

Newsletter Winter 2020 – 2021



Much Hoole Parish Council

A lot has been happening since the last newsletter. This is an electronic version as distributing a hard copy during lockdowns and COVID 19 restrictions has proved to be too difficult. As soon as we are able, we will produce something more substantial to drop through your door.



A Word from the Chairman

This is my third year as Chairman and under our rules and standing orders, it will mean I pass on the responsibility to another Councillor in May this year. It has been an exciting time to be involved with the Council. The influx of new people onto the Council at the last elections has been refreshing, bringing new ideas and a considerable amount of energy.

It has been some time since we last produced a newsletter, which is a great shame as so much has been happening.

(See next column)

We have seen the re-development of the off-road cycle track into a much more exciting and challenging ride, whilst retaining an easier route for younger children, making its appeal far wider for people of all ages and abilities in the village. This has been achieved through the creative ideas and enthusiasm of Councillor Chris Hewitt.

Much to my personal delight, Phase 1 of the rebuilding of the Village Hall has finally started and after many years of waiting, the old hall, has been partly demolished and a magnificent new one has risen in its place. Unfortunately, after such a long wait to get the project under way, building work has been severely hampered by the Covid-19 pandemic. But progress has been maintained and the new building now looks a world away from its old, cold, leaky and draughty predecessor first erected as a temporary structure in the 1950s. The support of the Parish Council to get this project off the ground has been invaluable and I am personally very grateful to my colleagues on the Council for their willingness to support the project. South Ribble Borough Council have also provided much needed support to this project which has also been gratefully received.

Bedding plants and bulbs have brightened up the village in our new planters. Thanks go to the Ladies Knit and Natter group for their help in this. Our Lengthsman has been busy doing all the odd jobs, clearing litter, strimming the grass and keeping the network of footpaths clear of brambles and weeds so they were safe and pleasant to use back in the summer, and will be again as we look forward to spring.

Overall, we feel we have achieved a great deal and we believe that there is much more we can and will do to improve Much Hoole for the benefit of all residents.

Alan Taylor

Newsletter Winter 2020 – 2021



Gary, our Lengthsman, has been busy keeping the network of footpaths clear and free to be enjoyed. The Parish Council works with Lancashire County Council who have responsibility for footpaths in a scheme where we do much of the ongoing maintenance of the footpaths on their behalf.

The scheme works well in that we are able to deal with any problems ourselves rather than report them and await their response.

Cycle Track

Councillors Chris and Tracey Hewitt are relatively new to the Council but despite the demands of their work, renovating their own property and a young family, they have been incredibly active in contributing to the local community. Chris took it upon himself to research the best designs for off road BMX tracks and then set about re-designing the existing layout to suit a much wider range of ages and abilities. He organised the hire of plant, materials, equipment and a team of local volunteers who in their own time, set about moving tons of earth and gravel to re-configure the track into its current state.

Chris donated some of the materials and used his own equipment wherever possible to save on costs. Throughout the summer months in those long-forgotten days of good weather, the new track proved really popular.

We are delighted to have been able to work with South Ribble Borough Council in the planting of 700 trees in and around the track, as part of their green initiative to plant 110,000 trees across the Borough to help the environment.

Disappointingly, there has been a small amount of damage, vandalism and littering by a small minority but nothing too serious and the cycle track is set to go from strength to strength. Further work is planned as we move into spring to plant the area with wild flowers and get some trees planted to make the area a pleasant place for families to enjoy.



Newsletter Winter 2020 – 2021

The New Village Hall

After many years, the new village hall has finally started to take shape. The Parish Council has supported the project for some considerable time seeing it as an integral part of a village community. The availability of a modern, warm and watertight hall has real benefits for local people whether they are members or not.

Clubs, societies, community events, local interest groups and visitors to the village will all have somewhere to hold meetings and local events. Unfortunately, the old hall was well past its best probably more than a decade ago, and has been deteriorating and becoming ever more uneconomical to maintain ever since.

The Parish Council has been able to provide sufficient funding to get the project started from the sale of council owned land, managing its budget and using its precepting powers. Having put the Village hall trustees in a position where they were able to commit to signing contracts for building to begin, the Council wishes them well in completing the project. The Council's financial support has allowed the Trustees to start the building work which has helped them to secure other sources of funding to complete the work.

Notwithstanding the frustrations of building during a pandemic, good progress has been made and as soon as Covid-19 restrictions allow, there will be an open day for people to come and see the new building for themselves in advance of the opening date which, subject to COVID-19, we hope will be around May of this year.

A welcome by-product of the village hall project has been the relocation of the Scout hut to a new purpose-built facility, to replace the dated and poor-quality wooden building that stood on the land that went up for sale.

For a video tour of progress follow this link (with thanks to venturemedia@talktalk.net)
Follow this link to You Tube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJdCBswKCNo>

The 'old'



The 'new'



Newsletter Winter 2020 – 2021

Halloween and Christmas Competitions

Much Hoole Christmas Crafts Competition!

Win a Woods' Christmas Turkey and a Christmas Gateau!

Much Hoole Parish Council
www.muchhoolepc.org.uk
Supporting local families this Christmas

Get Involved!

- Create any art or craft with a festive theme (painting, poem, christmas card, song etc)
- Post a photo or video to the @MuchHooleVillage Facebook page
- Vote for your favourite and click 'like'
- Must involve children but can be a family effort

-The best 3 submissions win a Woods' turkey and a gateau! (delivered to you before 24th)

-For Much Hoole residents only.

-Deadline for entries and votes Tuesday 22nd Dec. 8pm



The brainchild of Councillors Tracey and Chris Hewitt, Halloween offered the perfect opportunity to put a bit of fun into an otherwise miserable year. Tracey organised a competition to reward the best decorated house and best costume for Halloween as judged by the public who could vote via the local community @MuchHooleVillage Facebook page.

Some great decorations and scary outfits resulted in a number of prizes being given out by the Parish Council.

Hot on the heels of the Halloween competition... A similar competition was arranged for the best Christmas decorations in the village and several families found themselves with a free Christmas turkey and gateaux.

Litter Bins

Your Parish Council has invested in extra litter bins in places where residents said they were needed.

One has been placed by the primary school entrance and one at the end of Moss House Lane at the junction with Smithy Lane.

