

## HESKETH WITH BECCONSALL PARISH COUNCIL

# Shoreline Summary

Hesketh-Out Marsh

Edition Number 40 ~ March 2016



In May this year, the current Members of the Council complete their four year appointments and stand down: this could be your opportunity to put yourself forward. The Council has eleven seats, if there are more than eleven applications then an election will be held on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May when all registered residents of Hesketh Bank can cast their vote. In addition there will be an opportunity to stand for the Borough Council when one of the Ward seats is vacated. The Election process is managed by the **'Returning Officer'** at West Lancashire Borough Council in Ormskirk and it is to that officer that you should apply for nomination papers or to answer any questions or queries you may have.

So what does a Parish Council do? Quite often they become confused with Parochial Church Councils being that they both refer to Parishes. That is where the similarity ends however, for whilst in the main they both operate in similar if not identical areas, a Parish Council is a Statutory Body put in place by the Local Government Act of 1972; it is the first layer of Government supported in our case by a Borough and County Council or elsewhere a Unitary Authority.

Parish Councils are in the main non-political and work to promote and maintain their own parochial area and seek to represent the views and aspirations of the residents they represent. They are financed by a precept which is added to their local Council Tax bill and amounts to around 80p per week for a Band D home here in Hesketh Bank. In addition they endeavour to source grants and funds from other organisations to promote their work.

I'm sure we will see many of the existing hard working Councillors putting their names forward again along with some new faces for

the next four years. If there is an election, who represents you on the Council is entirely dependent on your vote; our democracy depends on you the voter making your choice and I hope as many of you as possible will exercise that right. The retiring Council can take pride in what has been achieved in the village, not only in the last four years but especially since the Council was granted the Government's Quality award in 2008.



One of the earliest schemes was to secure a **50mph speed limit on Shore Road** followed by new lighting on the most

dangerous sections, the clearing of vegetation from the footpath and the full safety survey which was implemented by Lancashire County Council.



STATION ROAD PLAY AREA

**Recreation and Sport** has always been high on the Council’s agenda and the village now has three top quality Play Areas at Shore Road, Glen Park Drive and Station Road; the pathways at Station Road and the Shore Road Recreation Ground were both upgraded to accommodate push-chairs and improve access for those of limited mobility. All areas are inspected weekly by Councillors and quarterly by expert technicians to



SHORE ROAD PLAY AREA

ensure as far as possible the safety of users; the Play Areas along with the Recreation Ground at Shore Road are litter picked fortnightly throughout the year and that is increased to weekly during the school summer holidays. A major task to register ownership of all these sites was undertaken as original documentation had apparently been lost; they are all now recorded with the Land Registry for posterity. The Council is at present actively acquiring other Public Amenity space including land at Pardoe Close and Glenpark Drive which will then be maintained to the same high standard. It has also been agreed that once the protracted adoption of Poppyfields is complete, the Council will take over the Play Area there along with the significant open space between there and The Green.

During last year, extensive works were carried out at the Council’s Centenary Sports Ground on Station Road to improve drainage and resurface the Car-Park and rear section of the access roadway; further re-surfacing work will be completed in the new financial year. The three clubs, Bowls, Cricket and Football, which occupy the Sports Ground, along with the 3G All Weather Pitches operated by the Football Club, offer facilities for well over 600 local sports men, women and children. Both the Football and Cricket Club have ambitious plans to improve their facilities over the coming years and the Bowls Club continues to offer social facilities for many groups.

Hesketh Bank has the some of the lowest Crime figures of anywhere within West Lancashire and undoubtably



BOOTHS TODAY AND BEFORE CONSTRUCTION

contributing to this is the extensive High Definition wireless CCTV network installed by the Council across the village with some 13 cameras continually monitoring and recording activity. Once we have control of the Poppyfields Open Space and Play Area, the system will be extended there.

The arrival of ‘Booths’ in the village, which was backed by the Parish Council, was a major coup for the area offering a major food store one could normally only expect in larger conurbations.

The Parish Council worked with the Borough Council and Booths to improve the village centre with pathways, street

furniture, bus shelters and new heritage style lighting columns which sport illuminated Christmas Decorations in the season. The car parking provision at Booths along with new crossing has dramatically improved the traffic flow and safety on Station Road.



The Council has also worked with the 'Village Community Centre' Trustees both with significant repair works and also obtaining the grant to provide the exceptionally well-used fenced Ball Court, lighting, fencing and CCTV. The Council also took over the front of the site investing significant funds and grants to provide the Millennium garden and seating which it now

maintains and which was awarded the "Pendle Shield Special Feature Award" in the 2015 Best Kept Village competition.



The biggest undertaking in recent years was the total re-design and provisioning of the Council's 'Poor Marsh Allotments' on Shore Road following the securing by the Council of the Freehold of the site for generations to come. Over sixty gardeners now enjoy plots on the site which was formally opened by The Mayor of West Lancashire, Cllr Rob Bailey and Professor David Bellamy; the Council managed to secure grants of over £30,000 to undertake major drainage works along with the provision of utilities and car parking. As the Mayor of West Lancashire commented at the opening "This is a Council punching way above its weight".



The Council then moved on to provide a "Permaculture" area on the four acre site which has encompassed many self-sustaining projects. The Parish Council were delighted that the 'Poor Marsh' Allotments were subsequently awarded 'The Most Improved Site in North West England' by the National Allotments Association. Everyone involved in the redevelopment and the 'Plotters' currently working the site deserve recognition for their hard work.

During the last eighteen months, the Council has undertaken significant new initiatives. First along was to replace the 'temporary' steel container used as a changing room at Shore Road with a purpose built facility with showers and toilets. Financed by the Council, Football Club, donations and grants, the facility is available for any sporting or recreation use. The



opportunity was taken to undertake

repairs to the drainage and re-lining the car park. The Council will be undertaking an extensive overhaul of the existing land drains plus additional drainage works of the adjacent Recreation Ground during the coming year.



The Launch of the "Heritage Trail" during the summer was the culmination of a significant amount of work. The recently completed Hesketh with Beconsall Heritage Trail was launched

in March 2015 when more than a hundred people attended the unveiling of the Information Board to the musical accompaniment of the Hesketh Bank Silver Band. The four mile trail celebrates the fascinating history of Hesketh Bank and incorporates twelve points of interest spread along a picturesque route around the village and surrounding countryside.



The Beconsall branch of the “**University of the Third Age**” (**U3A**) was launched by the Council at the Community Centre to much acclaim with membership soon exceeding 120. Seema Kennedy came along to the recent Open Day - it transpired that our local MP didn’t need any briefing - she knew all about U3A as members of her family had joined and were enjoying their membership.



U3A CHAIRMAN, TERRY BALDWIN : MP, SEEMA KENNEDY  
U3A REGIONAL TRUSTEE, JENNY CARLEY

The “**Love Hesketh Bank**” scheme took a new turn last year with the Best Kept Gardens, Business Premises and Allotments being judged for the first time. Councillor Diane Earles, who led the working party for the project, said “We would like to thank our judges for their hard work and deliberations. It is clear that we have a lot of people who take pride in their piece of Hesketh Bank, which is what this competition is all about.”

As you can see, the work of a Parish Councillor is interesting and varied; why not consider putting your name forward this year? The future in Hesketh Bank looks very exciting with major schemes like the transformation of the former Brickworks site and the establishment of the Douglas Park - promising to deliver a new area of parkland, woodland and lake along with a riverside walk to Tarleton and beyond.



WINNERS OF THE ‘BEST KEPT’ COMPETITION

The aspiration is also there for the **West Lancashire Light Railway** to significantly expand their operations, not only with trains and track, but with a heritage and visitor centre. The Parish Council fully supports this charitable organisation and has committed to support it wherever possible.

During the coming year, we are committed to a total review of the **Parish Plan** which will seek to update the residents’ views as to how where the Council devotes its energies.

***On behalf of all the residents of Hesketh Bank, I trust I can extend your thanks to all our retiring Councillors for their hard work over the last four years for which they don’t receive a single penny. Ian Cropper.***

**PARISH COUNCIL**

- Cllr. Iain Ashcroft 1 Chandlers Croft - Cllr. Maureen Baldwin 5 Rankin Avenue
- Cllr. Diane Earles 2 Chandlers Croft - Cllr. Martin Forshaw 7 Beconsall Lane
- Cllr. Norma Goodier 43A Fermor Road, Tarleton - Cllr. Steve Kirby 50 Shore Road
- Cllr. Julie Lancaster 3 Chandlers Croft - Cllr. David Maughan 52 Newarth Lane
- Cllr. Jillian McKean 12 Sidney Avenue - Cllr. Paul Sergeant 108 Moss Lane
- Cllr. Ron Tyson Lansdowne, Shore Road

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