

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

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|-------------------|---|------------------|
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CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

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MEETING DATES FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS ARE:

19TH MARCH 2018 @ COTTAM COMMUNITY CENTRE

21ST MAY 2018 @ COTTAM COMMUNITY CENTRE

ALL MEETINGS COMMENCE AT 7.30PM

POLICE AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

For many years regular meetings have been held within the area known as PACT meetings where residents have had an opportunity to speak to the local police regarding local issues. It seems that in most areas these meetings are not well attended and there is thought that perhaps they no longer serve a useful purpose. Information about crime and ASB can now be obtained direct using online police information pages which give lots of information about what is happening in your area. You can also register with 'In The Know' and receive your own updates on police matters that might affect you or you wish to know about. Find out what's really happening in your area - receive regular crime updates, information on road closures, information about fires and other emergencies and learn about what your local neighbourhood policing team is doing. You no longer need attend a meeting to know what is going on. You also save police time by finding out for yourself.



www.stayintheknow.co.uk
www.police.uk
www.lancashire.police.uk/your-area.aspx

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Lea & Cottam
Parish Council

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2018



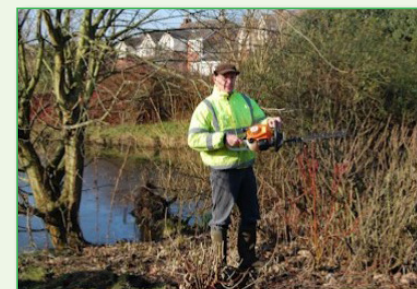
JOB VACANCY

The Parish Council are seeking to appoint a second assistant lengthsman who will be required to work for up to 500 hours per year on a flexible service contract between April 2018 and March 2019. This person will undertake basic open space enhancement works such as path edging, removal of overgrowth / undergrowth, fence and post painting and generally supporting the maintenance and tidying of the area. There will be no requirement to use power tools. The selected person will be self employed or required to register as such. The rate of pay will be £8.30 per hour which amounts to an overall service contract of £4150.00 per annum. This opportunity to help enhance the local area would suit amongst others either, an existing self employed person wishing to have a basic regular contract or, an active retired person who would need to register as self employed.

Anyone who is interested in the above opportunity and the chance to join our existing contractor team should contact the Clerk to the Parish Council for further information and an application form / works schedule on

01772 733829

or e-mail: leaparishcouncil@hotmail.com



UPDATES ON VARIOUS OUTSTANDING ISSUES

The Parish Council have been actively involved with the recent planning application submitted by Morris Homes for development on The Weald in Cottam. This area of land has already received planning permission however, agreement on the detail is still outstanding, and needs the approval of the Planning Committee at Preston City Council. The proposals put forward by Morris Homes attracted a lot of adverse comments and concern amongst residents in the area. The Parish Council have considered the plans and, of course, the points raised by residents. The Clerk met with Preston City Council along with a local resident and one of our local ward councillors to discuss the issues raised. The Parish Council have also sent in a letter of objection covering the points raised by residents. At the last Planning Committee meeting and, after presentations from local residents it was decided to defer any decision until a meeting could take place with Morris Homes and representatives of the concerned residents. This meeting has taken place and, hopefully, Morris Homes will now address the concerns that have been put to them.



The Parish Council have now received communications from Preston City Council, local MP's and the Homes and Communities Agency concerning funds which had been given to Preston City Council. These funds were ostensibly to cover the maintenance costs of Open Space in the Cottam area however a significant portion has been used for other purposes. The responses from both HCA and PCC state that these funds were provided without any specific obligations to earmark them for maintenance and, that they were free to use them as they wished. The Parish Council, who have a copy of the agreement, do not agree with the responses received and will at their next meeting consider what further action might be taken. This could include, as previously advised to residents, the obtaining of a 'legal opinion' regarding whether PCC have breached the terms of the agreement and if so what action can be taken.



As previously reported, the Parish Council has agreed to contribute to the maintenance of Open Space areas in the parish subject to a written 'agreement' with PCC. This 'agreement' will set out the works to be undertaken and how often grass will be cut and strimming undertaken etc. The Parish Council were insistent that any payments should only be made on a quarterly basis in arrears and subject to a prior meeting with PCC to discuss standards and any issues arising. The 'agreement' has now been drawn up, it incorporates the Parish Council requirements and is expected to be approved at their next meeting. The agreement is for one year only and will be reviewed after that time and in the light of any proposal for the future. If you have any issues with open space maintenance let us know — we are all contributing to its upkeep.

UPDATES ON VARIOUS OUTSTANDING ISSUES

The works to Miller Green which include a diagonal footpath have been delayed due to extreme weather conditions. Regular inspections of the ground are being undertaken and work is now expected to commence once the ground has dried out. This will avoid any unnecessary damage to other areas of the field caused by the use of diggers, that will be required to move spoil, as the pathway is dug out.



The Boundary Commission have produced their final recommendations with regards to the number of City Councillors that Preston should have from 2019. They have reduced the number from 57 to 48 and have re-aligned the City Ward boundaries so that there will be 16 wards with 3 Councillors each. Draft proposals were produced some months ago and your Parish Council objected to them on the grounds that they split our existing and well established area of Lea and Cottam into separate City Ward areas. Our alternative proposals have not been accepted and so, subject to parliamentary approval, the Cottam area of our parish will be joined with Ingol and become known as Ingol and Cottam whilst the Lea part will join part of Larches and become known as Lea and Larches. This will however not affect the parish boundaries and so your existing Parish Councillors will continue to serve your area as they have done in the past.



The Parish Council have now set up a working group to investigate which open space areas of the parish are in need of improvement work. This follows their commitment to spend funding, obtained from local house building programmes, to improve the infrastructure in the area. This might cover ponds, hard landscaping, paths and open garden areas which have become unsightly, unkempt and in some cases dangerous as a result of the lack of maintenance over recent years. The working group would be interested to know which parts of our parish you consider to be most important so that they can schedule areas for improvement as funds become available. It is expected that their first group meeting will take place shortly so let us know where you feel these monies can be best spent.