



Dunnockshaw Parish Council -Newsletter May 2017

Welcome to our 25th Parish Council Newsletter.

As in previous newsletters, I begin by reminding all residents, especially all those new to the Parish, that the Parish Council has existed for over 120 years. Throughout that time local people have given up some of their free time, for no financial reward, to attend meetings and work for the overall benefit of the Parish.

We meet every two months on a Monday, at Burnley Town Hall. Notices of the meetings are on the Parish Council notice board, on the children's playground, at least three days before they take place. Any resident is welcome to attend our meetings and time is set aside for residents questions. The meetings usually begin at 7pm and there is free parking on the Town Hall car park nearby. If you cannot attend a meeting and want a matter bringing up please contact one of the Councillors, who will do this for you.

Parish Councils are the smallest and most local layer of government and are lacking in some parts of the country. Some people probably think we have very little purpose these days and certainly our powers are limited. However, we feel it is to the benefit of the Parish that we exist and can speak up for the residents of Dunnockshaw and Clowbridge, both with Burnley Borough Council, Lancashire County Council and any other organisation that has an effect on the Parish. Our purpose is to look after the area and to try and improve it in any way we can. If you have any suggestions or grumbles, please bring them to our attention. The Parish Council consists of 7 members and there has been no change in our membership over the last year. Their names and addresses are at the back of this newsletter together with the names of our County and District Councillors and the Community Police Officers.

Each May the Parish Council holds an Annual Meeting. All residents are welcome.

This year the Annual Meeting will be held on Monday the 22nd May 2017, at The Town Hall, Burnley at 7. 30pm. ALL RESIDENTS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

Entrance to the meeting is via the main entrance to the Town Hall on Manchester Road. The meeting is informal and fairly short so please come along if you can.

Parish Council Funding

To reiterate what was said in the last news letter, the parish council is funded by a grant from Burnley Borough Council. These costs include insurance, the clerk's small salary, audit fees, insurance, printing and stationery and this funding has been in place for over 50 years. This year our grant was to be cut by just over 12%, but we were suddenly informed that this would be reduced further, from £1118 per year to £831 per year, (approx.26%). We think this is unfair, because as a very small parish, the smallest in Burnley, we rely entirely on this grant and have no other sources of income. This year, we will have to use some of our small reserves to meet our expenditure. In fact we will soon not be able to keep going, unless we levy a precept on each household in the parish to make up the shortfall. (A precept is an amount charged by a Parish Council to fund itself, which is added to residents' Council Tax).

The Parish Council do not wish to do this and will soon have to make a decision as to whether we cease to exist or levy a precept. We hope Burnley Borough Council's policy on funding will change, but this seems to be highly unlikely.

Police Matters

Our Council meetings are attended by our Community Beat Manager, who is PC. Adam Gordon and our PCSO. Jess Hind. They provide us with a crime report for each meeting, which lists any crime that has occurred in the parish. Fortunately, we live in a low crime area.

This year, there have been some incidents of car crime. One car was found burnt out, near the weather station, a car was scratched at Dunnockshaw, and an attempt was made to break into a car, also at Dunnockshaw.

There were also one or two ASBOs, and problems with off road bikes on Springfield Lane. It has also been noted that one or two cars have been using this lane at unusual hours, late at night, and drug activity was suspected. The police are patrolling the area, and there now appears to be less activity, at the moment.

We urge everyone to be vigilant and any suspicious activity can be reported to the police on Tel. No. 101.

There has been a problem with HGVs crossing the main road and reversing into an access to a company at the rear of Oak Mill, Dunnockshaw. Our PCSO visited the site and has been monitoring this problem.

Flooding at Cotton Row

As reported in the last news letter a major flooding incident occurred at Cotton Row over the Christmas period 2015. There was severe damage to a number of properties. This caused a lot of distress and over the last year, our County Councillor Mr.M.Johnstone has been helping the residents concerned.

We hope this flooding does not occur again, and the LCC has done a lot of work clearing the drains and renewing the footpath. The kerb now has drains incorporated into them, to enable the water to drain away more easily.

Of much concern to the residents affected, was the maintenance and clearing of the big drain on Nutshaw Lane, that caused the problem, and it now appears that there is some kind of programme in place for this. All these measures will hopefully be enough to reassure residents that they will be safe from flooding in future.

Retaining Wall at Burnley Road Clowbridge

A section of the wall collapsed during the very heavy rain at the end of 2015. The small car park was deemed dangerous to use by Burnley Borough Council and residents had to park on the footpath in front of their properties, on the main road. Unfortunately, the ownership of the wall is unknown and it would be extremely expensive to repair. The Parish Council contacted Burnley Borough Council to ask them if it could help in any way, even though the wall did not belong to them. Our district councillor, Mr. W. Brindle, attended a site meeting with Mr. P. Gatterall and a number of solutions were discussed, including demolishing the wall entirely or creating a new entrance to the car park.

Eventually, Burnley Borough Council agreed to repair the wall with the stones on site and it is now deemed as safe. We would like to thank, Cllr. Brindle, Mr.Trippier and Mr. Gatterall for this being done.

The reservoir

Work is still continuing on the reservoir. Clearly this has been a major undertaking by United Utilities, apparently for safety reasons, to make sure the dam on the south west side, does not give way. To say that the work has taken longer than expected, is an understatement, and we still do not know when it is to be completed. At least there are no longer traffic lights on the main road and things at last seem to be coming to a close.

Village Appearance

As I write this newsletter, the daffodils throughout the village are at their very best and passersby, either on foot or in cars cannot fail to be impressed. What a difference they make and a few thank you's are in order. Mrs. Ann Childs planted daffodils in Clowbridge and Mr. A. Jones also planted up the large planter at Clowbridge. Jack and Joan Ormerod also planted daffodils near the Boundary Stone, as did the residents of The Kestrels. Peter and Delma planted at Cotton Row, and Jennifer Baguley and Ann Brannagan planted at Dunnockshaw. We hope to obtain more bulbs this Autumn, so if you are able to plant a few, please let us know.

The Parish Council care for four planters in the Parish and these are tended by Mr.R.Riley, the clerk, Mr.A.Jones, and Mrs.J.Baguley. The Parks Department make an excellent job of the large planters, which provide an excellent show, both in Spring and Summer.

We would also like to thank all the residents who add to the appearance of the Parish, with their hanging basket and window box displays.

Planning Applications

1. 22 Cotton Row, Clowbridge~Extension to rear lean-to at rear and retention of detached garage.
2. Oak Mill, Manchester Rd, Dunnockshaw~Change of use from industrial units to Events Company with adjoining gym, and erection of 2m fence.
3. The Kestrels, Burnley Rd, Clowbridge~ Rear link and lift to existing building.
4. Clow Farm, Clowbridge,~Conversion of agricultural barn to dwelling and creation of new access road.

Public Benches

The three benches along the main road and the one on the children's playground either needed repairing or painting. Street Scene was contacted, and they agreed to refurbish them. Three benches are now finished and the other is in hand.

Boundary Stone

We have also arranged for the Boundary Stone to be cleaned and the lettering to be redone in black. Thanks to our district councillors, we obtained a grant of £120 for this, from the Ward Opportunities Fund.

Bus Shelter at Dunnockshaw

It was noted that the bus stop at Dunnockshaw had no shelter for residents. The pavement was too narrow for one to be erected at the bus stop's present site, so the council arranged for it to be moved slightly nearer to Boundary Garage, where the

pavement was wider. Our District Councillor and Parish Councillor Mr. W. Brindle took the matter in hand, contacted the LCC, and arranged a meeting with Trans-Dev., which was also attended by Mrs. J. Baguley.

The new bus shelter is now in place, but we are still waiting for the bus stop sign to be moved and the road markings changed. This is causing a problem, at the moment as some buses are stopping at the old bus stop and others where the new shelter is. The Parish Council has contacted the LCC to find out when the work is to be completed.

Parish Council Website

The Parish Council now has its own website. The information on it, includes- Minutes of all our meetings, including date of the next meeting, the accounts, current planning applications (via Burnley Borough Council), useful contacts, and photographs of the Parish. The website can be accessed by typing in dunnockshawpc.weebly.com, or just Dunnockshaw Parish Council.

Parish Councillors

Mrs B Cronshaw, **Chairperson**, 7 Manchester Rd, Clowbridge, 01282 422700

Mrs V O'Reilly, 60, Hamer Avenue, Loveclough, 07757975775

Mr R Riley, Clow Cottage, Clowbridge, 01282 411616

Mrs A. Childs, 90 Burnley Road, Clowbridge 01282 832757

Mrs. J. Baguley, 6, Burnley Road, Dunnockshaw 07903955684

Mrs. A. Brannagan, 4 Wilkinson Street, Dunnockshaw. 07531705461

Mr. W. Brindle, 18 Rosehill Mount, Burnley. 01282 931303

Clerk : Mrs O. S. Riley, Clow Cottage, Clowbridge. 01282 411616

Community Beat Manager:, -PC. A . Gordon & PCSO. J.Hind tel: 01282 472107.

District Councillors: Mr G. Birtwistle, (Lib. Dem.), Mrs M. Brindle. (Ind)
Mr. W.Brindle.(Ind)

County Councillor: Mr. A. Hosker. (UKIP)