

Councillor Vacancy

Do you want to make a difference in the village, or would you like to help improve what is currently on offer?

There is currently a vacancy on the Parish Council - if you would like to apply or require information contact the Clerk or Councillors.

Lancashire Constabulary

If you see any crime report it to Crimestoppers on:

0800 555111

Contact local Police on
0845 1253545

Lancashire Highways Partnership

The Partnership is responsible for the maintenance of road and pavement surfaces, provision of winter services, street lighting, traffic management, co-ordination of all activities in the streets (including utility services), and highway safety inspections, provision and maintenance of measures to assist public transport, cyclists and pedestrians.

To contact the Partnership telephone the contact centre on:

0845 0530011

or email to: **enquiries@lancashirehighwayspartnership.gov.uk**

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Joan Geddes (Chairman)
Dave Berry (Vice-Chairman)

Diane Greenhalgh
Eunice Riding
Janet Ross-Mills

Alan Platt (Clerk)
Can be contacted at:
9 Ambleside Avenue
Euxton
Chorley
PR7 6NX

Tel: 01257 234003
Fax: 01257 234004
e-mail:

heapeypc@btinternet.com

Parish Council meetings are held in The White Coppice Rooms, St Barnabas Church, Chapel Lane commencing at 7.30pm on the 1st Tuesday of alternate months (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov). The July meeting has been brought forward to 28 June. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Parish Council noticeboards are located in the War Memorial Grounds (visible from Kenyon Lane) and the end of Coppice Lane (by the junction with Hollin Lane, White Coppice.

Heapey Parish Council Newsletter

May 2005

Councillors' Fury at 25% Rise in Precept

The Parish Council has been forced to increase the Parish Precept that had been previously agreed at the November Parish Council Meeting following Chorley Borough Council's announcement in December that the Amenities Grant, which contributes towards the upkeep of public land within the village, would be withdrawn.

The withdrawal of the grant is as a result of the Borough Council's decision to introduce an item known as 'Special Expenses' into its budget. The theory behind this is to redress the double taxation which existed for residents of rural areas whereby their Council Tax included a contribution towards grounds maintenance for the whole Borough. Historically there has been an additional charge for the cost of grounds maintenance within the Parish included in the Parish Council precept, which is where the double taxation occurs. Theoretically the cost of grounds maintenance for the whole of the Borough has been removed and charged back to all council tax payers in accordance with the location of the areas maintained, meaning that residents of Chorley town will now, for the first time, pay an additional precept for the areas within the town. The Parish Council was advised that the Borough Council's portion of residents Council Tax should actually have come down!!!!

The Parish Council services include the ongoing maintenance of the Play Area and the War Memorial Grounds, cutting of verges on Blackburn Road, Parish Council noticeboards, the Christmas tree and lights, emptying of dog waste bins and relevant insurance cover.

In addition to the services provided, the Parish Council exists to represent the views of Heapey residents to the Borough and County Councils, the Police and various other public and private bodies. If you have an issue the Parish Council may be able to help with please let us know.

Hello and Good Byes

Sadly we have said farewell to Bill Geddes, the Clerk to the Parish Council, who has retired after 14 years service to both Heapey and Wheelton Parish Councils. His kind help and support to the people he served was greatly appreciated by all who came into contact with him over many years.

Shelagh Graham has also retired after serving for over 10 years on the Parish Council. The Council would like to co-opt a member to take her place until the next election in May 2006.

The Parish Council would like to express thanks to Bill and Shelagh for giving so generously of their time and skills for the benefit of the village.

We also extend a warm welcome to our new Clerk, Alan Platt, who was appointed in December and is already getting familiar with the issues in our community.

Parish Council Financial Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2005

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Parish Precept	6986	Staff Costs	2669
Amenity Grant(i)	655	Administration	1013
Agency Work (ii)	658	Insurance	238
Interest	135	Donations	2250
VAT Reclaimed	146	Grounds Maintenance	801
		Subscriptions	201
		VAT	40
Total	8580		7212
		Opening Balance	9057
(i) towards the maintenance of the play area and grasscutting		Income	8580
(ii) grasscutting carried out on behalf of Lancashire County Council		Sub total	17637
		Expenditure	7212
		Closing Balance	10425

Heapey & Wheelton Parish Plan

The Parish Plan Questionnaires were collected at the beginning of May. The responses are currently being collated in preparation for the production of the Plan.

Thanks to all residents who completed the questionnaire, and also to the volunteers who distributed and collected them.

Refuse Collection

Residents cannot have avoided to notice the publicity surrounding Chorley Borough Council's changes to the refuse and recycling collections.

The Parish Council is fully supportive of any measures taken to reduce the amount of landfill waste, however it is also keen to ensure the views of residents are taken into account.

As the system is now up and running please let us have your impressions of the revised service (contact details overleaf).

Village Fete

The Village Fete will take place on Sunday 3 July - look out for information nearer the time.

Village Hall in Crisis!

You probably read in the local newspaper that, after years of hard work and fund raising, Whittle-le-Woods are opening their village hall. Heapey and Wheelton have had a village hall for many years.

Over those years, a hard core of people have worked enthusiastically to maintain and manage this valuable community asset. Understandably, they now wish to step back from this work. At present there is no-one to step into the breach.

We urgently need a group of committed people to take over. Can you spare some time to get involved in this worthwhile task?

Let us not lose, through complacency or disinterest, something that other villages strive hard to achieve.

If you are interested in getting involved, contact Joan Geddes on 01254 831522

Local Organisations

If you are holding an event and would like to publicise it in a future issue of the Parish Council newsletter contact the Clerk (details overleaf).