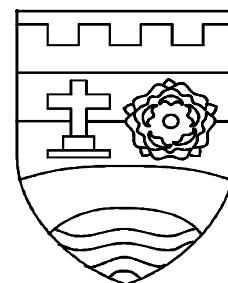


Croston Parish Council Newsletter



June 2011

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Tel

Anne Peet (Chairman)	600012
Stephen Parkinson (Vice-Chairman)	601025
Kath Almond	600368
Peter Fenemore	600572
John Forrest	601216
Keith Iddon	07787 005663
Gill Stubbs	07905 452160
2 Vacancies	

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

Council meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month (except August), in The Old School, Church Street, Croston.

All residents are welcome to attend and a section of each meeting is set aside specifically for residents to air their views on local issues.

Noticeboards

Keep up to date with Parish Council activities and details of meetings etc. The noticeboards are located on the Village Green, outside the Co-op, in front of the Police Station and by the Surgery on Brookfield.

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

Councillors Wanted

Following the local elections on 5 May 2011 the Council was, due to a shortage in nominees, left with two places unfilled, which may be filled by co-option.

If you would like to serve as a Councillor please apply, in writing or by email, to the Clerk (details to the left), providing brief background details and stating why you would like to join the Council. If you would like further information please also contact the Clerk.

To qualify, a person must be a British subject, aged over 18 years old and an elector, must reside in, or within 3 miles of, the Croston parish boundary or occupy as owner or tenant any land or premises therein, or have their principal or only place of work there, and must not be disqualified from holding office as a Councillor.

The Council would like to thank former Councillors Robert Baker, Chris Gibbons and Beryl Thompson for their past service to the village.

Community Flood Plan

The last meeting of the Croston Community Flood Plan Action Group was on 25 January 2011.

At the meeting, we agreed that we would arrange for an additional, smaller meeting between representatives from the Flood Group and the organisations involved in flooding. This was so that specific, local flooding issues could be discussed in more detail.

The Flood Group representatives are now arranging separate meetings, over the next month or so, with each of the relevant organisations.

Once these meetings are complete, we will arrange for the whole Flood Group to meet again. At this meeting we will invite those reps that have attended the smaller, separate meetings to give an update on their discussions. We will also review where we are up to with Croston's Community Flood Plan and find out how you would like to proceed with it.

In the meantime, further information on flood risk and preparing for flooding is available by calling the Environment Agency's Floodline on 0845 988 1188. You can also go to their website at www.environment-agency.gov.uk/floodnorthwest

Best Kept Village

Judging for the Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition 2011 starts on 11 June. Any help residents can provide by keeping properties tidy would be appreciated.

Croston Acorns Nursery Ltd

6b Station Road, Croston

01772 601074

Open 51 weeks, 8am-6pm

We provide quality childcare and education for children aged 0-5 years in our newly modernised setting

We currently have places available in all rooms including free child places* in our pre-school department

We also offer extracurricular activities such as Swimming lessons on Thursday mornings and Music classes each week for your child

All staff are fully qualified in the early years curriculum, with regular training being attended including First Aid and Safeguarding

Good relationships with local schools

Please call us if you would like more information or to make an appointment to look round and pick up a prospectus

*terms and conditions apply

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References available on request



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appointments can be arranged**

Please telephone for a free initial appointment

Annual Report

The Village was, again, entered into the Lancashire Best Kept Village and North West in Bloom Competitions. Another successful year saw us achieve a Silver Gilt Award (joint second place) in the North West in Bloom and Church Street and The Orchard received awards in the Neighbourhood Awards Ceremony.

The Parish Council was able to announce a reduction in the parish precept for the coming year. Chorley Council Neighbourhoods Scheme awarded grant for £2000 for improvements to the Recreation Ground which has been put aside, together with £500 from the sale of the unused half pipe, for our project to revamp the entire Recreation Ground area. We were disappointed our application to Chorley Council's Play and Recreation Fund, comprising of funds raised from developers throughout the borough, for additional funding was not successful although we will be trying again in the future. Whilst on the subject of recreation, a group of young residents has approached the Council asking for small scale skate park and we will be looking to see whether we can incorporate this into our plans.

We are part way through an exercise, organised by Tim Blyth of Lancashire County Council, to try to deal with the problem of Japanese Knotweed in the village. Contractor, Steve Wignall, has carried out several treatments to the various infestations.

As a result of the success of our jointly-owned Speed Indication Device (SID), bought in partnership with Heskin and Bretherton Parish Councils the Council has decided to sell its share and purchase a Device of its own. This will be an enhanced version which will log vehicles numbers and speeds which can then be passed on to the Police if problems are identified.

The Council continues to employ the Clerk, Alan Platt and Village Lengthsman, Kevin Greenhalgh. Kevin's hard work lead to the North West in Bloom judges describing the village as having 'a high standard of cleanliness throughout'.

Thanks go to Clive Barbour and his Associates who have, again, maintained the Village Green and other grass areas to a high standard.

Three councillors decided not to apply for another term of office in the recent election. I would like to express my thanks to Beryl Thompson, Chris Gibbons and Robert Baker for their time and support and wish them well. We welcome Peter Fennemore and Keith Iddon as new councillors.

Anne Peet

Financial Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2011

Income (£'s)	2010/11	2009/10	Expenditure (£'s)	2010/11	2009/10
Parish Precept	21740	21870	Staff Costs	8873	8771
Interest	120	98	Administration	1223	1133
VAT Reclaimed	358	0	Insurance	1249	1236
Adverts	967	570	Audit fees	345	340
Grants received	2000	4248	Donations	1305	2260
Sundries	745	75	Grounds Maintenance	2488	2110
Total	25930	26861	Repairs & replacements	1487	1046
			Newsletter	2069	894
Opening Balance	19924	19121	Village Green Project	0	6600
Income	25930	26861	Sundries	2415	448
Sub total	45854	45982	VAT	686	1220
Expenditure	22410	26058	Total	22410	26058
Closing Balance	23444	19924			

Celebrating 25 Years of Beaver Scouts

Beaver Scouts are celebrating 25 years of 'beavering' away in England.

Croston started its first Colony in September 1986 - were you a member of that Colony? We have gone from strength to strength in Croston and this is due to the great start we had. We've seen some changes - it was all boys at first and the uniform was grey with a turquoise knacker. If I remember Croston was one of the first colonies to wear their own knacker which made life easier on district events to 'spot' our Beavers! Then we got our new uniform, which we still wear, and around 2007 started taking girls into the Scout movement.



Beavers from 25 years ago - are you in the photo, or do you recognise anyone who is?

We have a full Colony (with a waiting list) enjoying a full and varied programme run by our fantastic Leaders, who willingly give up time to organise everything, fully supported by our parents (we're always on the lookout for more Leaders).

As part of our celebrations we would like to invite any of our 'old' Beavers, Scouts and Leaders to join us on Coffee Day (Saturday 2 July) to walk with us. Meet at Church for the service at 1.45pm or about 2.00pm for the walk.



Beavers from today - Members of our current Colony.

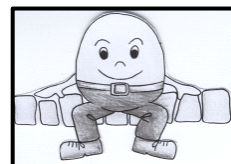
On Saturday 1 October, we are holding our own 25 Years Celebration which we'd like any Beaver Scouts, new and 'old', to come to. Venue to be arranged so please watch out for posters and further announcements.

Susan Twinn

Villages in Partnership

VIP, a local charity based in Croston, is looking for volunteers to join as Trustees. If you have a few hours a month to spare to help this small local Charity, please give us a call.

If you are interested, or would like to know more information, please contact the office on 01772 603591 or email vip@villagesinpartnership.org.uk



Croston Pre-school

Registered Charity No. 1100800

Croston Old School, Church Street

Open term time only providing sessional, wrap around and extended day-care for children from age 2 years

Ofsted Registered

Managed by a Qualified Teacher with Early Years Professional Status leading a very experienced team

For further information and to ask for a waiting list application form please call 01772 601241 or email croston-pre-school@tiscali.co.uk

Callers welcome anytime

Registered as a company limited by guarantee in England & Wales No. 4805524

Croston Old School Forthcoming events

Saturday 4 June	Hank Wangford & Brad Breath -'No Hall 2 Small' Hank and Brad offer an evening of stories from the highway of life and a clutch of miserable songs, original heartbreakers, toe-tappers and gems culled from the dark underbelly of Country music. Tickets:£8
Saturday 25 June	Medieval Banquet Come and join as we celebrate our 10th anniversary. Entertainment will be provided by 'Tapestry of Music' A fun night is guaranteed! Tickets: £25 to include a 3 course meal and a glass of mead
Friday 8 July	An evening with Chris Bannister Following on from his successful concert last summer, Chris returns for another evening of music for everyone.

Licensed bar doors open 7.30pm

Tickets available from 'Favourites', Town Road, Croston 01772 600142 or Croston Old School, Church Street, Croston 01772 603600

More details at
www.croston-old-school.org

Croston Subscription Bowling Club

The Club had a very successful year in 2010. The trophies won last year were Chorley and District 1st and 3rd



Members of Croston Subscription Bowling Club with last season's trophies.

Division Winners and Knock Out Cup winners. Preston Clubs League 1st Division Winners. Leyland Vets Winners and runners up in the Mixed Vets.

We would like to welcome any people who wish to play for the club or just come along and join as a social member.

For any further information please contact David Sandwell on 01772 601273 or Derek Prout on 01772 601467

Tots Group

Hello mum's, dad's, carers. Are you looking for somewhere to go between 9.30am and 11.30am on a Tuesday or Thursday morning? Come along to the Community Centre, Castle Walks and meet up with other mums and dads and carers.



The Tots Group in action.

Cost is £1-50 a session and we have toys and games for the tots and a soft play area for babies. There is snack time, crafts, song time. We also have Story Sacks for you to borrow (these are little bags containing a book and soft toy relating to the story) and, of course, time to have a chat and possibly make new friends along the way. We look forward to meeting you and your baby/ tot.

UK onlinecentres **CROSTON**
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We'd Love to See You

Croston Community Centre is now a UK Online Centre where you can learn everything from how to get started with a mouse and keyboard through to shopping online. This is a free service.

Please ring Villages in Partnership for further information on 01772 603591.

UK **onlinecentres**[™]
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Surely it's too early to think about Christmas!

For most people maybe, but not for the Croston Village Festivities Group who meet regularly on the first Monday of the Month in the Lord Nelson at 7.30 to plan this year's annual celebration.

Organisation for the event on Sunday 11th December is well under way and if you would like to become part of the planning group, help on the day, or just find out more about the event visit our website at:

www.crostonfestivities.co.uk

or phone our Secretary on 01772 601363.

Community Car Scheme

Do you like driving and volunteering at the same time? - then the Lancashire Volunteer Community Car Scheme is the opportunity for you!

You would be giving your time for people in your own community who are unable to use public transport, have no regular access to a car nor can afford a taxi on a regular basis.

All you need is a car, full UK driver's licence, a CRB, observed drive and you are good to go! Any time you can afford to be available would be welcome and you will be reimbursed at £0.40 per mile.

Please call Derrick or Julie on 01772 516208 (08.30-16.00 Mon - Fri).

You will be sent an information pack and then we'll arrange a short interview and take it from there.

Recreation Ground

We have received a petition, organised by a group of our younger residents, requesting skate park equipment, similar to that at Eccleston or Mawdesley, on the Recreation Ground.

The Eccleston park, which cost over £40000, was paid for entirely

by a group of young residents who obtained grants and raised funds themselves.

The Parish Council will attempt to incorporate the request into the improvements we are hoping to make to the entire Recreation Ground area - unfortunately, at the moment, funding is presenting a major stumbling block.

Croston Community Centre

As well as continuing to provide facilities for local groups and activities, the Community Centre is in the process of offering a wider range of opportunities. Recently an extremely successful Family Bingo Night was enjoyed by over 60 residents of Croston and plans are in hand to repeat this again early in June and at regular intervals during the year.

The building is being painted and plans are in hand to establish a pleasant area behind the Centre where users can sit out and enjoy the garden which is in the process of being 'brought under control'. The Scouts have made an impressive start establishing a series of small vegetable gardens and plans are in hand for providing teas for cyclists and visitors at weekends.

VIP (Villages in Partnership) is based at the Community Centre and the staff will assist if you want to 'drop in' and use the computer facilities which have full internet access and printing facilities. The Centre is available for hire at very reasonable rates. Tel (01772) 600553 or 601321 for bookings.

The Community Centre is a facility for all the residents of Croston and the Committee, led by our chairman John Forrest, meets regularly every month at 7.15p.m. on the third Monday of the month at the Centre. We would welcome anyone willing to either become a committee member or prepared to help out with events when needed. Contact us through the VIP office on 01772 603591.

Croston Old School

Community Resource Centre
Church Street, Croston

01772 603600

Rooms available to hire for meetings, seminars, conferences, special occasions

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www.crostonoldschool.org

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601272

21 Town Road, Croston

Lancashire Constabulary

We'd like to remind everyone to make sure cars, homes and sheds are all kept locked and secure during the warmer weather as opportunist thieves will take advantage of anything left open.

If anyone would like their bike forensically marked to deter theft please contact your Neighbourhood Policing Team to arrange this for free (details below).

If you have any information with regards to any crime or suspicious activity, please either contact the Police direct or pass on information via Crimestoppers, contact numbers are shown in the Useful Telephone Numbers box below right).

Contact the Policing Team on 0845 1 25 35 45 or by e-mail at:

caroline.plummer@lancashire.pnn.police.uk
or maria.fetherstone@lancashire.pnn.police.uk



Speed Indicator Device

The Council has ordered a new, improved Speed Indication Device.

The Device will log traffic data (speeds, times, vehicle numbers) and this data will be passed onto our local Policing Team if problems are identified.

And finally.....a plea

Dog fouling remains an issue on the pavements and verges in the village and our Clerk has a plea for the resident who allows their dog to foul around the noticeboard at the end of Brookfield to please pick up their dog's mess - it's not very pleasant when he's trying to retrieve dropped pins.

As highlighted in the press recently a resident of Church Street was successfully prosecuted for not picking up dog fouling and Chorley Council's Neighbourhood Officers, Dog Wardens and our local Police will be keeping an eye out for other inconsiderate owners.

If you see anyone not picking up their dog's waste please report it to Chorley Council, on 01257 515151, who will investigate further. All calls are treated in the strictest confidence.

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

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

National Grid (gas leaks)
0800 111999

United Utilities (Water)
Leakline 0800 330033

Environment Agency
Floodline 0845 988 1188

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25 Drinkhouse Rd, Croston

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If you would like to reach around 1250 households in the village via the Parish Council newsletter contact the Clerk (details on p1).

We can offer **full colour** ads in the colour insert. A half column ad costs £30 (£45 colour) and a quarter column £15 (£22.50).