



ANDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Newsletter

Spring 2021

Parish Councillors

Mr I. Horsfield Ms N. Smith Dr. P.W. Pilling
Mrs B. Shaw Mr T.M. Blackburn
Parish Clerk: Mr Don Hesketh

Report 2020-2021

Welcome to the latest report and annual newsletter from Anderton Parish Council. The last twelve months have proved a strange year regarding the operation of the parish council with the COVID 19 coronavirus pandemic restrictions having gone on longer than anyone anticipated, causing normal parish council activities to be somewhat curtailed.

Initially we were unable to meet in person, causing the suspension of normal parish council meetings. We continued to conduct business mainly by email but as it became apparent that restrictions were going to be in place for some time we moved on to conducting meetings using the digital platform Zoom. Although it was regrettable that members of the public were not able to join these sessions it did add a new skillset to the council which should stand us in good stead should similar circumstances arise in the future. Also due to the on-going restrictions this newsletter will only be available on our parish council website and not be distributed to every household as normal. Anyone who particularly wishes to have a hard copy however can of course request one from our parish clerk.

Although we have continued to operate as a council we have not been able to progress any of our projects aimed at improving facilities and the local environment for our residents. As a result of this we have not increased our annual precept which remains the same as last year. Hopefully in the next twelve months we will be able to return to more normal form of operation.

Local Government Elections

Residents will be aware that local government elections were held in May this year, many of which had been held over from the previous year having been postponed due to the pandemic. These included the election of councillors at county level and borough level and for the office of Police and Crime Commissioner.

As is required by law parish councils must also hold an election every four years and since it had been our turn last year (2020) our Anderton parish election was also rolled over and tagged on to the May elections. In the event the parish council election was uncontested and the same parish councillors returned. However one of our long serving councillors, Cllr. John Appleyard, decided to stand down at this year's election so we would like to take the opportunity to wish him well for the future and to thank him for his service to the council and to all the residents of Anderton.

The parish council was formally reconstituted at this year's Annual General Meeting on the 25th May and for the next twelve months we will have a new Chairperson taking the reins, Cllr. Tim Blackburn.

A New Community Facility for Anderton?

One of the future possibilities that has been given some initial consideration by the council is the idea of a dedicated community facility for Anderton. This would probably take the form of a building with flexible space that would be suitable for both large and small group activities or meetings. The building, or parts thereof would be available for use by local community groups, probably on a hire or long term lease basis. There is also the possibility of it forming some form of local information centre.

In order to bring such a project about there are two possibilities currently envisaged. The first would involve the construction of a purpose designed building if a suitable site could be identified whilst the second would involve the conversion of an existing building if it were seen suitable and affordable. Financing of such a project would obviously be a huge challenge and would probably require contributions from a variety of sources.

We believe that although there are similar facilities available in Adlington there is still an on-going demand for such facilities from special interest groups and other organisations. We are aware that Anderton St. Joseph's Scout group has a particular interest in such a building.

Currently this is just a germ of a project and bringing it to fruition may take a considerable amount of time. We would like to hear resident's views on this potential project and in particular we would welcome input from anyone who may be able to offer help to bring about such a facility.

Millstone Embankment

During last year and the early part of this year anyone using the A673 road between Adlington and Horwich would have noticed that temporary traffic lights had been introduced in the vicinity of Anderton Manor Farm in order to enforce single lane road use. This measure had been brought about by the partial collapse of the embankment on the southern side of the road (the opposite side to the reservoir).

The road is built on top of the reservoir retaining embankment and as such any remedial work required involves both the highways authority (Lancashire County Council) and the reservoir management agency (United Utilities). Whilst initial investigations took place to assess what repairs would be required temporary traffic lights were put in place to lessen the traffic impact on the southern side of the road.

Unfortunately determining the extent of the repairs and obtaining agreement between the two bodies has taken a considerable amount of time. It had been hoped that repairs would have started this spring but this proved not possible. As a mitigation measure the traffic lights were removed and replaced by concrete barriers to protect the southern edge of the roadway. This is intended to ease the traffic flow and prevent the delays caused by the traffic signals.

Agreement has now been reached on the repair work to be carried out but this is unlikely to start until later this year or possibly early 2022. It is unknown at the moment if this will entail a temporary closure of the road or a return to single lane operation controlled by lights. In either event residents who use this route regularly need to be aware of possible future disruption to their journeys.

Grimeford Lane Junction

The parish council has been aware for quite some time about the serious road traffic concerns regarding the junction of Grimeford Lane and Bolton Road (A673). The situation arises due to the inclination of Grimeford Lane and the limited sight lines when emerging on to Bolton Road. This is particularly bad when looking in the direction towards Horwich.

The growth in vehicle ownership and parking in the area has worsened the problem and a number of accidents have been recorded. The parish council has previously contacted both the county council and the police about the problem and we can now report that the Highways Authority (LCC) have decided that applying parking restrictions by way of yellow line markings around this junction is the only measure they can apply in the short term to try to alleviate the problem.

We hope that residents will understand the need for these measures and that they will not cause too much inconvenience to locals who live in this area.

Footpath Improvements

The parish council is always keen to try to improve the condition of the many public footpaths we have in our area. Currently the council is working with the Anderton Scout Group and via our contact with the Peak and Northern Footpath Society, to bring about a project to improve the surface condition and general amenity of the popular walking route towards Rivington between Greenhalgh Lane and Horrobin Lane, adjacent to Rothwells Farm.

Supporting Local Organisations

Many of the local volunteer organisations have been badly hit by the restrictions imposed to try to stop the spread of the Covid -19 coronavirus and many of their activities have had to be temporarily halted. This has had a severe impact on their income and overall finances.

As a parish council we recognise the valuable work done by these organisations and the value they have in supporting our local residents. During the lockdown period we have continued to give financial support to these organisations by way of monetary donations with the aim that they will be able to resume their normal activities as quickly as possible when the relaxation of coronavirus restrictions allows this to happen.

Any Feedback?

Once again our annual newsletter is only being made available on line due to the on-going Covid-19 restrictions and the potential risks involved with delivery. Changing to a primarily digital product is something we have been considering for some time. Printing paper copies and organizing distribution to every household in the parish comes at a cost, both financially and environmentally due to the amount of paper consumed. We would welcome the views of residents on if they would like to see this change made permanent or would still prefer to receive paper copies. Anyone not on-line would still be able to receive a paper copy on request or pick one up from Adlington library.

The parish council usually meets in the months of Jan, March, May, July, Sept and Nov at the Adlington Community Centre on Railway Road. All meetings start at 19:30 (the AGM in May starts at 19:00) and dates are displayed on our website and on the parish notice board at the side of the Coop car park. Members of the public are always welcome to attend.

If you wish to raise any issues of concern regarding Anderton you can contact the parish clerk, Mr Don Hesketh, by letter at 61, Beech Avenue, Anderton, electronically by email at clerk@andertonpc-lancs.uk or via the parish council website www.andertonpc-lancs.uk where you can also find additional information about the council itself together with news about local facilities and events.