

HESKETH WITH BECCONSALL PARISH COUNCIL

Shoreline

Summary

Hesketh Out Marsh

Edition Number 27 ~ April 2012



The four year cycle for Hesketh with Becconsall Parish Council comes to an end during the first week of May when all eleven Councillors complete their terms of office and stand down. Elections will be held on the 3rd of May when I'm sure we will see many of the existing hard working Councillors along with some new ones taking up the reigns for the next four years. Who represents you on the Council is entirely dependent on your votes next month; 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 during the four previous years which set the pitch to take Hesketh Bank forward. The "Parish Plan" set out a vision for the village based on the responses to questionnaires sent to all houses in the community and the resulting document detailed peoples aspirations in terms of the quality of life. One of the earliest schemes was to secure a 50mph speed limit on Shore Road followed by new lighting, the clearing of vegetation from the footpath and the full safety survey which is presently being implemented by Lancashire County Council. The purchase by the Council of a portable "Speed Indicating Device" (SPID) has also proved extremely effective in reducing inappropriate speed on

Shore Road, Station Road and Moss Lane.

Recreation was high on the 'Parish Plan' 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 have both been upgraded to accommodate push-chairs. All are inspected weekly by Councillors and quarterly by expert technicians to ensure as far as possible their safety; these 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 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 now sport 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 hard with the 'Village Community Centre' Trustees both with significant repair works and also obtaining the grant to provide the well-used fenced Ball Court, lighting, fencing and CCTV. Provision of an amenity seating area and landscaping to the front of the hall will be completed shortly



The biggest undertaking has been the re-design and provisioning of the Council's 'Poor



Marsh' Allotments on Shore Road following the securing by the Council of the Freehold for generations to come. Over sixty gardeners now enjoy plots on the site which was formally opened by Professor David Bellamy last year; 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 is now moving on to provide a "Permaculture" area on the four acre site which will encompass many self-sustaining projects.

STOP PRESS

The Parish Council were advised at the last Council Meeting before the upcoming election on 3rd May that the 'Poor Marsh' Allotments have been awarded 'The Most Improved Site in North West England' by the National Allotments Association.

Every one involved in the redevelopment and the 'allotmenters' currently working the site deserve the recognition for their hard work over the fifteen months it took from marking out the first plot to the Grand Opening,



The site is now appropriately named 'The Field of Dreams'.

The 'Community Sports Centre' accessed through the Council's 'Centenary Sports Ground' has also proved extremely popular providing three All Weather Sports Pitches along with a comprehensive Gymnasium. Social facilities in the form of a Sportsmen's Bar and eating and entertainment facilities have also created a new communal point following the demise of the Beconsall Hotel.

The Council has also provided CCTV at the All Saints Primary School and adjacent Recreation and Play Areas and is currently evaluating a further provision in the village centre. We continue to maintain some sixteen wayside seats; thirteen bus shelters and six notice boards; plans are also in hand to erect a Village Centre feature on the brow of the old railway bridge to celebrate the diversity and importance of the area.

Looking to the future, the Parish Council has been instrumental in kick starting the 'Linear Park' project to provide a maintained route along the westerly bank of the River Douglas to Tarleton and will be working with West Lancashire Borough Council and Tarleton Parish Council to deliver this in the years to come; we are also planning signed and mapped leisure walks around the Parish.

I am delighted to say that the Council has just been re-accredited in the group of just 6% of 10,000 local Councils to carry the government's "Quality" status and is one of just 0.2% of select Councils who have been granted the right to use the new statutory "Power of Wellbeing".

I trust that I can say on behalf of the village, that we would like to thank the retiring Council for their work and dedication over the years and for giving freely to these entirely unpaid roles.

Ian Cropper, Parish Clerk.

PARISH COUNCIL:

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Cllr. Paul Blane 92 Station Road, Hesketh Bank – Cllr. Martin Forshaw 7 Beconsall Lane, Hesketh Bank
Cllr. Norma Goodier 43A Fermor Road, Tarleton - Cllr. Steve Kirby 50 Shore Road, Hesketh Bank –
Cllr. David Maughan, 52 Newarth Lane, Hesketh Bank – Cllr. Richard Plant 12 Granville Avenue, Hesketh Bank
Cllr. Paul Sergeant 108 Moss Lane, Hesketh Bank – Cllr. Ron Tyson Lansdowne, Shore Road Hesketh Bank –
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