act which describes how specified information, as described by the Act, is available to members of the public.

The information includes contact details, timetables of meeting, meeting agendas and minutes, financial information and accounts, responses to planning applications, policies and procedures for the conduct of council business, other procedures relating to the running of the council and the Councillors' Registers of Interests.

Much of the Information is available for inspection at meetings, on the website, or paper copies may be provided for a charge. Anyone requiring specific information should contact the Clerk (details on page 1) for details of availability and costs.

Where's SID?

Our Speed Indicator Device, purchased in partnership with Bretherton and Heskin Parish Councils, has been missing in recent months.

Since we last had it in September it went to Heskin for October, where the sensor began to malfunction. It was returned to the manufacturer at the end of October 2008. On its return it worked for a few weeks then failed again. Back it went to the manufacturer, in January, where it remains, and we wait for news on its condition.

This is extremely frustrating as we received many positive comments during the short time the device was in place.

Croston Old School

Church Street, Croston
01772 603600

We have a variety of rooms available for hire

The Old School Hall

Ideal for parties, conferences, etc

For up to 100 guests with fully equipped kitchen facilities

The Yarrow Room

Ideal for meetings, seminars etc for up to 24 people with drinks facilities

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Generous discounts available to local charitable organisations

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Mobile: 07748 788501

e-mail: joanlockwood@btinternet.com

Alteration Work Also Undertaken

If you contact any of the advertisers in the newsletter please tell them where you saw their advert.

Advertisers

Anyone wishing to advertise in the newsletter should contact the Clerk or Councilors for details. Prices are £30 for a half column and £15 for a quarter column.

Lancashire Constabulary



Inconsiderate parking at Trinity and St Michaels Primary School in the afternoons is causing problems. Parents were sent a letter from the school asking them not to park on the zig-zag lines or pavements for the safety of the children, but many are ignoring this. Polite notices have so far been attached to offending vehicles asking them not to park there in future, but it has now reached a point that we may be issuing Fixed Penalty Notices, or Section 59 warnings for the manner in which a vehicle is being used, or even seize vehicles if a Section 59 has previously been issued. To avoid this we would appreciate parents/carers parking considerately in the future. After all, it is their children we are trying to protect.

We have also recently protected many residents property with Smartwater, a unique forensic property protection system. This is a powerful and proven deterrent to burglars and bogus officials as warning labels are displayed in properties and on lamposts in the area. I do have a few spare kits for the elderly and vulnerable, if anyone feels they meet this criteria.

We are also able to offer free Fire Safety Checks for any resident who feels their fire safety could be improved. This includes FREE smoke alarms and advice. Please contact Maria for further information and to arrange an appointment at your convenience.

Please contact us on 0845 1 253545 or via e-mail at: caroline.plummer@lancashire.pnn.police.uk or maria.fetherstone@lancashire.pnn.police.uk

Sky Blue Pro Sports Agency

Stephen Bentley (Sports Co-ordinator)

Tel: 01772 601809

Mobile: 07709 772242

e-mail: info.skybluelifestyle@btinternet.com

**CRB Enhanced & UK Sports Coach
Certified in Child Protection**

Has your child got what it takes to be the next professional sports star?

Sky Blue Agency will help your child with all aspects of their lives and sporting talents

Join us in giving them the best possible chance of succeeding in the world of sport

**Passionate to see your
child turn professional?**

1. Free consultation and skills assessment
2. Personal coaching and mentoring on motivation, confidence and self belief
3. Personal sports co-ordinator to research all your child's individual coaching needs
4. Advice and help with contracts and personal guidance on short and long term sponsorship deals
5. Advice on health and nutritional consumption for your child's body
6. Personal conditioner and weekly training programmes.

Want real success for your child?

Our agency is looking to help talented children to achieve professional status in their chosen sport as well as helping them to become fantastic role models for other children to look up to.

Croston Parish Council accepts no responsibility for items directly attributed to named contributors.

Foul

We have received a number of complaints regarding dog fouling in the village.

Problem areas reported are Station Road, Castle Walks and, almost unbelievably, the playing fields at Bishop Rawstorne!

Usually, it is a very small minority of inconsiderate people giving dog owners in general a bad name so perhaps the time has come for the majority to do something about it! - if you see someone not cleaning up after their dog please provide a description (of both dog and owner) or, if you know who they are, their details to the Clerk or Councillors. We will pass these on to Chorley Council and/or the local Police, who are able to issue Fixed Penalty Notices. All calls will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Newsletter Delivery

This newsletter was delivered by Croston Scout Group.

Any local organisations wishing to offer this service, for a charge, contact the Clerk for details of delivery rates.

Useful Telephone Numbers

Police (Coppull)
01257 246103

Police (non-emergency)
0845 1 25 35 45

Crimestoppers 0800 555111

Report problems regarding nuisance etc on the Station and station car park area to British Transport Police on:

0161 228 5685

and acts of vandalism on:

0800 405040

Chorley Borough Council
01257 515151

Report problems with roads and pavements, including street lighting, to Lancashire County Council on:

0845 0530011

Transco (gas leaks)
0800 111999

United Utilities (Water)
Leakline 0800 330033

Environment Agency
Floodline 0845 9881188