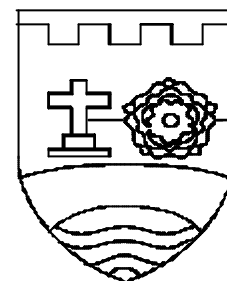


Croston Parish Council Newsletter



March 2010

Council Tax 2010

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Tel

Anne Peet (Chairman)	600012
Stephen Parkinson (Vice-Chairman)	601025
Kath Almond	600368
Robert Baker	600482
John Forrest	601216
Chris Gibbons	601962
John Kearton	600766
Stefan Mosalski	601300
Beryl Thompson	600900

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

The April meeting will take place on 7 April 2010 and, starting with the 18 May 2010, future meetings will take place on the third Tuesday of the month.

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 - come along and have your say!

Noticeboards

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

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

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

The Parish Council has reduced the Parish Precept by £130 for 2010-2011. Unfortunately, as a result of the formula used by Chorley Council, the amount payable by residents will remain unchanged. This formula takes into account expected receipts with allowances for reduced and non-payment, bad debt, empty, and new, properties etc and changes annually.

In the current financial climate we felt residents should be assisted wherever possible so, by careful budgeting, we have been able to manage this small reduction, following on from a zero increase last year, with no reductions in services provided by the Parish Council.

These services include the Village Lengthsman, who picks litter from the major routes through the village, ongoing maintenance of the Recreation Ground and Play Area and the Village Green, mowing of the Recreation Field and the Village Green and grass verges throughout the village. The Council also provides the Christmas lights on the Village Green and opposite the War Memorial, spring and summer planting of the tubs and beds around the village, wayside seats, our shared Speed Indicator Device, emptying of dog waste bins and the relevant public and employers liability insurance cover.

Additional funds will, again this year, be set aside for a major project to improve the Recreation Ground. We shall also be seeking grant funding towards this and, if we are unable to obtain funding, we will have to continue to build up funds over the coming years

John Kearton

We were all saddened by the passing away of our much loved and respected colleague, Councillor John Kearton.

John was a tireless worker in our quest to win the North West in Bloom Competition and, sadly, despite a number of runner's up places the village was never able to achieve the win he so wanted. Perhaps we could all put in a special effort this year to see if we can't realise John's dream!

John also put in an enormous amount of work with our younger residents, including the Junior Cricketers and Snooker Players.

John's sharp mind, plain speaking, common sense, wit and his ideas for improving the village will be sadly missed by all.

Meeting Date Changes

The Parish Council's April meeting has been brought forward a week to Wednesday 7 April 2010 and, starting with the 18 May 2010, regular Parish Council meetings will take place on the third Tuesday of the month (except August).

Croston Acorns Nursery Ltd

**6b Station Road
Croston**

01772 601074

Open 51 weeks, 8am-6pm.

Our aim is to meet the individual needs of each child through delivering personalised learning, development and care to help children get the best possible start in life.

We are registered by Ofsted to provide childcare from birth through to school age and since incorporating the business have built strong relationships with our local schools.

Leading up to the new school intake we visit Trinity & St Michaels school regularly to use their library along with reception class teachers visiting our setting to help establish good bonds with the children.

Extracurricular activities such as Swimming lessons and Dance classes are available each week for your child.

We currently have places available in Baby room and Pre-school.

Please make an appointment to look round our newly modernised nursery.

Hooves and Paws

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Service by appointment only

References available on request

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**32 Town Road
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PR26 9RB**

Tel: 01772 601700

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Conveyancing and other
works undertaken**

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Chairman's Report

I would like to begin by expressing my personal sadness at the death of my friend and Colleague John Kearton. Always the perfect gent, ready to listen and encourage and not afraid to practice what he preached. Thank you John.

Hopefully spring is just around the corner and we can start thinking about the warmer months and particularly our plans for this year's North West in Bloom competition. Would you like to join us in our quest? I will be holding a meeting on Tuesday 13 April at 7.30 in The Old School Hall for anyone who would like to come along with ideas and suggestions for the floral displays etc. which help make our village look so lovely. I would also be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to join our willing team of volunteers to help with planting and weeding. You can do as much or as little as you want but many hands do make light work! If you can't make the meeting please give your details to our Clerk, Alan Platt (contact details on front page).

The other large project which the Parish Council has embarked upon is improvements to the Recreation Ground. This will be a long term plan which will require a lot of funding but the end result will be a safe, secure ground well equipped to meet the needs of everyone with play and picnic areas etc. We are aware that the area is currently looking a little tired and neglected but please be patient, we are going to start on the improvements as soon as we can.

Anne Peet

Christmas Thanks

Our thanks, once again, go to Cath and Graham Wilson from Drinkhouse Garage for the donation of the Christmas tree.

The tree and lights, along with the lights on Town Road provided by the Village Festivities Group, and residents own efforts, made this year, the best yet, and many compliments were received. Our thanks go to all for their efforts. A mention also to the Parish Councillors who assisted with the tree and lights.

Village Diary

The Village Diary has been resurrected, and is in the Co-op, on Station Road. If you are thinking of organising an event, or know of one which has been arranged, please enter it.

Jubilee Way Entrance

Thank you to the residents who provided their views on the pillars at the entrance to Jubilee Way.

Unfortunately there were not enough responses for the Parish Council to take further action.

An Apology

The December newsletter incorrectly stated that 10 - 14 The Orchard was awarded a 'Certificate of Merit' in the 2009 North West in Bloom Competition.

This should, in fact, have read 14 - 24 The Orchard.

Our apologies go to all concerned.

Crown Green Bowls

Do you want to play Crown Green Bowls? - then come along to one of the best bowling greens in the north west. Croston Subscription Bowling Club is over 100 years old and is situated in a fantastic part of Croston.

We are welcoming new playing members and social playing members to join the club this year. It doesn't matter if you have played many times or have never picked a bowl up, we will give you free tuition.

If you are interested, then please call either David Sandwell on 01772 601273 or Derek Prout on 01772 601467.

Entertainment at Croston Old School

The Old School has put together a series of entertainment evenings to bring professional entertainment to your doorsteps.

Following on from our recent very successful evening with The Oldham Tinkers, on Friday 23 April we will be having what promises to be a thoroughly entertaining evening in the company of The New Rope String Band. This experienced 4 piece band sing, dance and play their little hearts out on fiddles, guitar, piano accordion, mandolin and anything else that comes to hand. Doors open 7.30pm and tickets are available from 'Favourites', Town Road, Croston. Tel:01772 600142 or 07785 971 951.

To see what else is planned why not check out our website at: www.croston-old-school.org

Open Gardens

Croston St. Michael & All Angels Church are holding an Open Garden Event on Sunday 23 May and would like to ask if there are any Croston residents who would be willing to open their garden for this event.

It does not matter what size the garden is and we would provide people to sell programmes on the property if necessary.

Anyone interested should contact Carole Jackson on 01772 60014.

Tots Group

At a loose end with your toddler/baby on a Tuesday or Thursday morning? Tots offers a warm welcome to all babies/tots to bring along mum/dad/grandparents/carers from 9-30 to 11-30am in the Community Centre to make new friends and have a brew/snacks/small crafts for the children.

Cost £1.50 per adult and 1 small person and 50p for each other small person. We have baby chairs/playpen/soft mats/toys and changing facilities.

Calling all Artists!

The inaugural Croston Arts Festival on Sunday 25 April is looking for artists to take part in a showcase arts event that is hoped will become an annual feature in the village. The event is to help launch Creative Co-operative North West and has support from The Co-operative Group.

Events pencilled in include musical performances and art displays at Trinity Methodist Church and Meeting Room.

The Old School Hall will feature artwork from pupils from Bishop Rawstone and the feeder primary schools of Croston, Eccleston, Heskin, Wrightington and Rufford.

The festival will get under way around noon, with the official opening of a new walkway from the main road to the Croft, designed for wheelchair users.

Following the official opening, there will be the chance to view the pupils' work, as the school's orchestra and Galloways Society for the Blind Choir entertain.

It is also hoped to arrange for theatre and drama groups, circus performers, children's entertainers and musical acts in St Michaels Church grounds and arboretum, aimed at all age groups.

The Co-operative kitchen will be demonstrating seasonal themed cooking in the Community Centre.

Additionally there will be a craft fair and work across a spectrum of arts disciplines from photography to painting and pottery.

If you're a visual or performance artist and would like to take part - either as an exhibitor, artiste or craft fair participant - contact Terry Chaplin on 01772 603403 or email

terry@cooperatives-nw.coop

Car Park

One or two of the bollards on the Village Green car park, particularly the disabled space, seem to fall victim to poor driving. If you see anyone run into the bollards please take a registration number and let us know.

Croston Old School

Community Resource Centre
Church Street, Croston

01772 603600

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

See our website for further information
www.crostonoldschool.org

Hiring rates available on request

Generous discounts available to local charitable organisations

Registered Charity No. 1074784

Computer Problems?

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email:

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neil@technoforananswer.com

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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

Local Businesses

Reach around 1300 homes within the village by advertising in this newsletter. For details of current prices etc contact the Clerk (details on page 1).

Lancashire Constabulary

There have been several crimes recorded recently; several cars have been broken into whilst outside pubs in the area - all had expensive property on display - please do not leave valuable property in your car. Another incident was a bogus official burglary on a lady in the village. She answered the door and the man told her he was doing work next door and noticed her roof needed attention - he got into conversation with her and was allowed into the house. When she told him she wasn't interested he got quite aggressive towards her and she gave him money so he would leave. She was very frightened and lost £100's.

A word of warning with regards to a new con that is going around - a person contacts you by phone saying they are from the Council and that you've paid too much Council Tax and they need your bank details to put the money back. When they have your details they can empty your bank account. Please do not give any personal details to anyone over the phone. With both these messages in mind, Chorley Council has contracted a company to carry out surveys of their properties in the area. The company will contact you prior to the visit and will carry identification, they have also supplied the Police with details of all the people involved and can be verified if you are unsure. Please arrange to have someone with you when the company visit and if you are unsure who they are do not let them in and call the Police. If they are genuine they will not mind being checked out and if they are not, they will not hang around for the Police !!

Don't forget the next PACT meeting is at 7.00pm on Wednesday 7 April at The Old School, Croston.

If you have any queries with regards to this article or any problems please do not hesitate to contact us on 01257 246103 (Coppull Neighbour Neighbourhood number), 0845 1 25 35 45 or by e-mail at:

carolineplummer@lancashire.pnn.police.uk

maria.fetherstone@lancashire.pnn.police.uk

Crimestoppers can be contacted on: 0800 555111

Caroline Plummer & Maria Fetherstone

Croston Scout Group

We have a thriving Scout Group in Croston with Beavers 6-8yrs, Cubs 8-10yrs & Scouts 10-15yrs. Our leaders who run these sections give freely of their time to provide full, fun packed programmes.

We are looking at setting up an Executive Group to help run the group with fund raising/social events/equipment maintenance etc. If you have any skills and time that you could 'volunteer' to us we will be having an open meeting on Thursday 18th March, 7-30pm in the Community Centre.

Any queries please get in touch with Susan Twinn 601321.

Advertisers

Anyone wishing to advertise in the newsletter should contact the Clerk or Councillors for details. A half column ad costs £30 per and a quarter column £15.

Advertisements

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

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

