



PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



July 2023

Chairman's Report 2023

With summer on its way, it's always great to see village life become more animated, and visitors to our village enjoy what we all know, and maybe sometimes take for granted.

It has been great to see the unveiling of the new play equipment at the village playground, and how well it has been received by the young people of the village. The Clerk and Councillors worked hard identifying and securing funding, which included a significant contribution from the Lancashire Environmental Fund, to replace old and rotting play equipment. Not to mention all the hours meeting with contractors and consulting over what equipment would best suit the needs of our young people. We are continuing to monitor and prioritise further investment in this play area and will look to make more improvements in the future, with funding already secured from Chorley Borough Council.

As usual local developments have been a key focus for the council, and we have strived to ensure that Wheelton remains a village in the truest definition of the word, but retain services that are essential to our residents. Councillors and residents have been instrumental in saving our local health centre from an unpopular private take over, and backed our familiar local doctor to continue to run the practice for the patients she knows so well.

Events such as carols round the tree being their usual success, and community driven events within the village such as the coronation lunch held at the village hall have highlighted what a difference a few individuals who get together to organise an event for the benefit of the community can make. There certainly seems to be an increased appetite for community events within the village, and the make up of our village and enthusiasm and skill sets of our residents really make such events.

Parish council representatives have continued identifying issues with highways, boundary walls, blocked gulleys and reporting these to the relevant agencies. The Chairman would like to express his gratitude to all the fellow councillors for their time and hard work representing the community, and all the volunteers that make our village such a good place to live and visit.

Mathew Harper Chairman 2023/24

Parliamentary Boundary Review

Second stage proposals. Final decision due late summer.

Some people may remember the start of the Boundary Commission's review of the parliamentary boundaries across England. In Chorley, the first proposals submitted included splitting off Chorley North East, which includes Wheelton, and Adlington into a new constituency to be called 'West Pennine Moors' stretching across Darwen and Haslingden. After much local opposition the second stage review now leaves the eastern parishes within the Chorley constituency. In order to standardise the population of the constituency, western areas will remain within Chorley Borough but their constituency will be South Ribble under the latest proposals. The final decision will be announced later this summer.

Withnell Health Centre news

In December 2022 most people were shocked to hear of the decision to award the contract for Withnell Health Centre to a new provider. After a successful protest campaign, the Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board reviewed its decision and agreed that the process had been flawed. The current incumbent was granted an 18-month extension of contract whilst the entire tendering and procurement process is repeated.

A Steering Group has been formed and has met on three occasions so far. The meetings have been positive and have agreed Terms of Reference and have met with members of the Integrated Care Board Communication Team and Primary Care Commissioning Team. Moving forwards, the Group are committed to assisting the Integrated Care Board in drawing up a new tendering process with questions more attuned to the needs and priorities of local residents.

It is important to emphasise that the Health Centre contract will be put out to tender once again, most likely around Christmastime. Please do be alert to any communications you may receive asking for patient satisfaction surveys or similar as these may be crucial. However there are aspects of the process which are set nationally and cannot be amended.

**Don't forget to check our website
www.wheeltonparishcouncil.org**

HELP NEEDED

Chorley Historical Society are trying to establish why "Johnson's Hillock Locks" on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal are thus named. Were they named after a landowner, the builder, a lock keeper? If you have any information, please contact either The Chair of Chorley Historical Society, Joan Dickinson on 01257 481006 or the Parish Clerk.



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Contact your Clerk: Mrs Joanne Carr.
clerk@wheeltonparishcouncil.org
17 Higher Meadow, Clayton-le-Woods,
Leyland, PR25 5RJ

Your community needs you!

Two of our Charity trusts need trustees (volunteers) to help oversee the effective running of them.

You may ask what does a trustee do, well basically they ensure the trusts run according to their stated aims. The first of the trusts to need of your help and that is Heapey and Wheelton War Memorial trust which is responsible for the upkeep of the clock tower, collecting the retiring collection on Remembrance Sunday and retiring collection at Carols around the Tree on Christmas Eve (if available) and finally being a signatory to the trusts accounts.

The second trust needing trustees is Heapey and Wheelton Charity Trust which offers small grants for sport and recreational purposes. Again trustees are signatories to the trust accounts.

Being a trustee doesn't require a great amount of time, it's whatever time you can give.

If you can help or have any questions please contact either Councillor Dickenson or the Clerk to the Council.

Be a know it all

Find out what's really happening in your area - receive regular crime updates, information on road closures and learn about what your local neighbourhood policing team is doing.

In The Know is the free messaging service brought to you by Lancashire Police where you decide when and how you are kept informed about the issues that matter to you.

Visit: www.stayintheknow.co.uk

Wildfire and Water Safety

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, want everyone to enjoy the warm weather. Follow their advice to ensure you make the most of the sunshine without placing yourself or others in danger.



Warm Weather

During the summer months, many of us spend more time outside. Whether it's walking, camping, canoeing, or simply getting some fresh air, it's important that everyone can enjoy the great outdoors. But nicer weather increases some risks in Lancashire. When it comes to wildfires and water safety incidents, it's important to follow advice and stay safe.

Wildfires

When the land is dry and temperatures are higher, there's an increased risk of wildfire. Wildfires aren't confined to the USA or Australia. We have responded to many wildfires in Lancashire over the last few years. These fires can happen naturally, but most of the time people start them.

Wildfires can:

- Endanger people's lives.
- Destroy infrastructure, like fences and pylons.
- Damage property.
- Kill wild animals and livestock.
- Destroy natural habitats.
- Release lots of carbon into the atmosphere, contributing to global warming.

Here there are some things you can do to help avoid accidentally starting a fire:

- Pack a picnic rather than taking food you need to cook.
- Never light a disposable barbecue or campfire on the moors, in a park, or at the beach.
- Take all your rubbish home with you after your visit.
- Avoid smoking while out and about. If you must smoke, carefully dispose of all cigarette butts.

If you see – or suspect you see – a wildfire, don't hesitate. Call 999 and report it straight away.

You can learn more about wildfire safety on our website.

Water Safety

Warm weather also tempts people to spend time in and around open water. It doesn't matter if you are a strong swimmer. People drown in Lancashire every year. That's why we want you to take extra care around rivers, flooded quarries, lakes, reservoirs, and at the seaside.

But what makes open water dangerous?

Water rarely gets very warm in the UK. Cold water can cause what's called cold water shock. This condition can make it impossible to breathe and use your muscles.

There can also be hidden currents, or dangerous items submerged in the water. These tips can help you stay safe around water:

- Take extra care around water. Many people who drown never intended to enter it.
- Do not walk home alone next to canals or rivers if you have been drinking.
- Swim only in designated areas, with a lifeguard present.
- Swim only as part of an organised group.
- Beware riptides at the beach. If caught in one, swim parallel to the beach to escape.

Float to Live

If you're struggling in the water, try to stay calm. Lean back and use your arms to help you float. Concentrate on regulating your breathing until you can shout for help. This technique is called Float to Live.

If you see someone else struggling in the water, call 999 immediately Ask for HM Coastguard at the coast, and the fire service inland. Do not enter the water yourself as this can put you in danger.



Playground Refurbishment

You may have noticed the recent refurbishment of the Play Equipment on the Meadow Street Play Area which was done through funding from the Lancashire Environment Fund and using some of the CIL monies received by the Parish Council.

Hopefully, everyone visiting the site will enjoy playing on the new items or sitting on the new bench. There are some more improvements to come in thanks to a Chorley Borough Council Grant. So hopefully these will be as well received and will bring the site up to provide good play value.

Monday night at the Village Hall, Westview, Wheelton SORTED!

" Get up and go! Well to the Village hall on Mondays 6 to 8pm of course.

If you want a fun activity then table tennis is for you no matter your age.

Run by community volunteers Wheelton Ping Pong provides activity, friendship and even a brew!

So GET up and GO to the Village Hall"



Jobs in the garden for Summer

Hoe borders to keep down weeds
Position summer hanging baskets

Outside Mow the lawn once a week or more if needed. Plant out summer bedding. Stake tall or floppy plants.

Shade greenhouses to keep them cool

& prevent scorch. Prune may/spring flowering shrubs



1st Wheelton Brownies



1st Wheelton Brownies are going from strength to strength and due to the popularity of our unit, we are currently at full capacity with a waiting list of girls wishing to join us.

We have enjoyed various activities including making miniatures rafts and just recently had a water race with buckets and small cups, where one group found they didn't do very well as their cups had holes in them, but they were resourceful and worked together to minimise the holes in the cups and finish the race.

We have presented 4 Bronze Awards, and a number of Brownies are nearly ready to receive their Silver Awards, with 3 Brownies very close to completing their 6th Theme Award and subsequently gaining their Brownie Gold Award.

Some of the Brownies joined with other Brownies, Rainbows and Guides to celebrate King Charles III Coronation at an event in May at Guys Farm, our activity centre, where they made Crowns, had a go at being King or Queen for a few minutes sat on a Throne and were entertained by a magician and dance troops. The weather was glorious which always helps.

The Brownies have had fun learning Circus Skills which were provided by a specialist company. This evening was enjoyed by all.

Our older Brownies have attended a couple of meetings with 1st Wheelton Guides and in guide groups made a shelter after their tent had been blown away in a storm. Some Brownies were very resourceful and enjoyed the evenings and are looking forward to becoming Guides.

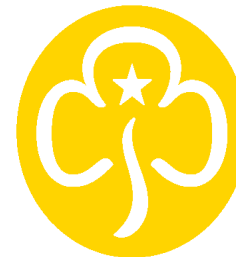
1st Wheelton Brownies



We have welcomed 7 potential new Brownies to the unit for a couple of weeks, and hopefully these girls will return to the unit in September to start their Brownies adventures.

The Brownies have had fun learning Circus Skills which were provided by a specialist company. This evening was enjoyed by all.

If you are interested in joining 1st Wheelton Brownies, or wish to volunteer to help with Brownies, please contact Jacqueline Berry on 07834 069562 or jberry.brownie@gmail.com or visit the Girlguiding website and "Join Us"



Girlguiding

Don't forget to check our website
www.wheeltonparishcouncil.org

Contact your Clerk: Mrs Joanne Carr.
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Forthcoming Dates of the Parish Council

Meetings are held on Mondays at 8.00pm in Wheelton Village Hall



No meeting in August
4 September 2023
2 October 2023
6 November 2023
4 December 2023
8 January 2024
5 February 2024

Public participation is welcomed, just contact the Clerk at least 14 days prior to the meeting so that the matter you wish to raise can be researched and added to the agenda.

Advertising in the Newsletter

We are asking local businesses to consider advertising with us as all money raised will go towards the Playground Trust

If you have any ideas you would like to share whether for or against then please can you contact the Clerk or email tdickenson.td@gmail.com

If we can help in any way we will!

Are you a member of a local club and would like to have a write up of club events or forthcoming events? Please advise the Clerk so that we can include something in the next edition.

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Joanne Carr.

Clerk@wheeltonparishcouncil.org

17 Higher Meadow, Clayton-le-Woods, Leyland, PR25 5RJ

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