

Love Hesketh Bank

The Newsletter of Hesketh with Beconsall Parish Council

February 2019



Once again, the Parish Council celebrated Christmas and the New Year with festive lighting on the lighting columns in the centre of the village; as in many previous years, Duncan Taylor of Arden Lea Nurseries provided the beautiful Floral Christmas wreaths as his gift to the village.



Regrettably, as a result of some premises being unoccupied, and others being unable to access electricity, the Council decided that placing fir trees on the buildings was no longer practicable. We are now looking at alternative ideas for Christmas this year. If you have any ideas, let the Parish Clerk know.

2018 was a very busy year for the Council with many new schemes and initiatives. During the winter of 2017-2018, we were approached by several residents who voiced strong concerns regarding the excessive speed of vehicles on Shore Road and Station Road – especially on the approach to the former railway bridge. Other concerns were voiced regarding the apparent blatant disregard to the 20mph limit down Moss Lane. The Council responded to this by resolving to purchase and maintain three Speed Indicating & Recording Devices (SPIDs). An



exhaustive procurement process was undertaken ultimately resulting in the purchase of three units from the French firm “ElanCity” whose product outclassed other similar European competition on both price and facilities; indeed the unit in Station Road was the first imported into this country and is now one of over 13,000 in use. The device uses radar to detect vehicles up to 300m away and records full details of each vehicle passing – and in both directions! Data obtained is being passed to the police who will follow up with targeted action.

The Council’s Recreation Grounds at Shore Road has been suffering severe water logging for some years; indeed the junior football teams were unable to play there for most of the 2017-2018 season due to the conditions. The Council had been accruing funds for the two previous years to tackle the problem



including the outlet drains which had collapsed under the adjacent carpark. Work started in February 2018 to replace all the collection and outlet drains; it was soon discovered that the installation completed some twenty years earlier had used the wrong type of piping which had become fully blocked with roots from the

adjacent Crack Willows. These drains had to be totally removed and replaced with twin-wall pipe that would prevent any future root ingress; on completion, the Car Park was re-surfaced.

Work on installing new land drains, sand banding and spiking was initially delayed by wet weather then subsequently by a prolonged period of drought, however the full recreation ground and Children’s Play Area is now open for business. We just hope that one day the few irresponsible dog owners, who leave their dogs faeces for children to become contaminated with, will become responsible citizens!

Over at the other local Recreation Facility, The Council’s **Centenary Sports Ground** on Station Road, the Council completed upgrade works which have been on-going for four years with the installation of security floodlighting on the car park, supported by a 60% grant. The three clubs which occupy the site – Football, Cricket and Bowls – provide a valuable facility for the village and to members approaching 500 in total. The Floodlights have improved security for Members, friends and visitors as well as substantially reducing anti-social behaviour and drug abuse.



Alongside this work, the Football Club embarked on its biggest capital investment programme ever with their decision to lay a brand new pitch along with a complete new drainage system. The scheme, paid for entirely by the Club, and financed through the Parish Council cost approaching £60,000 but

hopefully will see the regular cancellation of matches become a thing of the past. The Council has always been keen to support recreation and sport in the village and has through this ethos obtained many grants in the past.



The **Maintenance** of the Council's assets has always been a prime consideration when expending Capital and we pride ourselves in this. During the year, all safety surfaces at the Council's three Play Areas have been refurbished and re-edged. Whilst such surfacing does not guarantee protection from injury, it does go a long way. It is still important that children using play equipment and those in charge of children have fun whilst treating the equipment with respect; please report to the Clerk of the Council any defects or problems you see.

From April 2018, the Council expanded its "Lengthsman" scheme and we now have our contractor – "BP Maintenance" working for the Council every Monday. Many of you will know Brian who has worked for the Council in various capacities for over 20 years; we are indeed lucky to have such a dedicated man working with us. If you spot something around the village that is amiss or needs repairing, let Brian know when you see him and if it's within his remit, he will attend to it or refer it to whoever is responsible.



From April this year, BP Maintenance will also be looking after all the grass verges within the village as well as weed spraying paths and gutters. In response to resident's views, this will be undertaken at a much higher frequency than previously undertaken by the Borough.

Maintenance and cleaning of the Council's Recreation Grounds, Sports Ground and its three Play Areas is one of the biggest costs. As mentioned earlier, the constant battle clearing dog faeces left by irresponsible dog owners is sometimes just beyond belief. It seems incomprehensible to us that knowingly, owners are leaving this mess to contaminate others with possible serious disease.

We've also seen an increase in the numbers of dog owners bagging the waste then just dropping the bag on the field or at the side of the road; this again is totally unacceptable. You can place the waste in any bin whether marked for that purpose or not





A review is currently being carried out as to whether to make it an offence not to carry the means of clearing up, in the form of waste bags or containers, when taking dogs into public areas.

We've added a new parcel of land to the assets of the village. Thanks to the generosity of the Plant and Eatough families, the small area of land that joins Granville Avenue and Sidney

Avenue has been gifted by them to the Parish Council. It is our aim to improve this and make it fully accessible to pedestrians, regularising this 'ad-hoc' access as a short-cut for many to the village centre. It will remain as Parish Council land rather than a public right of way and not be dedicated to the highway in order that we can maintain it to our own high standards.

During the year, we also took into Parish Council ownership the Public Open Space at Ashbrook Close, the open grassland on both sides of the junction of Chapel Road and Glen Park Drive and additional Play Area space alongside the Station Road Play Area.

The Council has been pursuing, for some time, ownership of the open space between Poppyfields and The Green along with the associated Play Area. It is the Council's wish to see this land developed as a natural managed open green space. To date however, the Borough Council, in its planning capacity,



has been unsuccessful in reaching agreement with Morris Homes, the original developer, in bringing both the open land and Play Area up to a standard where we could adopt it.

We have now accrued reserved funds for the ongoing development and the installation of security cameras as soon as a deal is reached.

Continuing to promote the "Love Hesketh Bank" theme, we this year saw the first award of the "Best Kept Street"; Silverdale was the unanimous choice of all the judges. We hope that local other groups will in future get together to promote their own patch.

The Parish Council continues to support the **Trustees of the Community Centre** in their aims to redevelop this important local asset; the Council have agreed to contribute proceeds from the "Community Infrastructure Levy" (CIL) in respect of local 'ad hoc' developments, to a totally new facility on the existing site. The Trustees have been working long and hard investigating various options; their negotiations are well advanced for securing substantial funding.



The Community Centre has also been awarded a "**National Lottery Awards for All**" grant for just under £10,000; this money has been used for the purchase of new tables and crockery as well as refurbishing the ladies toilet in the back hall with new heating, sinks and vanity fittings. Councillor Diane Earles said, "*The vanity units were donated last year by Kevin Pointon and these monies have now paid for the plumber and electrician to get them installed.*"

The Community Centre was also on the map when Radio Lancashire paid them a visit last year. Many local groups and individuals took part in the two hour broadcast

which came from the Centre and Band Room. The broadcast was a great success and was a showcase for some local talent as well as putting Hesketh Bank on the map.

The Community Centre has also been listed by the "Co-op" as one of their two Local Causes which will help generate more funds for the redevelopment.



KEEP IN TOUCH

To keep up to speed with the Parish Council, visit the WebSite at **www.HeskethBankCouncil.uk** You can contact your Councillors or the Clerk via the WebSite, check on 'Facebook' and "Twitter feeds", find out about Planning Applications and what the Council is currently up to as well as archive and historical information. If you would like to receive an email every time the WebSite is updated, simply email the Clerk at Clerk@HeskethBankCouncil.uk with the word "**Subscribe**" in the subject line.

UNIFORMED PARISH CHAMPION VOLUNTEER

Working with the Blue Light Services and the 'Lancashire Volunteer Partnership', the Council is looking to recruit two individuals for this new trial initiative. The basic idea is to provide a visible uniformed presence within the village and also to help in the planning of local events and:-

- ✓ To assist in dealing with minor traffic concerns and environmental issues
- ✓ To assist in identifying and supporting vulnerable people
- ✓ To support social action groups and promote community resilience
- ✓ To facilitate partnership working that adds value to local services
- ✓ To attend and work with local parish council meetings.

Training will be provided and will either be part of a distance learning package, accessible through a computer, or will involve face to face learning. All training is mandatory and all applicants must complete it before being confirmed in role. The commitment is flexible but expected to be around six hours weekly.

If this is something you think you would like to do, drop the Clerk an email and he will forward further information and an application form.

HESKETH OUTMARSH



With work now complete on the upgrading of the sea defences and the re-flooding of large parts of the out-marsh, the Council has taken the opportunity to install two seats, with the Environment Agency providing a third, on the new sea wall. Located at the confluence of the Rivers Douglas and Ribble with two further seats on the embankment running West to the CrossBank, these should provide welcome breaks for walkers and twitchers along this particularly beautiful stretch of the estuary.

Hesketh Out Marsh is a unique site that is part of the Ribble Estuary National Nature Reserve. This rare saltmarsh habitat is home to a variety of wonderful wildlife including: pink-footed geese and wigeons in winter, along with big flocks of wading birds like redshanks and lapwings. The whole outmarsh is a wetland site designated to be of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. The Convention on Wetlands, known as the Ramsar Convention, is an intergovernmental environmental treaty established in 1971 by UNESCO, which came into force in 1975. It provides for national action and international cooperation regarding the conservation of wetlands, and wise sustainable use of their resources.

Visit the RSPB WebSite to learn all about this at:-

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/reserves-a-z/hesketh-out-marsh/>

COUNCIL BUDGET

At the January meeting of the Parish Council, the new budget was set for 2019-2020. The total to be raised through the Parish Precept amounting to £58,500; this equates to 79p per week for a Band D house – less in real terms than the charge ten years ago. The Council will also receive a further £12,000 from other sources.

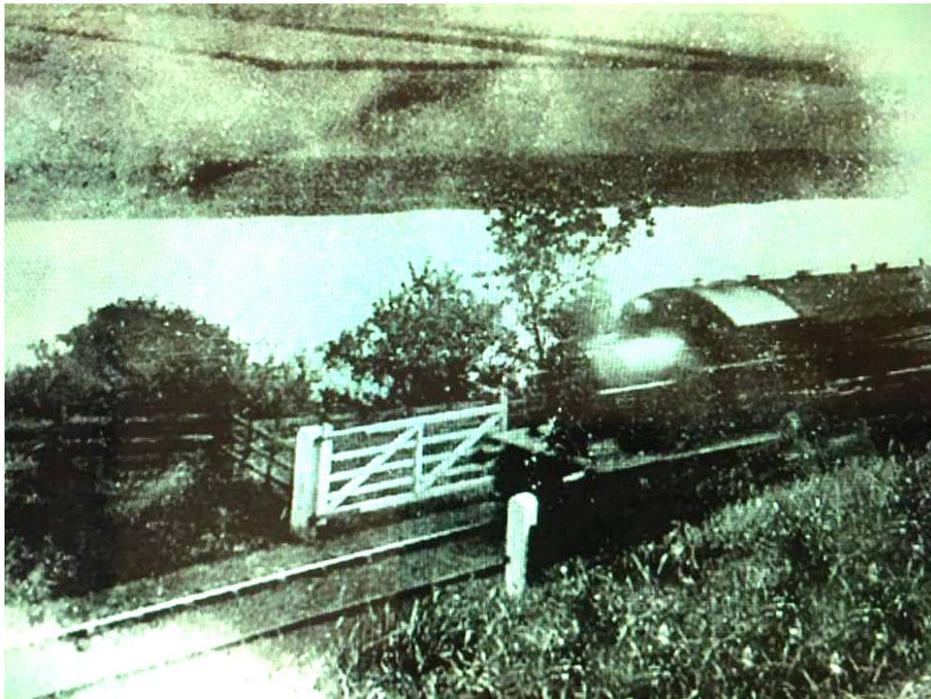
VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT

As we go to press, the major development of over 200 houses has started on the former Alty commercial site and green land to the South in Tarleton. With the access road base and several house footings already in place on the southern end of the site, it will only be a short while until the first Show House is inviting the band of home hunters.

The Northern part of the site is of course originally the local brickworks which commenced operations around 1880 as the “Ainsdale & Skelmersdale Brick Company”; the company very soon came into the hands of a local entrepreneur Henry Alty and remained so until 1970 when brick making finished. The

main clay pit for the site was partially filled over the years as a waste dump with the remaining area becoming an attractive lake surrounded by woodland. The West Lancashire Narrow gauge railway also occupies the site running around the North Western edge. Private plans are well in hand to develop the lake and tip area as a small Heritage centre.

There was much opposition to the redevelopment of the site but after substantive consultation, the Parish Council took the view that such a brownfield site was going to be developed sooner rather than later and that abject opposition was pointless and counter-productive. The Council therefore resolved to look for what is often called 'Planning Gain', that is benefit that can result for the community out of commercial development. Originally, the Council had hoped to acquire much of the area comprising the lake, tip and surrounding woodland area for free public access parkland, however private interest overtook this ambitious scheme.



The Council has now however reached agreement to take ownership of the former rail track along the Westerly banks of the Douglas (*as in the adjacent 1915 picture & below*) which runs south from the end of the new Persimmon development. It is intended that this strip of land which incorporates a public footpath throughout its length can be improved to provide walking and cycling access along its entire length. The development on the Alty site will yield up to £100,000 for the Parish Council through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which along with other

grants will enable the Council to develop the river bank into a usable pathway.

The Council is also working with Lancashire County Council and the Coastal Footpath team in the hope of progressing a new footbridge and Cycle path across the River Douglas to Hoole.



The Westerly Bank of the river Douglas in Tarleton

A view from the Railway bridge on Station Road looking East in 1915 and as it is today



The former West Lancashire railway bridge across the River Douglas, at the back of the Alty site, being demolished in 1965



Your Parish Councillors

Paul Sergeant, Chairman, 108 Moss Lane, Hesketh Bank

Iain Ashcroft, 1 Chandlers Croft
 Diane Earles, 2 Chandlers Croft
 Norma Goodier, 43A Fermor Road, Tarleton
 Steve Kirby, 50 Shore Road
 Richard Plant, 12 Granville Avenue

Jeff Christie, 62 Becconsall Lane
 Mike Ellis, 17 Astland Gardens, Tarleton
 John Hunter, 1 Langdale Avenue
 David Maughan, 52 Newarth Lane
 Ron Tyson, 'Lansdowne' Shore Road

Parish Clerk, Ian Cropper

Providence Place, 125 Roe Lane, Southport, Lancashire PR9 7PG
 01772 812681 www.HeskethBankCouncil.uk

