

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2016

The present Council has just completed another productive and successful four year term. Martin Forshaw and Julie Lancaster have decided not to re-stand for election and we wish them both well in the future and thank them for all their hard work. We welcome new member Simon Kenyon to the council and will now have to co-opt another member to fulfil the other vacant position.

Personally this will be my 6th term as a Councillor spanning over 20 years although still some way behind Councillor's Ashcroft and Goodier.

Looking back over the last four years in September 2012 we became the first council in West Lancashire to achieve 'General Power of Competence' under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011. Later that year the then Mayor & Mayoress of West Lancashire, Councillor and Mrs Paul Greenall presented engraved Jubilee Medals and Certificates of Appreciation on behalf of the Parish Council to members of the local community who had made a significant contribution to the well-being of the village.

In 2013 the Council's Permaculture site at the Poor Marsh on Shore Road was awarded the prestigious 'Best Practice' award by the Lancashire Environment Fund. Also at Shore Road work started at the Council's Recreation Ground to build a new changing facility which was officially opened by the New Mayor our own Councillor Ian Ashcroft in March 2014. The building was financed by the Parish Council in partnership with the Football Club, West Lancashire Borough Council and local business.

In February 2014 on Valentine's Day the Council launched the Love Hesketh Bank campaign which we use to celebrate and promote the village and at the same time opened a Facebook page and Twitter account. Our thanks go to Councillor Diane Earles for her work which has continued with Annual Awards now being presented to individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the village.

In the summer of 2014 Councillor Steve Kirkby began the project of developing a Village Trail and to kick start it with 'Walk a Country Mile' following a path that was to become the first part of the Trail. The trail was completed by March 2015 and launched with a guided walk over the route with local historians briefly telling the story of the area and an impressive notice board was unveiled outside Booth's Supermarket.

Also in March 2015 work was completed to improve the drainage and re-surface the main carpark at the Council's Centenary Sports Ground and in addition high definition CCTV was also installed. Last week the road and entrance to the ground was also re-surfaced.

In September 2015 we narrowly missed the awards in the 'Best Kept Village' competition coming 4th in the Large Village Section. However we did win a Certificate of Merit and a Shield for the Council's Public Garden in front of the Community Centre on Station Road against 71 other entries in the region. Our thanks go to Councillor Ron Tyson for his work with the sub-committee responsible for the competition. Earlier in the year as part of the Love Hesketh Bank Campaign we ran a best kept garden and best kept allotment which was won by local residents Mr & Mrs Clark and John Birchall respectively.

The Village continues to develop and we await the development of Alty's site in particular but we will continue to push forward our ideas as part of the Linear Park and remain actively involved.

I thank all the Council past and present for the hard work that they voluntarily undertake for the whole community within the Parish of Hesketh-with-Beconsall and look forward to at least the next four years and hopefully beyond.

Finally I also thank our Clerk Ian Cropper for his continued support and guidance to myself and all the other councillors he has dutifully served under over the years and long may this continue.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Sergeant". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.