

# Eccleston Parish Council Newsletter

March 2018

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Parish Council Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month in The Community Hub, Drapers Avenue, commencing at 7.30pm. All residents are welcome to attend.

A part of each meeting is set aside specifically for residents to let the Council know their views on local issues - come along and have your say!

## War Memorial

At the February meeting of the Parish Council, a resident's suggestion to relocate the village War Memorial was discussed. The proposal was to move the Memorial from the grounds of St Mary's Church to the Village Green, opposite St Mary's Primary School, where it was felt that the Memorial would be more visible and noticeable. This year is the centenary of the end of The Great War.

Memorials in neighbouring villages (Croston, Bretherton, Mawdesley and Coppull) are on the main road and well respected. The Parish Council was sympathetic to the idea, as were residents present at the meeting.

The Parish Council agreed that it would be wise to seek residents views, hence this article. The Ministers for the three village churches have been advised.

If you have any views please let the Clerk or any member of the Parish Council know. An image of what the relocated memorial might look like if it is moved is shown below.



## Eccleston Community Hub

The newly formed "Eccleston Community Hub" is now up and running. Some work has started on the refurbishment of the building, the roof has been repaired and estimates obtained for decoration and floor coverings and the provision of Wifi facilities. A Craft Group and Art Group operate already, as does a group doing Armchair Aerobics. We are also hoping to involve some social activities for the many young people in the village. Volunteers are always needed and if you feel you can help or have any ideas, please get in touch with the Hub Committee Chairman, Alan Whittaker.

Also, the Hub has two electric keyboards which are surplus to requirements and could be useful to any would be players, young or old. If anyone is interested please contact Alan Whittaker for details.



Photograph: Rachel Bland (Secretary) and Alan Whittaker (Chairman)

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## Chairman's Report

The budget for 2018 has now been approved by the Parish Council. In a similar vein to previous years, we have tried to focus on finding ways to maintain or enhance the services and facilities available to the village without significant impact on the precept charge to residents. You will recall last year, we increased the Parish precept for Ecclestone by 2%, namely to make allowances for the undertaking of the Youth Centre (now Community Hub). This resource can and will play an important role in the life of the village and the wellbeing of many residents. In order to invest in this centre further and bring it up to the standards we believe you want, the Parish precept for Ecclestone will increase by 2% in 2018.

Aside from the Community Hub, we are also working towards some other improvements to our parish open spaces. We hope that the village will understand this was not an easy decision to make, but was made with the best interests of the village at its heart. I would like to thank all the Councillors for their support in putting together the budget.

I would like to place on record our thanks to the Clerk, Alan Platt, our Village Caretaker, Mike Marsh, and Lengthsperson, Angela Marsden. Mike and Angela can be seen working in all weather conditions to keep the village tidy, whilst Alan continues to manage the administrative aspects of council business very efficiently and effectively.

Lastly, I would like to welcome Robert Burns, who was co-opted on to the council in February, due to a vacancy created by the resignation of Craig Mayor. I would also like to thank Craig for his support.

*Kate Brown*

## Council Tax

**The Parish Council's budget for 2018-19 has been set with a 2% increase in the cost of the Parish Precept to council taxpayers which means that the total increase in the cost to residents over the past 15 years has been 4%!**

The Council is responsible for the buildings (the Community Hub and the Football Changing Rooms, the open spaces and recreational facilities at the Recreation Ground, Millennium Green, Village Green, play areas on The Hawthorns and the Recreation Ground, including the all weather ball court and skate park. Mowing of the entrance to The Hawthorns is also carried out by the Parish Council.

Additionally, the Council provides the Christmas Tree and lights, lighting for the path between Drapers Avenue and Richmond Road, wayside seats, litter bins and the relevant public, employer and asset insurance cover. Services provided for the village by the Parish Council include the Village Caretaker, who looks after the play areas and our other open spaces, and attends to minor repairs to council property, and the Village Lengthsperson, who picks litter from the major routes and estate roads.

## Banners on Parish Council land

The Parish Council's insurers have advised anyone wishing to erect banners on council property should obtain permission. Without permission there may be serious implications around health and safety and public liability which could fall personally on whoever puts the banners up.

To obtain permission contact the Clerk (details on page 1). In future, unauthorised banners will be removed by Council staff.

## Date for your diaries

Following the excellent feedback from our second Lancashire Night last November, the Village Activities Committee has already begun to make arrangements for this year's which will be on Saturday 24 November.

Further details will be provided nearer the time.

NO GP REFERRAL NEEDED - NO WAITING LIST - SATURDAY APPOINTMENTS

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# Lamp Post Poppies

Local resident, Sandra Sherliker, has suggested placing large Poppies on lampposts along the route of the Remembrance Day parade with the possibility of, in the future, having the poppies all along Towngate/The Green.

Discussions are currently underway with Lancashire County Council for permission to hang the Poppies on their lighting columns and it is intended to hold local fundraising events to cover the costs of the Poppies.



# Events at Ecclestone Library

Ecclestone Library has a cards and board games group that meets every Thursday, 10:00am - 12:00pm. There is usually something new to try as well as the old favourites. There will be two tables to choose from - including a quieter table for more traditional games, such as backgammon, cribbage, whist or bridge. So, if you like playing but need a few more hands, then pop along for a chat to see what we do.

Are you interested in tracing your family History, or are you having problems with your ancestry research so far? Ecclestone Library has a family history group that meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, 10:30am to 12:30pm. This is an informal group that helps each other, no prior knowledge of ancestry is needed, so come along and meet us for help and friendship.

# Electoral Review of Chorley

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is undertaking an electoral review which examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for the whole local authority and includes:

- The total number of councillors to be elected to the council.
- The names, number and boundaries of wards.
- The number of councillors to be elected from each ward.

The review process is designed to ensure that each councillor represents roughly the same number of voters so that the value of your vote is the same regardless of where you live in the local authority area.

Part 1 of the review is for council and/or council groups' submissions on council size and closes in May. This will be followed by a public consultation dealing with warding arrangements (allocation of councillors) which will run from 26 June - 3 September and this is the part of the process which gives residents the opportunity to provide their views. This will be publicised nearer the time.

For further details visit [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

# Join our Volunteers

Our previous 2 newsletters contained appeals for volunteers to join a small group of dedicated residents who have been working to tidy up the Millennium Green. We are hoping, if sufficient volunteers come forward to expand this to other areas of open space in the village which are in need of a bit of care and attention.

The number of residents coming forward was a little disappointing so, just in case you missed the articles and would like to help look after the village in which you live please contact the Clerk (details on front page). The amount you do can be as much or as little as you wish.

## Computer Problems? Slow Broadband?

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 Amanda Barlow is the Registered Care Manager for Independent Living who will answer all your questions.

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Independent Living also offers a "24/7" emergency call out service. If you need help in the night, for example after a fall, if you feel ill or need to go to hospital a carer can visit to help - even at 2am!

If you want advice, or our leaflet on Overnight Care & "7 till 7"  
**Please call Amanda: 01257 696 050**

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There has been an increase in domestic burglaries in the area recently. We are still advising that all windows and doors are locked and keys are not kept in locks or near to the doors. Cars are also an easy target if left insecure, so please lock them.



You may have seen on social media a method of entry to vehicles using a scanner that reads the chip in key fob. In order to stop this happening, we suggest keeping your car keys in a metal tin or box, and as far away from your car as possible. The scanner cannot read through metal.

There have also been several complaints about youths causing Anti Social Behaviour. Please remind your children of the consequences of this.

**PCSO 7932 Maria Fetherstone**

## Rainbow House



Rainbow House based just a few minutes away in Mawdesley, supports children and young people in the North West with neurological and physical disabilities. Through our work we make life changing developments allowing children and young people to achieve greater independence and to undertake day to day activities and life skills that they would otherwise be unable to do.

### Rainbow Ramble - Walk Further for those who can't

Join the Rainbow House 10<sup>th</sup> annual 11 or 5 mile healthy fun run or walk through the Lancashire countryside on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May 10am. Starting and finishing at Bishop Rawstone High School, Croston, it is a great family event.

Please email [fundraising@thelegacy-rainbowhouse.com](mailto:fundraising@thelegacy-rainbowhouse.com) or call 01704 823276 with any enquiries or to register on line, visit [www.thelegacy-rainbowhouse.com](http://www.thelegacy-rainbowhouse.com).

£15 for adults. £5 for under 16's. Entrants receive T-shirt, medal and a goody bag.

## Recreational Cycling

Chorley Council is hoping to develop recreational cycling, particular in rural areas, and is looking for people who would like to get involved and support any development in their area. Cycling has many health benefits and is a fantastic way to improve health and wellbeing.

Depending on interest, a programme across the Western/Southern Parishes could be developed which may include:

Learn to ride/confidence building sessions

Bike maintenance

Bike marking/security

Ride Socials - informal groups of local people getting together to cycle

Led/Guided Rides - Trained leaders to run organised rides

Cycling Training to develop local leaders

Cycle Champions/volunteers - Time Credit programme to reward participation

If you would like to help take this forward please contact the Clerk (details on front page) who will pass on your details to Chorley.

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