



PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



July 2026

Chairman's Report 2026

With another year passing in Wheelton, it is once again encouraging to see the quiet but steady work that helps keep our village a place we are all proud to call home. While our achievements may not always be headline-grabbing, they reflect the continued care and attention given to the things that matter to our residents.

The parish council has undertaken work to enhance areas such as the village playground, the repair and replacement of benches and noticeboards around the village, which have helped to maintain the character and usability of our shared spaces.

Our war memorial and its surrounding gardens continue to be an important focal point within the village. This year has seen necessary maintenance carried out, including the removal of a diseased tree to ensure the safety and preservation of the site. The council has also continued to work through matters of ownership and long-term responsibility, helping to safeguard this important piece of our heritage for future generations.

Councillor Heyes has shown great perseverance in seeking out skilled craftspeople to assist with the renovation of the fingerpost sign, a task made particularly challenging by the specialist nature of the traditional skills required. As always, highways and road safety have remained a key concern. Councillors have worked to highlight issues such as potholes, drainage problems and traffic management, as well as contributing to consultations on proposed traffic regulations. While many of these matters sit beyond the direct control of the parish council, ensuring that the voices of our residents are heard at borough and county level remains an important part of our role.

VILLAGE HALL

The Heapey and Wheelton Village Hall is now back open to add hoc bookings and should people want to enquire about booking the hall they can contact

heapeyandwheeltonvillagehall@gmail.com

Chairman's Report 2026

Planning and development within the village have continued to require careful consideration. Throughout the year, the Council has reviewed a number of applications, with a focus on ensuring that Wheelton retains its character as a true village community. The council has also taken part in wider discussions affecting the future of local governance, including consultations on potential changes across the county. These are important conversations, and we have sought to ensure that the interests of our village are represented.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to my fellow councillors for their continued commitment and hard work throughout the year. Their willingness to give their time for the benefit of the community is greatly appreciated. Thanks must also go to the residents and volunteers who contribute, often quietly, to making Wheelton such a great place to live.

Mathew Harper
Chairman 2025/26

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

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

Water Safety

Warm weather 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.



Your nearest Defibrillator.

We are fortunate enough to have several publicly accessible AED's in and around the Parish, but would you know where to find one when the chips are down and you need one?



Well, here they are:

Heapey and Wheelton Village Hall.

Located externally by the main entrance.
Available 24/7.

Golden Lion Hotel.

Located externally by the main entrance.
Available 24/7

Old Phone Box/Book swap, Halls Square, Town Lane.

Located inside the phone box.
Available 24/7

St.Chad's Parish Centre.

Located externally by main entrance.
Available 24/7

St.Chad's Primary School.

Located internally by main reception
Restricted access, available during school hours, term time only.

Logwood, off Chapel Lane.

Engine House, South Barn, North Barn gated development.
Restricted access, available 07:00 to 19:00 Monday to Sunday.

There are more AED's a little further away:

Top O'th' Lane Old phone box. Available 24/7
Brinscall St.John's Primary School (school hours, term time only).
Withnell Fold Sports and Social Club. Available 24/7
Withnell Fold Primary School (School hours, term time only).

VACANCY FOR PARISH COUNCILLOR

The Parish Council has a vacancy for a parish councillor. The Parish Council would like to invite suitably qualified individuals to apply for this vacancy. To hold office as a Parish Councillor an individual must fulfil the following qualifications:

1. Be a British subject, a Commonwealth citizen or a Euro national and at least 18 years old.
2. Be either a local government elector of the parish; or a person who a) has, during the whole of the 12 months up to the date of their appointment, occupied land or other premises as owner or tenant in the parish or b) has, during the same period, resided in that area or within three miles thereof, or c) has during the same period, had his/her principal or only place of work in that area.

Suitably qualified individuals interested in joining the council are invited to submit a letter outlining why they are interested to the Clerk to the Council at the address given in this Newsletter. Suitably qualified applicants will be invited to address the council meeting at the following Parish Council meeting and give a 5 minute presentation on what they could bring to the Council. Co-options will be decided by a vote of the council.

If you would like to know more about what the role of a Parish Councillor involves or would like any other information, please contact The Clerk or another Councillor.



Beware appliance cover telesales

Beware receiving a telephone call offering cover on specific home appliances such as your washing machine or TV. A Lancashire resident agreed after one such call but has since been inundated with persistent telesales calls from other businesses all offering warranties. Whilst these businesses had different names and offered slightly different services, they all seem to have the same address.

Often such businesses will require an upfront fee and get you to set up a direct debit for monthly or quarterly payments. Never feel pushed into purchasing such warranties.

Beware parking fine scam

Beware receiving a fake text or email allegedly issuing you with a parking fine or saying you owe money for an unpaid parking ticket. The message can use urgent and threatening language such as stating if not paid on time, you might be banned from driving, have to pay more or be taken to court. Never click on links in such messages or reply providing personal details. Genuine parking fines will include the vehicle registration, the time of the offence and the location it happened. It will come in writing and be left on your windscreen, handed to you in person or arrive in the post.

Contact the Trading Standards Service via the Citizens Advice consumer Helpline on 0808 223 1133.

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

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 have had a busy few months doing activities, which have included how to influence someone or a group of people, how to public speak and had a go at being “the Speaker” in the House of Commons, with some interesting legislation being presented.

We have had 2 Bronze and 2 Silver awards presented and we are delighted that a Brownie has gained her Brownie Gold Award - the top award a Brownie can work towards, learning new skills on the way including basic First Aid. She helped at home with different chores and showed acts of Kindness to other people including her best friend.

We have learnt compass points and drawn a teddy to illustrate these and done a nature walk in the village. Who would have known that in a short stretch of houses, there are over 20 houses that are named houses, not just numbers.

We will finish for the summer, weather dependent toasting marshmallows and making smores, obviously strictly observing Fire Safety.

We are pleased to announce that 1st Wheelton Rainbows has been established and they meet at St Chads School Hall on Tuesday evenings where girls are having fun and making new friends.

If your daughter is interested in joining 1st Wheelton Brownies or Rainbows or you wish to volunteer to help with Brownies or Rainbows please visit the Girlguiding website and “Join Us”

Wildfire 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.

Forthcoming Dates of the Parish Council

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



Monday 24 August 2026

Monday 5 October 2026

Monday 2 November 2026

Monday 7 December 2026

Monday 4 January 2027

Monday 1 February 2027

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

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Joanne Carr.

Clerk@wheeltonparishcouncil.org

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Your Parish Council

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Vacancy

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