

# PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

Contact: The Clerk, Margaret Mason, 811933, parish-clerk@hotmail.co.uk  
Full minutes displayed on Notice Boards

## THE COMMUNITY CENTRE REPORT PLANNING REPORT

Funding has been extremely successful - due to grants and donations. A lot of money has been well handled - thank-you and all credit to those involved. Many thanks to all community volunteers who have done a grand job throughout the year - any additional input from all residents would be very welcome.

### OPEN SPACES & SPORTING AREAS

**OPEN SPACES** - Generally all OK - except grass cutting which is below standard and is being dealt with.

**ST WILFRID'S PLAY AREA** - There have been delays in supplying replacements. It is hoped to have swings in place in time for the school holidays. Grants have been applied for, to enable the purchase of further equipment.

**FOOTBALL PITCH** - Has been levelled and re-seeded. Due to the growth being thin - the contractors have been asked to re-visit the site.

**LOW ROAD PLAY AREA - PHASE 3** - The Parish Council has been awarded a grant for £47,000 for the Children's Play Area - it must be specifically for 11 - 13 year olds.

**WEED CONTROL** - Lancashire County Council to be contacted re weed control in the Parish.

Cllr. Jefferson has met with residents of Mill Lane to discuss revision of Chapter 3 Para F of Parish Plan and attended Town Hall to discuss ending of Special Allowance to Parish Councils with LALC.

### APPOINTMENT OF PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr. **Brian Jefferson** elected as Chair and Cllr. **Carol Slinger** elected as Vice-Chair for the remainder of the 2-year period.

**Steve Landles** has been appointed as Parish Councillor.

Cllr. **Slinger** has been appointed as Finance Officer.

### OTHER MATTERS

The Garden Safari raised £1,211.30 - this is going into the 'Building Fund'. Signage on the corner of Kellet Road and Halton Road - work in progress.

The Parish Council is to make an offer to The Roman Catholic Church re land adjoining the Link Road.

We welcome more residents becoming involved in the work of the Parish Council. We are trying to include more facilities for both younger and older residents and any input or suggestions would be gratefully received and considered.

We now have a Facebook site - search under *the centre @ halton* - and again we welcome feedback from all residents. Please log onto Facebook to find out what is happening in your village!

The question was raised as to whether it was possible to include names and profiles of Councillors in *The Prattle* - as many residents do not know who their Councillors are - this was agreed and will be inputted in due course.

It is intended that we have a formal opening day for *The Community Centre* on 22 May 2010 - (May Half-Term Week) - this will include a week's activity too for all residents. We shall be looking for volunteers of Organising Groups involving all local groups - i.e., Scouts, Brownies, W.I., Church Groups etc. Further information will appear in future editions of *The Prattle*.

**Cllr. Patricia Gallagher**

## WHY A PARISH COUNCIL???

As I reflect on ten years of Parish Council (PC) involvement, I look back on the changing faces that have been your Councillors (Cllrs), and on the difficulties of replacing them in the knowledge that we remain short. Sadly this problem is worsened by the loss of Cllr Atherton (see below).

I am almost certain that one of the problems is that many residents do not understand just what the Parish Council is, or what it does, so I will attempt to explain and why I believe it has a vital role to play in the delivery of services in this Parish.

**The Myths** - The PC is not linked to any church or religion. Cllrs are unpaid volunteers and claim no expenses. There are no party political discussions in PC.

**The Role** - Importantly, the PC is the third tier of local government, and the body most able to respond to local needs. Because discussions are apolitical there is a much greater use of common sense than in other levels of government! The PC is accountable to electors registered in the Parish, and

provides great value for money (about 65p per house per week). There are the routine issues, but there are also opportunities to be creative and improve our area.

**Why become involved?** - This PC has over the last few years increased its support for volunteer fundraising and development of the Action Issues from the Parish Plan, and with our Halton Community Assn and Halton Comm Imp Group partners have raised almost £ $\frac{3}{4}$ m for Community Centre and Recreation improvements with a further £ $\frac{1}{2}$ m applied for. This work needs not just your support but also your involvement.

We currently have 2 vacancies and are looking for volunteers with enthusiasm and ambition. If you are 18 to 80 and have ideas - get in touch now and join us!!

Monthly meetings are held at 7.30pm on the second Wed. of each month excepting August in The Centre.

**Brian Jefferson**

**Chair - Halton-with-Aughton PC**

**Cllr Keith Atherton** - It is with great sadness that we report the passing away of one of our members. Keith volunteered to become a Councillor only last year, but we shall miss his wit and wisdom. A graduate of Nottingham University, his working life began as a mining engineer and later in both textiles and consultancy work. He arrived in Halton with his family in 1968 and enjoyed sailing and fell walking in addition to being a stalwart of the Lancaster Bridge Club and a member of the Lancaster Police Authority. He was also a member of the Nottingham University Council and one time President of the Students' Wine Club. He will be missed by many, both here in Halton and the wider area.

# POLICE INFORMATION

## **Police website:**

[www.lancashire.police.uk/halton.html](http://www.lancashire.police.uk/halton.html)

## **Email:**

Carnforth.npt@lancashire.pnn.police.uk

## **Contact details:**

**Phone: 999** emergency

**01524 63333** Lancaster Control Room to report an incident, a crime or require a Police Officer to attend

**01524 596522** Voicemail (NON URGENT) to get in touch with **PC 2801**

**Joanne Humphrey** or **PCSO Annette Hoover** about a community issue

**POLICE SURGERIES:** 6.45-7.15pm Top Shops 2nd Wed monthly

**PACT Phone Surgery:** Last Thursday every month 6:30-7:30pm on 01524 596407 (Outside these times please do not use this number as there may not be any officers available to take your call.)

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## **Crime reports 14/5/09 to 8/7/09**

1. A CCTV camera at Community Centre was smashed. This has been detected and 3 fixed penalty tickets issued. The onlookers are being traced.
2. Between 9 & 16 May, an electronic energiser for electric fencing & a tractor battery were taken from local farm. There are no lines of enquiry at this time.
3. 2 mountain bikes stolen, 1 overnight 21-22 May from a shed & the other between eve 3 June & 5.30pm 4 June.
4. Overnight 8-9 June, a pellet cracked half of a double-glazed window at a cottage at Crook o' Lune.
5. Between 5-9 June offenders removed cabling which was hanging from the ceiling within the unfinished development of Town End Farm.
6. Between 19-22 June, offenders have damaged the Library sign mounted high up on the Library building. It is connected to some damage to a sign within school grounds over the same weekend. A letter was sent to all properties overlooking the area appealing for witnesses but none came forward.

## **Incidents**

Several calls in June & on 5 July about the turquoise P reg Rover parked for some days, at the end of Mill Lane. Vehicle is locally-owned, & was having running difficulties.

On 27 June 8.45pm - report of a couple acting strangely on High Rd. The informant stated that they were looking closely at properties & were seen to enter one garden & look into an open window & was concerned that they may have been looking to steal something. Female - white, 5'6" tall, red/brown ponytail, wearing a black leather jacket. Male- white, wearing white England T shirt & black & white combat trousers. Couple were not traced at the time.

On 1 July at 7pm - report of 4 youths climbing on portacabin at Halton Mills.

On 3 July - fly tipping consisting of tyres & garden/farm waste dumped outside Scout Hut, Foundry Ln.

### **Community Centre**

Youths have been congregating at the rear of the Centre despite there being major building works in progress. They have been pushing over the perimeter fencing and climbing onto dangerous plant and machinery. The site manager has since improved the security of the diggers. Please report any sightings of youths within the building site immediately.

### **Harming of sheep**

A farm in Priest Hutton had two sheep killed between 8-10 June. Both sheep had had their testicles and udders removed with the use of a sharp precision instrument and bled to death. For the last 4 years & possibly further back we have had, every year, an incident of sheep mutilation in or around the Carnforth area.

The MO's are almost identical, it's always the same time of year & some have suggested the issue may be connected with the Summer Solstice?

The target animal has always been a sheep, but on one occasion a ream has also been targeted. The body parts are removed with surgical precision; the act is committed during the hours of darkness & in an isolated location. The victim is left to bleed to death with the removed body parts taken away from the scene. It can't be a case of sheep worrying by dogs as the act is committed extremely skilfully/cleanly.

Any information regarding these incidents would be gratefully received.

### **OPERATION JULIUS**

Burglary offences in Lancashire are at a record 35 yr all time low, following year on year reductions achieved across the force. However, in recent months, there has been an upward trend in crimes committed which we are determined to put a halt to.

From July 1, the force has a country wide operation, Julius, aimed at:

Reducing the numbers, Maximising detection and Maximising crime prevention of burglary dwelling offences.

It is widely recognised that these crimes are iconic and have an adverse impact on public confidence, not only to victims directly affected by these crimes but the wider community as a whole. The single message for Operation Julius is '**Burglary is low in Lancashire, let's keep it that way**'.

### **Crime prevention advice.**

*Remove the opportunity for burglars to target your property.*

1. Close & lock doors & windows, especially when your house is unattended. If you are in, keep those closed that present an 'offer' to burglars - doors and windows at ground level, those that can be seen from the road or large windows.
2. Remove items from display - bags or keys next to the front door or by windows (even if closed).
3. Remember to close garage & shed doors.
4. Don't advertise the fact that new goods can be found in your home - conceal or destroy packaging from 'hot property' like TV's, laptops & games consoles.
5. Lock up or remove tools that criminals could use to get into your house - ladders, garden spades or rubble, they could also get stolen.

*Check your external lighting/alarm or CCTV system if you have one.*

*Talk to your neighbours about staying safe - join neighbourhood watch.*

**NEVER** deal with cold callers & report all suspicious activity, at the time it happens to Lancaster Control Room on 01524 63333.

# PLANNING APPLICATIONS

## **New Applications**

Lanc County Council - 01/09/0502 - Children's Centre in old Surgery Building - Not in favour

09/0053/TPO - tree felling and branch removal ST Wilfrid's Hall - already granted!!

09/00442/FUL - Erection of single extension to rear of 7 Beech Road, Halton

## **Applications Pending**

09/00335/FUL - 2 storey side extension, Mr & Mrs Holland 6 Riverside Close - withdrawn

09/00314/FUL - Agricultural building & retaining wall (retrospective) behind 57, St Wilfrid's Park for Mr Armistead - improved appearance and no objections to re-design.

09/00348/FUL - Dormer windows to front for Mr Woodruff, 18 Beech Road - No objections

08/0082/TCA - Felling of Sycamore Tree at 10, Church Brow - appeal against initial decision

Lanc County Council - 01/05/1584 & 01/08/0821 -Supplementary to M6 Link Road modified structures: Comments made

Lanc County Council - 01/09/0502 - Children's Centre in old Surgery Building - Not in favour

## **Applications Approved**

09/00268/FUL - Dormer window at 24 Beech Road for Mr Mercer - No Objections

09/00320/FUL - Conservatory at 1, Waltham Court for Mrs Mason - No Objections

## **Applications Refused**

None

## **Enforcement Action**

Still outstanding on Field 1000 at Aughton Brow

## **Margaret Mason**

Clerk to the Parish Council  
Halton with Aughton