

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

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Dave Lambert	867 Blackpool Road Lea Preston PR2 1QS	Tel 01772 499798
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Judith Parker	116 Hoyles Lane Cottam Preston PR4 0NB	Tel 01772 769812
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Jeanette Whitham	7 Dodney Drive Lea Preston PR2 1XR	Tel 07929 316385

MEETING DATES FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS ARE:

3rd JULY, 4th SEPTEMBER, 9th OCTOBER & 27th NOVEMBER 2023

MEETINGS ARE NORMALLY HELD AT COTTAM COMMUNITY CENTRE AND START AT 7.30PM

THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY EARLY IN THE MEETING FOR RESIDENTS TO MAKE REPRESENTATION ON ANY AGENDA ITEM OR RAISE ISSUES OF CONCERN, HOWEVER, IT MUST BE NOTED THAT THE COUNCIL CANNOT MAKE ANY DECISIONS UNLESS THE ITEM HAS ALREADY BEEN INCLUDED ON THE FORMAL AGENDA.

CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

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Lea & Cottam
Parish Council

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2023



ELECTIONS OVER - NEW MEMBERS JOIN PARISH COUNCIL

On May 3rd elections were held in Cottam and Lea Town Wards, resulting in 2 new members joining the Parish Council, those being Michael Casterton and Martin Rayfield. The Council will also be joined by Mark Jewell who was elected unopposed in South Ward (Lea).

Although it is pleasing to see such a keenness to join the Parish Council in those two Wards, this was not the case with South Ward (Lea) where there are now two vacant seats on the Parish Council.

If you would like to be involved in local affairs, then this is your opportunity to put yourself forward without the need to go through a formal election process. All that's required is a letter to the Council outlining your personal details. This should ideally include your work experience, the length of time you have lived in or had connections with the area, any existing local memberships and, a brief outline of any skills that you might be able to bring to the Council. Letters of request will be considered by the Council at their next available meeting

LENGTHSMAN TEAM CONTRACTS RENEWED

We are pleased that our Lengthsman Team led by Peter have renewed their contracts for a further period. Gary, Stuart, Steven and Julie who assist Peter have agreed terms and signed service contracts. This means that we will be able to continue to do enhancement works around the Parish, working in conjunction with Preston City Council. A number of new projects are being discussed at the present time and we also need to know from our residents what other projects might be appropriate (see page 3 of this newsletter).

CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

At the May meeting of the Council, Cllr Butler was elected as Chairman for the following 12 months. On taking up the post he expressed thanks to Cllr Abram who had held the post for the last two years and who will continue in the role of Vice Chairman going forward. Cllr Butler has undertaken the role in the past and is looking forward to continuing the good work that this Council has done over the past few years.

WORK UNDERTAKEN IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS

Here are some examples of work done to enhance the area:



MILLER GREEN LITTER BINS

Over recent weeks, our Lengthsman team have found that some of our litter bins on Miller Green have been overflowing despite being emptied twice a week. It seems that household waste such as waste food, wine bottles, food containers and even a 'Welcome to your New Home' card have been deposited there. The bins, as can be seen below, look untidy and create smells when overfilled.

Do not put household waste into, or next to, a public litter bin. This is classed as fly-tipping and may result in fines being issued. Place your household waste in your own wheelie bin at home and help keep this area of our Parish clean and tidy for residents to enjoy.



COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY CONSULTATION

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a charge made on housing developments by Principle Authorities (Preston City Council) in order to provide funds for the improvement of infrastructure which is needed as a result of more housing being created. The charge is set out in advance and applies to most larger developments. The actual rates applied can be found on Preston CC web site however what is important for Lea and Cottam and indeed any area with a Parish Council, is that 15% of the levy must by law be paid over to the Parish Council. The Parish Council then decide, within statutory guidelines, what it will be spent on.

Those guidelines state that it may be spent on infrastructure, which includes the development of open space, the maintenance thereof or anything that is required as a result of development that has taken place. It cannot be spent on day to day revenue items, such as the administration of the Parish Council itself. Over the last few years as you will have seen there has been many housing developments in our area, some of which have attracted CIL monies. Some of these funds have been used on enhancements to Miller Green by the creation of a path and raised beds. Trees have been planted on the Dodney Drive greens, a wildflower area has been created on Blackpool Road, planters installed across the parish, a speed indicator device purchased, and a garden scheme created in Lea Town, amongst other things.

Despite all these enhancements, and further plans to improve play areas in Cottam and install a 'trim trail' in Lea, the Parish Council still have approximately £90,000 to allocate to local projects of some sort. A not insignificant amount of money.

Lea and Cottam Parish Council are now asking that you, as residents, help them assess what would be the best way to improve our area utilising these funds. Your input will be greatly appreciated. We want to hear from you!

There are a number of ways in which you may communicate with us:

This article has been posted on our Facebook Page and comments and suggestions can be posted in response.

You may contact us by email or write to us at the addresses shown in this newsletter or telephone, WHATEVER WAY, WE DO WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU