

Annual Report of Astley Village Parish Council

Year April 2009 to March 2010

The Council

During the year ending March 2010 your Parish Council worked hard to maintain and improve the village for its residents.

Councillors

During the period the Council was chaired by Mark Perks, until his resignation in August, then from September by Laura Lennox with Jayne Thomas as the Vice Chairman.

There were a number of Councillor changes, saying goodbye and thank you to leaving Councillors: Rod Fraser and Ian Handley in June 2009, Mark Perks, Alan Cain, Harold Seaman and Peter Baker in August 2009, Eleanor Smith in September 2009.

Council welcomed: Jayne Thomas in May 2009, Dave Slessor in August 2009, Rod Fraser, Ian Hodgson and John Nuttall in October 2009, Ian Handley in November 2009 and finally, Bob Crabtree in February 2010.

Elections

The Council, due to the number of vacancies and Councillor changes had two bye elections called by residents to fill the casual vacancies. The bye elections were called in August for two vacancies and October for three vacancies. Both of the elections were uncontested and the cost to residents of these two elections was £2,544.31.

Astley Village Newsletter

The newsletter continued to be the Council's primary way of communicating with residents and it produced four quarterly issues in the year, full colour with the contents covering all aspects of village life and distributed to every household.

Website

The website is under continual development and, for those of you with internet access, it provides a wealth of information on finance, activities, projects and developments in the village. In addition it contains all council minutes and documents relating to council business.

Council Employees

No review of the year would be complete without paying tribute to the work done by our two village caretakers, Ronnie and Jamie, who contribute so much to the excellent condition of our village. Debra Platt, the Clerk, has also done sterling work for the Council and continues to strive to maintain and improve the Council's administration in line with its Quality Status.

Projects

The Council continued to carry out its long term promises such as the flower baskets on the lamp posts throughout the village, village litter picking service in all parts of the village, utilising the speed indicator device on Chancery Road, maintaining West Way Ponds, providing Christmas celebrations for the village and the tree. Besides all these long term projects, it carries out repairs, upgrades and completes projects in partnership with Chorley Council such as improving the hedge system bordering the ponds, clearing and improving the bankings beside the subway with the removal of a few trees and cutting back of the shrubbery to bring in more light and help with its future maintenance.

Value for Money

The Council strived to spend the money it collects from residents wisely and it is used for the benefit Astley Village residents. Based on band D council tax each property in the village paid approximately £0.38p per week to the Parish Council, which is collected by Chorley Council, this cost a total of £20.00 for the year. We hope you agree this is very good value for money.

Summary

The council is looking forward to the challenges facing us in the current year with enthusiasm.

Financial Summary

Summary of Receipts and Payments

	Year End 31 March 2010	£
Receipts		
Balance carried forward	81492	
Precept	23341	
Bank Interest	25	
Advertisements (newsletter)	960	
Misc. Income	281	
Total Receipts	<u>24607</u>	
		<u>106099</u>
Payments		
Administration (elections, employees, office)	20863	
Council (newsletter, grants, training)	1805	
Commitments (WWP, field)	614	
Plan (environs, people, grants)	2765	
Return of grant for Multi Games Area	64000	
Vat on purchases	418	
		<u>(90465)</u>
Balance (total receipts less total payments)		<u><u>15634</u></u>

Laura Lennox
Chairman
5 May 2010

Councillor Contacts 2009/2010

Cllr Bob Crabtree	Elmwood, Astley Village
Cllr Rod Fraser	Great Meadow, Astley Village
Cllr Ian Handley	Broadfields, Astley Village
Cllr Ian Hodgson	Long Croft Meadow, Astley Village
Cllr Laura Lennox	Judeland, Astley Village
Cllr John Nuttall	Great Meadow, Astley Village
Cllr Keith Robinson	Long Croft Meadow, Astley Village
Cllr Dennis Swards	Studfold, Astley Village
Cllr Dave Slessor	Browns Hey, Astley Village
Cllr Jayne Thomas	Elmwood, Astley Village