# Eccleston Parish Council Newsletter

Spring 2022



# **Help Needed!**

Residents are invited to join a committee to manage The Community Hub on Drapers Avenue.

The building was previously known as the Eccleston Youth Centre and operated for many years providing an office for staff from Lancashire County Council's Youth Services to operate from and run the Youth Club. The Youth Club had existed since the 1960's and was very popular with younger residents.

In May 2017, the Youth Services left the building and the Parish Council agreed to step in on the premise it would be run by a committee, along the lines of the Mawdesley Village Hall, with the Council providing financial assistance for the committee to get up and running.

Grants were obtained by the Committee to carry out renovations and improvements to the interior and a number of chairs were obtained from a hotel due to close down.

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Eccleston Youth Centre circa 2017

# Help Needed! (cont from page 1)

This was very successful, with a Friday night Youth Club and a number of other local groups and organisations using the building. There were also sessions for Armchair Aerobics and Pilates held on the premises.

Unfortunately, the Covid pandemic brought things to a halt and the building was closed in line with Government guidance in 2020. Since then, concerns for the safety of members of the user groups, coupled with the lack of a functioning committee meant it remained largely closed for general use, with one or two exceptions.

The Parish Council has now been notified the original members of the committee have resigned and we are appealing for residents who may be interested in joining a new committee to take over the management of the premises to contact the Clerk on 01257 234003 or via email ecclestonpc@btinternet.com

This is an important facility within the village and we don't want to lose it!



Left and above: the interior following redecoration work carried out in 2018

#### Local Clubs and Organisations

If you want to advertise an event or publicise your club/organisation in the quarterly newsletter please contact the Clerk, Alan Platt (details on back page).

# **Council Tax**

#### At the January Parish Council meeting budgets for 2022-23 were finalised and there will be no increase in the cost of the Parish Precept to council taxpayers for the fifth consecutive year.

The Parish Council is responsible for the Recreation Ground area including the play area, all weather ball court and skate park, the Football Changing Rooms and the Community Hub building, the Millennium Green, Village Green, The Hawthorns play area and the maintenance of the verges either side of the entrance to The Hawthorns.

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

### **Carol Singing**

Having had to cancel the 2020 Carol singing, the Activities Committee was determined 2021's would go ahead. Once again, the weather was kind and around 80 residents came along to enjoy the Carol singing on the Village Green on Tuesday 14 December.

This was the first Carol singing since the new coloured lights were bought and quite a few people commented how much more festive they are. We had some very positive feedback from residents at the event.

As always, the usual excellent musical accompaniment was provided by Members of Eccleston Brass Band.

## **Flying High**

You may have noticed the recent addition of a flagpole on the Village Green.

This will be used to display a flag in honour of HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in early June and during the rest of the year we intend to display the Union Jack, St George's Cross with the Lancashire Flag to be flown in late November.



### Welcome back!

Welcome to our first newsletter since the Coronavirus restrictions began. For the safety of our residents, production was suspended but we're now looking forward to getting back to some form of normality.

Please keep yourself and others safe - follow the Government guidance.

During the time since the last newsletter, the area in front of the pond on The Green was greatly improved with seats, planters and a community notice board, This was carried out by Chorley Council at the parish Council's request as part of a Neighbourhood Priority Scheme. During 2020, a small group comprising of Parish Councillors and volunteers made up and delivered food parcels, funded by grants, to the primary schools and in 2021, 6 laptops were donated (3 per primary school).

The Open Spaces Committee has been working to secure funds from housing developments to replace the Hawthorns play area and we're pleased to announce work is scheduled to commence at the end of March. The small car park serving the Recreation Ground has been resurfaced and there has been ongoing work on the Millennium Green and tree planting to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

A flagpole has been erected on the Village Green and plans are being made to construct a small remembrance garden area. We are currently in discussions with Lancashire County Council for suitable sites to locate solar powered speed indicators. Parish Council staff continued to work throughout the pandemic keeping the village neat and tidy

#### Are you interested in becoming a 'Friend of Eccleston Library'? Friends Groups are open to anyone who wants to get Involved and support their library and make a positive difference. Please speak to a member of staff if you are interested in or would like to know more about: • supporting your local library and the services it offers • helping to raise money by fundraising and applying for grant funding • enhancing the programme of library events and activities • and promoting the library service within the community The 'Friends of Eccleston Library' group is open to everyone, so get in touch today!

## A local Charity, Central Lancs Dial A Ride Community Transport is calling

## ECCLESTON

...to become volunteer drivers for their local community.

Do you like driving and volunteering at the

same time? Then Central Lancs Dial A Ride 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 for the car scheme is yourself, a car, full UK driver's licence, a DBS Clearance and you are good to go!

Any time you can afford to be available would be welcome. You will be reimbursed for your expenses at £0.40 per mile for the Car Scheme.

If you require any further information please call Cein Heath ; 01257 450191

Or Tracy Keating / Samantha Preece on; 01257 260488 (0900-13.00 Mon-Fri).

We will arrange a short informal chat and take it from there.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Central Lancs Dial a ride Community Transport is a charity no. 1097900, we administrate this scheme and are supported by Eccleston Parish Council to do so.



office@hometruthslancs.co.uk

Are you aware of Lancashire Talking? It is a major initiative that aims to understand the needs of our local communities. A key priority enables you to share any concerns with our officers. You will also get text messages regarding crimes in your local area.



You can sign up at www.stayintheknow.co.uk/LancashireTalking

We are again seeing an increase in car thefts. Cars with keyless entry are particularly vulnerable. Please keep your keys in a Faraday Pouch or box (you can buy these online), or as far as possible from the car so the key signal cannot be cloned. Always make sure your vehicle is locked and secured.

PCSO 7932 Maria Fetherstone

# **Parish Councillor Vacancies**

There are currently two vacancies on the Parish Council 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 below), providing brief background details and

stating why you would like to join the Council.

To qualify, a person must be aged over 18 years old, a British citizen. eligible an Commonwealth citizen or Euronational, and an elector He/she, during the whole of the twelve months before application, must reside in, or within 3 miles of, the Eccleston 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 disgualified from holding office as a Councillor

If you require further information please contact the Clerk to the Council (details on back page).



## **Contact Details**

Chairman	Tel
Howard Thomas	453202
Vice Chairman	
Mike Miller	452662
Diane Bonney	450945
Kate Brown	07739 653558
Mark Brown	07753 567405
Rob Burns	452205
Mark Frost	07534 452556
Cein Heath	453765
Dorothy Miller	453987
Alan Whittaker	453456
email alanwhittaker1@sky.com	

#### 2 x Vacancies

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

9 Ambleside Avenue Euxton Chorley PR7 6NX

Tel: 01257 234003

e-mail: ecclestonpc@btinternet.com

website: www.ecclestonparishcouncil.org.uk

facebook facebook.com/ecclestonparishcouncil

#### twitter @ecclestonpc

## Useful Telephone Numbers

Police (non-emergency): 101

Chorley Police Station 01257 264225

Crimestoppers 0800 555111

Chorley Borough Council 01257 515151 email: contact@chorley.gov.uk

**Lancashire County Council** 

(roads and pavements, including street lighting): 0300 123 6780

report faults online at www.lancashire.gov.uk/roadsparking-and-travel/fault-search

National Grid Gas leaks 0800 111999 Electricity 0800 404090

United Utilities (Water) Leakline 0800 330033

Environment Agency Floodline 0345 9881188

Environment incident hotline 0800 80 70 60

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!

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