

Love Hesketh Bank Newsletter

produced by Hesketh with Becconsall Parish Council

June 2017

A new council year

We have just completed a productive and successful year after ten unopposed councillors were elected in May 2016, which left us with one vacancy to fill. In June we co-opted John Hunter to the council who had previously served as a councillor some years before. Maureen Baldwin then resigned for health reasons and was replaced in September by Mike Ellis. Finally, in November Jillian McKean also ceased to be a member and we co-opted another ex-councillor and past Chairman, Richard Plant early in 2017.



Our meeting place is now firmly established in Booths café and contact details of Councillors and the Clerk along with the Agenda of forthcoming meetings, local Planning Applications and our Newsletter can now be found on a new Council notice board located behind the basket checkout in 'Booths'.

Looking back over the past 12 months we began in June by entering the Best Kept Village competition and as part of that, and our continued 'Love Hesketh Bank' Campaign, we once again ran our own 'Best Kept' competition. We narrowly missed out on the awards for the Best Kept Village for the second year running finishing in 4th position once again in the Large Village section. However, in our own 'Best Kept' competition the three judges, Liz Tyson of Landsdowne Camping, Duncan Taylor of Arden Lea Nurseries and David Rose, Chairman of Southport Flower Show, awarded John Birchall the best allotment for the second year running, the residents of 7 Meadow Lane the best front garden and R&J Wright Haulage the best kept business premises. Thanks go to Councillors Diane Earles and Ron Tyson for their work on this.

In December we again marked Christmas with illuminated trees on most of the commercial premises in the centre of the village along with decorative features on the village centre lighting columns. Our thanks to those traders who once again supported the scheme and also to Duncan Taylor of Arden Lee Nurseries for supplying and fitting the beautiful festive wreaths on the lighting columns. Also in December the West Lancashire Borough Planning Committee refused Planning Consent for the long awaited development of the former Alty's brickworks and railway site in the centre of the village; we now await an appeal. In February the Love Hesketh Bank Award winners were announced, being recognised for their efforts over the years putting a lot into the village and its various organisations. The individuals being Martin Forshaw, Andy Simpson, Pat Hankin, Jennifer Wright, Maureen & Terry Baldwin and Harry Edmondson, plus one individual who wishes not to be named. In March we were informed that there was a strong possibility that we would lose the provision of GP services within the village due to the pending closure of the existing practice. To date, despite several meetings with the various interested parties, this has not yet been resolved. However, a temporary site at Tarleton will be put into place, which is obviously not an ideal situation for our residents.

In my role as Chairman 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-Becconsall. 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.

Paul Sergeant, Chairman



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Around the village



Have you seen our new signs, designed by Councillor Ellis, welcoming you to the village on Station Road and Shore Road?

The 'Heritage Walks' leaflet is being updated and reprinted and will be available from the dispenser at the Council's new Notice Board in Booths. On that note, we are delighted to advise that all the footpaths are now open following the developments on the outer Marsh. Richard Shirres from The Environment Agency will be attending the Parish Council meeting in June to give a progress report, which we hope will include the installation of benches along the route. We are also in talks with 'Natural England' regarding the National Coastal Footpath project.

We are in the process of replacing the bus shelter which was damaged before Christmas opposite Rankin Avenue, and the telephone box on Station Road, which was damaged more recently, has been removed.

Thanks to our high-quality CCTV system, we have been able to identify vandals on Hesketh Bank Community Centre and fly-tippers on the Centenary Sports Ground. The police are now assisting us in following up this information.

As you may have noted elsewhere, the Council has this year initiated a new 'Lengthsman' scheme within the village. The ancient role of Lengthsman stems from the name given to an employee of Parish Councils who looked after all aspects of several miles of roads within, and between Parishes keeping them clean, neat and tidy and tending adjacent ditches and hedges. Today, the responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of highways lies variously with County and District Councils but in rural areas many see their work as inadequate. Council members have been aware for some time regarding the dissatisfaction as to the cleanliness and the amount of weed growth within the village and it was for this reason that tenders were invited earlier this year for the role of Lengthsman.

"**BP Maintenance**" won the contract to take on this role from April and you will now see them around the village every Monday morning. The work includes pavement sweeping, litter picking and routine maintenance and cleaning of the Council's assets including notice boards, seats and bus shelters. In addition, spraying of weeds on the highway will be done throughout the village where metalled pavements exist. Some may see this as so called '*double rating*' but this work is in addition to that done by our Principle Authorities and does not replace or absolve them of their responsibilities. The cost of the additional work amounts to just 1p per day for a Band D property.



We have had some compliments recently regarding the Allotments and our new WebSite. Thanks go to all those involved in the Allotments, the new WebSite was produced totally in-house. Send an email to the Clerk with the word "**SUBSCRIBE**" in the subject line to receive emails with links to all the new information as it is posted.

Your Concerns

Residents who attended our April and May meetings raised the issue of car accidents on Shore Road. It was felt that poor signage was contributing to these accidents, especially for first time visitors to the village. As this is a Highways matter, we would advise all residents to contact Lancashire County Council if they have concerns.

We have been advised that there will be a portacabin installed on the Tarleton Health Centre site for Hesketh Bank residents when the 'Viran Medical Centre' closes. This, we are assured, is a temporary measure.

We have received a report on the state of play equipment on the Poppyfields play area, which is in desperate need of attention. We have recommended to the Borough that the site is fenced off and closed until such times the developer can reinstate it to a safe condition when we will discuss taking over ownership.

Please note that there have been a number of incidents on Beconsall Gardens play area where toddlers, young children and properties have been hit by balls. There are 'No Ball Games' signs on the site directing ball users to the Shore Road Recreation Ground instead.

Your suggestions please

Are there any areas of the village that you think need a spruce up? We are on the look-out for areas that might benefit from a bit of TLC and would welcome your suggestions. Please contact the Parish Clerk Clerk@HeskethBankCouncil.uk or telephone 01772 812681.

Hedge cutting

Please note that cutting hedges is the responsibility of the land owner and not the Parish Council. We would be grateful if all residents would ensure that footpaths and visibility are not blocked by unchecked hedges.

Hats Off to Tarleton Teens!

Hesketh Bank Community Centre was a hive of activity on Thursday 11th May when eight volunteers arrived from Tarleton Academy to provide an instant makeover and helping hand with Beconsall U3A's weekly Coffee Morning.

The Year Ten Pupils had not been able to get work experience placements with local employers and so instead they were devoting their time to volunteering work within the local community. Immediately on arrival they set about a complete litter pick of the whole site and tidied up the garden area. Then they put out tables and chairs ready for the U3A Coffee Morning and helped to serve refreshments when the members arrived, before joining in with the morning's activities including a General Knowledge Quiz.

The U3A Members were all in agreement that it had been a refreshing change to mix with some of the 'Junior Citizens' of the local community and it also gave the pupils a chance to see what a great range of opportunities the U3A offers for older people to lead an interesting and fulfilling life during retirement. They then went on to their next challenge - a makeover at Beconsall Old Church and Graveyard.

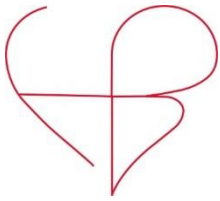
Dates for your diary

Parish Council meetings are held in Booths Café on the second Monday of every month, except August, from 7:30pm. All residents are welcome to attend, not only to hear about the work of the Council but also to raise any concerns or questions that they may have. Forthcoming meetings are as follows:

12 June : 10 July
11 September
9 October
13 November
11 December

If you have any questions or concerns you wish to raise outside of these meetings then contact the Parish Clerk Clerk@HeskethBankCouncil.uk or telephone 01772 812681.





Best Kept Competition

We're running our Best Kept competition again, supported by Southport Flower Show. Judges are tasked with finding the best front garden, business premises and allotment in the village – all you have to do is keep your part of Hesketh Bank looking tip top! Judging will take place between 3rd June and 16th July, the shortlist will be announced from 17th July and winners will be announced from 24th July. Winners will receive free tickets to Southport Flower Show, which takes place between 17th and 20th August, and all those shortlisted will receive free tickets to the Hesketh Bank Show on 16th September.



SOUTHPORT FLOWER SHOW



Parish Plan update

Following on from the last issue of Love Hesketh Bank, where we gave an update on the Conservation and Environment Action Group, we turned our attention to the Crime and Safety Group which also came out of the Parish Plan. Part of the Community Facilities Action Group, covered in our December issue, the Crime and Safety Group was set up from the people of Hesketh Bank wanting the village to be a safe, pleasant and crime free environment. They were involved in the installation of CCTV in the village and the Parish Clerk now has regular contact with the local Police Community Support Officer (PCSO). However, due to increased demand on our PCSO's time, we don't very often see them at our Parish Council meetings to which they have an open invitation. Ongoing discussions with the police include traffic calming measures.

Residents are encouraged to:

- Set up Neighbourhood Watch Schemes: www.ourwatch.org.uk
- Report non-emergency incidents to the Police by calling 101
- Report broken street lights: www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel

Your Parish Councillors

We are pleased to announce that Paul Sergeant was re-appointed as Chairman, and Iain Ashcroft was re-appointed as Vice Chairman, of the Parish Council at the May meeting.

Paul Sergeant, Chairman, 108 Moss Lane, Hesketh Bank

Iain Ashcroft, 1 Chandlers Croft, Hesketh Bank

Diane Earles, 2 Chandlers Croft, Hesketh Bank

Mike Ellis, 17 Astland Gardens, Tarleton

Norma Goodier, 43A Fermor Road, Tarleton

John Hunter, 1 Langdale Avenue, Hesketh Bank

Steve Kirby, 50 Shore Road, Hesketh Bank

David Maughan, 52 Newarth Lane, Hesketh Bank

Richard Plant, 12 Granville Avenue, Hesketh Bank

Ron Tyson, 'Lansdowne' Shore Road, Hesketh Bank

Parish Clerk, Ian Cropper

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