

Newsletter

Issue 40, Summer 2018



www.avpc.org.uk

Chairman's Message

Welcome to our summer edition of the Newsletter.

After a mild winter and then a very cold spring, summer has got off to a good start with the warm sunny weather in May. Many of you will be wondering what the strange ploughed arc of grass on the village green is. Through Neighbourhood Working with Chorley Council, we were promised a wild flower strip last year but it somehow got overlooked. So this year the strip has been marked, the grass killed and the land ploughed before sowing the seeds. Also a path is to be laid to each of the seats so that residents and visitors can sit and enjoy the green.

The Parish Council purchased a new seat for the bus stop outside Ravensthorpe and is looking to replace the wooden planter on the green with a stone one to match the stone planters in the area. Following discussions with Chorley Council through their Neighbourhood Working projects we expect to see improvements to the paths through Hare Wood and Judeland Wood, to eradicate muddy sections and make the



paths more accessible. We are fortunate to have Astley Park on our doorstep and these paths enhance our access to the park.

The Parish Council continues to work on the two issues of greatest concern to many residents namely the bus service to Chorley and parking problems. We are pleased to hear that the 109B is to be funded again by Chorley Council but still we are seeking ways to restore the "Chorley circular". The extension of the Hallgate car park may help to improve the parking issues associated with Astley Park and additional "event parking" planned for Westway should help to deal with major events.

Chair's column continued..

A number of new Councillors have joined the council over the last few months, following the resignations of Douglas Hope and Allan Bridge. They are Barbara Darragh, Susan Crook and Chris Sheldon.

Our thanks go to Douglas and Allan for their service to the village.

On a personal note, having been the only women on the council for some time, it is pleasing to have two more women join us. We look forward to some fresh contributions and ideas from all three.

If you have ideas of what of what you would like to see in Astley Village, please do get in touch through our website or by contacting the Clerk directly.

Finally, our village lengthsmen, Ronnie, retired in April. We all wish him a happy retirement.

**Cllr Laura Lennox
Chairman**

LITTER PICKING

The Parish Council is passionate about our village and is committed to promoting a cleaner safer and tidier community. As part of this ongoing work, monthly voluntary litter picks will continue to be organised by Councillor Matthew Lynch on the first Saturday in every month.

The Parish will also be asked to consider a proposal which aims to build on this successful community event by loaning a volunteer litter picking kit to those who wish to organise their own litter picking sessions.

Matthew said "Many people enjoy giving something back to their community and this is one way in which they can help in create a clean, safe and tidier village".



Annual Report of Astley Village Parish Council

Year 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018

The Council - During the year ending March 2018 the Parish Council worked hard to maintain and improve the village for its residents.

Councillors - During the period the Council was chaired by Councillor Laura Lennox with Councillor Rod Fraser as the Vice Chairman.

In this reported year three Councillors resigned – Ian Handley, Allan Bridge and Douglas Hope.

Susan Crook and Barbara Darragh joined the Council in January and Chris Sheldon at the March meeting.

Astley Village Newsletter - The new format of the newsletter continued to be well received. It is published twice a year covering all aspects of the Council's work and will be distributed to every household.

Website - The Council's newly designed website came online in May 2016, which was funded by a Government Transparency Grant. It looks professional and contains a lot of information on the Council, local items and documents you can look up.

Council Employees - The two village caretakers, Ronnie and Jamie, contribute so much to the excellent condition of our village, litter picking, tidying and doing other tasks. Debra Platt, the Clerk, also continued her good work for the Council.

Village Plan - The Council's village plan continues to be reviewed throughout the year. The plan informs the budget setting which is carried out in January for the new year beginning the 1st April. Some of the projects will be worked on with Chorley Council whilst others the Parish Council will look to support or develop itself.

In this year the Council has provided a number of wayside seats, whilst maintaining its displays of flower tubs around the village.

Value for Money - The Council spends the money it collects from residents wisely and for the benefit of Astley Village residents. Based on a band D council tax property in the village, the approximate cost is 40p per week for the Parish Council's services during the year. This is collected by Chorley Council and costs a total of £22.00 for the year. We hope you agree this is very good value for money.

Summary - The Council is looking forward to making further improvements in the coming year.

Laura Lennox
Chairman
April 2018

REPORTING VILLAGE ISSUES TO CHORLEY COUNCIL



The Parish Council is keen that residents report any matters of concern around the Village relating to litter, trees & hedges, fly tipping and graffiti.



Whilst residents can contact the Clerk to the Parish Council, it is quicker and you can monitor the response if you report directly to Chorley Council. You can do this by telephone on (01257) 515151 or on the Chorley website www.chorley.gov.uk

You will need to register for a **'my account'** and then you can **Report** an issue.



The screenshots show what you can report and when you select you will be asked to locate the issue on a detailed map of the



Village. Once you have done that you will be asked for further details, and finally you will see a summary of your issue and when it will be resolved by. Chorley Council will you send you an email when the matter has been resolved.

As Parish Councillors we have found it more efficient to report direct and matters are usually dealt with promptly, particularly if they represent a health and safety issue.

Cllr Chris Lennox

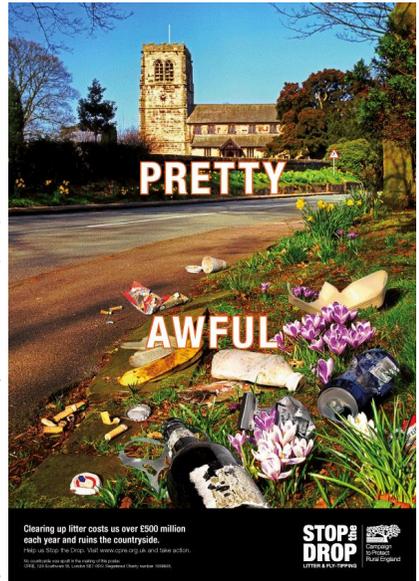
Main infrastructure items report to Lancashire County Councils see details page 12.

RESPECT OUR VILLAGE!

The Parish Council wants to work with residents to ensure Astley Village is as clean and tidy as possible. As Councillors we know that residents get frustrated by litter, dog fouling, bad parking and fly tipping of rubbish. We will be discussing action that can be taken to involve the community in building respect for our Village.

Some ideas we will consider:

- Posters asking residents to keep our Village clean and tidy and how to report concerns



- How community groups can organise litter picks and clean ups (with equipment provided through the Council)
- How to enhance our Village centre
- Bidding for funds to support 'Respect for our Village'

The Council welcomes any suggestions and ideas from residents on ways we can all work as a community to make our Village cleaner and tidier.

ClIr Chris Lennox

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY & 100 YEARS OF SUFFRAGE



Every year on 8th March, many countries around the globe celebrate International Women's Day. The movement had been around since 1909, but at various dates in February & March. It was only in 1917, when women in Soviet Russia gained suffrage (the right to vote), that 8th March was agreed upon as the future annual date to celebrate all things female.

There have been many differing themes for IWD each year, with 2018 seeing Gender Parity being brought to the forefront. This subject has revealed the current inequalities in access to education and equal pay between the sexes, and hopefully opened up the debate for governments around the world.

Here at home, this year has been a milestone year for International Women's Day as it marks the centenary of when the first group of women were given the right to vote in the UK. Initially, the vote was given to women over the age of 30 who were householders, and it took a further 10 years until all women were given the same right to vote as men, in 1928.

Women have since had many pivotal roles in politics, with the first female Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, being voted in in 1979. Our current government also once again has a female leader and a record 208 female MPs.

I myself have been honoured to be given the role of Parish Councillor earlier this year, along with my fellow councillor, Cllr Barbara Darragh. Whilst we are a long way from running the country, hopefully our input will have a positive impact on the village and we will be able to do our Suffragette sisters proud!

Councillor Susan Crook



STATE OF OUR ROADS



Many residents have complained about the state of the roads in the Village. There are potholes and very rough sections particularly at the entrances and up to 100 metres further into the roads off Chancery Road.



The photos show three that are particularly badly affected - Great Meadow, Longcroft Meadow and Buckshaw Hall Close.

Residents report damage to vehicles and potential trip hazards when crossing roads.



The Parish Council and individual Councillors have reported residents' concerns to Lancashire County Council, but to date there have been no proposals to make good the road surfaces.



The Parish will continue to press the County directly and though our elected representatives on both Chorley and Lancashire Councils.



Councillor Chris Lennox

SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE

Residents have raised concerns about speeding vehicles on Chancery Road and the Parish Council has recognised that this is a very important issue and extra measures are needed.

Cllr Matthew Lynch said, “Speeding vehicles are not the only issue, poor visibility at key junctions such as Wymundsley have added to residents demanding action.”

The Parish Council has agreed to purchase a permanent SpID and thanks to Chorley Council Neighbourhood Working Committee, a second device will also be purchased. It is expected that this project will not only offer greater road safety measures but will also deliver long term savings for the Parish Council’s annual budget.

Matthew said, “We know that our village is a destination for non-resident vehicles visiting Astley Park and I believe that these devices will enhance those measures we already see in Astley Village to inform drivers that they need to slow down”.

Since the decision was taken, Lancashire County Council announced a review of speed cameras and SpIDs is to be undertaken and the Parish will be seeking clarification on what impact this will have for the project.



FOUR YEAR ELECTION

Parish Councillors are elected on a four year cycle. In May 2019 all of the Astley Village Parish Council seats are up for election, as the last election was in May 2015.

It is predicted, if no other elections are called, that the election date will be Thursday, 2nd May 2019.

Astley Village Parish Council is just one ward and has 10 Councillors seats.

How to apply - Nomination papers are available from the Elections Officer at Chorley Council from late March 2019 and need to be completed and submitted back to the Elections Officer before the deadline set in April 2019.

THE FRIENDS OF ASTLEY PARK

Much of our time and efforts this year have been taken up by the restoration of an old fountain.

Whilst balsam-bashing one of our members discovered what he thought, at first, was a millstone, but was, in fact, the base of the fountain. Strenuous digging revealed the pedestal and bowl, also a cast-iron pipe which gravity-fed the fountain from the pond behind it.

One of our longest standing members, the late Rosemary Boyd, a keen historian, instigated research into the origins of this find. In the Historic England Report on



Astley Hall it stated that the 1844 Ordinance Survey Map clearly shows a fountain in that area. It concluded that the fountain could possibly even be 18th century.

So, we felt that to restore the fountain would be an exciting and worthwhile project and it has been made possible because of a grant we received from Tesco/Groundwork and a small donation from Astley Rotary Club, for which we are very grateful. Also, we have received every encouragement and support from Chorley Borough Council.

The work was completed and in early June, the fountain was officially turned on and was be dedicated to the memory of Rosemary. It is sad that she was not there to see it.

But, as always, there is so much more for us to do in the park and I am particularly requesting that, on the following dates, some of you might be able to find the time to join us on our Saturday morning balsam-bashing morning sessions. The dates are 14th and 21st of July and 11th and 25th of August. We meet in the Coach-house courtyard at 9-30am.

To find out more about The Friends of Astley Park and all the things we do, visit our website www.friendsofastleypark.com

COUNCIL INFO

Council Clerk, Mrs Debra Platt
9 Ambleside Avenue, Euxton, PR7 6NX
Tel. 01257 234003
Email: clerk@avpc.org.uk

Visit the website for information such as meeting minutes and other interesting information.

Full Council Meetings are held on Wednesday's in Astley Village Community Centre beginning at 7.00pm, forthcoming 2018 dates are:

5 September, 7 November

2019: 2 January, 6 March, 1 May

Newsletters are published in Spring and Winter and delivered solus to all Astley Village homes, a circulation of nearly 1500.

The Council has two notice boards located one at the junction of Chancery Road and Hallgate and the other, in the village centre next to the Community Centre.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

The Council's notice board mounted on the shop wall, near to the Pharmacy entrance, is now being used as a Community notice board where groups can post messages about Community activities, events etc. Send any notices in to the Council Clerk.

SMALL GRANTS FUND

Astley Village Parish Council offers funding assistance to local organised groups for local projects.

The grants available are in the hundreds, not thousands.

If your group would like to apply, all they need to do is submit an application form with some details.

Contact the Parish Council for a copy of the grant criteria and form or see them on the website.

ADVERTISEMENTS

The village newsletter is produced by the Parish Council and distributed to all Astley Village homes. It has spaces for local businesses to advertise to subsidise the cost of its printing and distribution.

It is printed on quality A5 gloss art paper in full colour and is 16 sides of A5, booklet, and distributed in Spring and Winter. A total print for the newsletter is 1600, delivered by local distributor to every house, approximately 1420 properties in Astley Village.

Besides this delivery, the Parish Council gives a supply to the Community Centre for visitors to collect, the shops and at Derian House. Also, the newsletter appears on the website.

Full Page Adverts, Size: A5, artwork produced, £70 per issue.

Half Page Adverts, Size: half A5, artwork produced, £45 per issue.

Quarter Page Adverts, Size: quarter A5, artwork produced, £25 per issue.

**ASTLEY VILLAGE
PARISH COUNCILLORS**

Chairman

Cllr Laura Lennox
Judeland, Tel: 260264

Vice Chairman

Cllr Rod Fraser
Great Meadow, Tel: 07926 848426

Cllr Susan Crook
Great Meadow, Tel: 07832 144004

Cllr Barbara Darragh
Buckshaw Hall Close, Tel: 07515 681537

Cllr Chris Lennox
Judeland, Tel: 260264

Cllr Matthew Lynch
Buckshaw Hall Close, Tel: 07856 960931

Cllr John McAndrew
The Farthings, Tel: 262914

Cllr John Nuttall
Great Meadow, Tel: 07852 722204

Cllr Keith Robinson
Long Croft Meadow, Tel: 278686

Cllr Chris Sheldon
The Farthings, Tel: 266463

HIGHWAY ISSUES

If you need to report any Lancashire County Council faults such as problems with pavements, roads, street lights, flooding, bollards, gritting or any main infra-structure items you can do this simply online using this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/y9mz35z8>

Or on the telephone to Highways reports: 0300 123 6780

Lancashire Police offer a free crime alert messaging service. If you would like to receive these free crime alerts you can do so by filling in some basic details at www.stayintheknow.co.uk



You can also report crimes via the internet using this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/y92qm4um>

Chorley Police Station 01257
269021

Central Control Centre 101
Crimestoppers 0800 555 111
(anonymous reporting)

All emergency calls 999