

Eccleston Parish Council

Newsletter

March 2009

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Council Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of every month in The Changing Rooms, Draper Avenue commencing at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend.

A part of each meeting is set aside for residents to air their views on local issues - please come along and have your say.

Noticeboards

Keep up to date with Parish Council activities. Noticeboards are located inside the Carrington Centre by POA and on the path by the Changing Rooms, off Drapers Avenue.

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

If you contact advertisers in this newsletter please tell them where you saw their ad.

Council Tax

For the first time in six (yes six!!) years the Parish Council is to raise the Parish Precept. The increase, of 6.8%, is made up entirely of a new budget of £3000 introduced for village activities and events during the year, which was introduced as a result of requests from residents for more events of a similar nature to the Carol singing.

The local services provided by the Parish Council, funded from the Parish Precept, include the Village Caretaker, who looks after the Recreation Fields, play areas and other open spaces, and attends to minor repairs to council property and the Village Lengthsman, who picks litter from the major routes and estate roads. The Council is also responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the Recreation Fields and Changing Rooms, the Drapers Avenue Play Area and Skate Park, the Hawthorns Play Area, the Village Green. Mowing of the Recreation Fields, Millennium Green and the entrance to The Hawthorns, the Christmas Tree and lights, wayside seats, emptying of dog waste bins and the relevant insurance cover are all also provided by the Parish Council.

Country Trail

With the assistance of a grant of £7250 from Awards for All, the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) has begun hedgelaying work as part of a project to enhance the Recreation Fields.

Any groups over the age of 16 can get involved in the practical implementation of the project by special arrangement - eg tree felling and scrub clearing to clear the footpath, creating a woodland trail, creating the wildflower areas, hedgelaying, rebuilding the bridge etc. Younger groups who would like to carry out practical work towards the project can also do so - this would probably involve activities like wildflower plug planting.



Hedgelaying on the Recreation Ground

Groups or individuals interested in joining in to some extent, should contact Kath (07764 655711) or Hilary (07801 686006), both of BTCV, or the BTCV office on 01942 716700.

We are trying to obtain further funding to create a useable footpath all the way around the Recreation Fields for walkers and pushchair and wheelchair users and it would certainly help with our applications if residents could register their support for this in the form of letters or emails to the Parish Council.

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Do not eat a heavy meal for
at least 3hrs before class.

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Chairman's Report

Welcome to this first Newsletter of 2009. The Christmas Carol Concert was again a great success despite the appalling weather. A kind offer from St Mary's School to use their hall was gratefully accepted and the thanks of the Parish Council go to them and also to Ecclestone Brass Band who provided the musical accompaniment. It was very sad that as Christmas approached the vandals got busy. First the lights were ripped from the tree and then finally the tree was uprooted and thrown into the road. However, we are undeterred and plan a similar event for this year.

The planned Country Trail on the Recreation Fields is progressing steadily and the Parish Council hope to be in a position to formally adopt the Millennium Green sometime during 2009 subject to the necessary governmental approvals.

Please don't forget that it is your Parish Council and you are very welcome at any of our meetings which are held in the Football Changing Rooms, Draper Avenue at 7.30 pm on the second Thursday of every month.

Bill Mason

Freedom of Information

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

This information includes contact details, timetables of meetings, meeting agendas and published 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 parish council meetings or, on request, paper copies may be provided for a charge.

For full details of how to obtain the specific information available under the Act, and the costs of getting copies if required, please contact the Clerk to the Council (details on page 1).

Millennium Green

We now seem to be reaching the end of our epic journey to adopt the Millennium Green.

The Trustees have, at last, been given formal approval by Natural England to begin the process of transferring the Green to the Parish Council and it is hoped this will be completed by the end of April.

Wayside Seats

We have, for the second time in recent years, replaced the seat on The Green, by the junction with Doctors Lane, which is used by many elderly residents, to take a breather on their journey to the Medical Centre.

The new seat is made from recycled materials and will, hopefully, stand up to the mindless vandalism inflicted on the previous one.

We would like to remind residents that the cost of replacement or repairs to parish council property comes directly from your council tax so, if you witness any vandalism, please contact the Police or the Parish Council (calls will be treated in the strictest confidence).

Calling all dog walkers

I have been a dog owner for the last 21 years, and as the law requires I pick up after my dog, - as do the vast majority of dog walkers in the village. Unfortunately some dog walkers are not cleaning up after their pets. Not only is this against the law, but (for anyone unfortunate to have trodden in it) it is disgusting and a health hazard. If you own a dog you wouldn't dream of leaving everything that it does on your own garden, so why not clean it up from the pavements, paths and verges? Nappy bags, for example, are ideal for the job and are available from most supermarkets for about .89p for 75 bags - they are even perfumed (for those of you with a sensitive nose).

You are allowed to use the large litter bins that are all around the village as well as the two dog bins on the Millennium Green, the ones near the playing fields and the new dog bin on the playing fields down Bradley Lane, so if you don't want to carry it home there is no reason you have to.

So come on dog walkers of Eccleston, let's show the other residents of this village that we are responsible pet owners and will clean up after our dogs.

Councillor Sue Ward

Christmas 2008

We would like to thank the large number of residents who braved the monsoon weather to join us in the December Carol Singing. Despite the rain an enjoyable evening was had by all and many positive comments have been received.

Our thanks also go to St Mary's C of E School, for allowing use of the Hall at very short notice, and to Eccleston Brass Band for the musical accompaniment.

On a sour note, residents may be aware of the damage caused to the Christmas Tree and lights. Around half the lights, which were brand new for this year, will have to be replaced, again at the cost of local residents. If anyone has information on the vandals they should contact the Police or the Parish Council (calls will be treated in the strictest confidence).

Advertisements

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

Hedges

As the growing season is almost upon us we would ask residents, landowners and farmers with hedges and trees that are adjacent to pavements or highways to make sure they're cut back. Each year we receive a number of complaints that pedestrians, including some with pushchairs, and wheelchair users, are forced to take to the road because the pavements are impassable.

This year don't just trim them - help reclaim the pavements for walking on by cutting back hard to the edge of your boundary, instead of just trimming. The same goes if you have hedges directly by the roadside where there are no pavements - walkers and cyclists are often forced out into the road to pass and car paintwork is scratched - give people the opportunity to use verges for safety's sake!

Eccleston Parish Council accepts no responsibility for items published which are directly attributed to named contributors.



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Councillors.

Current prices for adverts are
£15 for a quarter column and
£30 for a half column with
discounts available for annual
block bookings.

Lancashire Constabulary

Since 01/01/09 there have been 14 crimes reported in Ecclestone. Five of these were incidents involving criminal damage and 1 adult and 2 juvenile males have been arrested in connection with these offences, There have been 2 burglaries, and 2 local juvenile males have been arrested in connection with 1 of these. There were also 6 thefts reported during the period, two of which involved failure to pay for petrol at Ecclestone Green Filling Station and 1 fraud was reported. A worrying renewal in incidents involving stone throwing at houses by youths has been noted. 1 of the criminal damage crimes was as a result of such an incident. Several youths have been warned regarding throwing bottles and waste items at The Carrington Centre. In total, 8 incidents of anti social behaviour were reported.

Parents of teenagers - please question what your children get up to when out and about during evenings. Underage drinking, although much reduced from previous levels, is still a problem and, as in all areas, unlawful drug use is a cause for concern.

The monthly Police and Communities Together (PACT) meetings have re-started. We held our first on 3 February, which was well attended. Future meetings are scheduled to take place on the first Tuesday of the month at the Youth Club building on Drapers Avenue. All are welcome to attend to discuss local matters of concern. This month's PACT policing priorities for Ecclestone are speeding, inconsiderate parking and juvenile nuisance/disorder.

PC 2610 John Howard

Planning Issues

The Parish Council recently arranged two, very well attended, public meetings to discuss issues regarding the planning application for the Sagar House Site.

Thanks go to all the residents who attended and provided useful information, and to Councillor Andy Love, who, single-handedly, oversaw the meetings.

We also understand the appeal against the refusal of the redevelopment of the Church Hall Site on Lawrence Lane has been lodged.



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