



Memories are made of days like these...



This year's May Day celebrations were (finally) blessed with nice weather & record-breaking funds raised for local organisations. New attractions & some fresh faces to behind-the-scenes organisation helped in many ways : thanks to those who got involved. We loved this photo (thanks to 'The Chronicle') and thought it summed up the day and the village spirit. Long may it continue.



WAGS (Women of Astbury Group) update!

This photo of the WAGS in action is enough to strike the fear into any man...but it seems our ladies recently entered a quiz as two teams, where they came second and third! Well done!.

If you'd like to join (maybe they'd win next time!), contact Michelle or Lindis. Lots more fun planned, including a visit to the theatre etc. No age limits (young or old!) A great idea.

Plans for local farm rejected

An application to fill in the inactive quarry at Baytree Farm was opposed by the Parish Council at our May meeting. The scheme would have resulted in 30,000 cubic metres of 'inert material' per year being dumped over a 6-year period, with up to 12 lorries per day moving through the lanes around Astbury. On that basis – and because we felt the whole project was inappropriate within designated Green Belt – we not only objected on behalf of the Parish, but a member of the PC attended the planning meeting where the application was ultimately considered by the County Council.

Lowry painting of Astbury – yours for £43,200!

Although LS Lowry is well known for his industrial landscapes and stick figures, in his earlier years he produced a number of landscape pictures, many of a local nature. This one of Astbury Church is in pastel and may well have been produced when he often traveled through this area on his way to the Potteries to meet an art teacher friend at Burslem. One of these meetings is described in the art teacher's son Paul Johnson's book " The Vanished Landscape - A 1930's Childhood in the Potteries".

This particular painting recently sold for £43,200!



Keeping the Parish drug-free



It may surprise - and concern you - that our Parish is not a drug-free area. We are aware that some of the quieter lanes have been known to be used by a minority of people using and possibly trading in drugs. Our Michelle Padmos has taken this matter as a priority subject as part of her Social & Recreational Project. Attending every Police Forum meeting on our behalf, Michelle is happy to raise any incident on your behalf with her contacts within the Police and Community Action Groups.



Public Footpaths & Rights of Way in the Parish

In the spring the Rambler's Association carried out a detailed condition survey of public footpaths and rights of way in the Parish and their Report was considered at the June Parish Council Meeting.



There are 48 statutory "Rights of Way" in the open countryside of the Parish. In a detailed report to the Clerk, the R.A. reported that 36 paths were Grade 1 (no problems), 9 were Grade 2 (passable), none were Grade 3 (difficult) and 3 were Grade 4 (impassable), one being blocked and two lost.

The Parish Council will be co-operating with the R.A. and Cheshire County Council to resolve problems with paths where these have been noted and is grateful for the co-operation of the relevant landowners.

It was also reported that several stiles are to be replaced with "kissing gates" considered to be more user-friendly than the conventional wooden stiles.

Public footpaths in the Parish are increasingly used by Visitors and Tourists, many being described in leaflets and booklets, and form a valuable recreational asset to the wider community.

The Parish Council would be happy to receive any comments from Parishioners on potential improvements or problems encountered.

Update

- You may recall we had a small air monitoring device fitted to one of the cottages in the village so we could regularly check the quality of air we breathe? The good news is initial results are well within published tolerances. We'll keep you posted.

Update

- Following recent bad weather and some flooding in the area, we have reported a number of 'black spots' to the Highways Agency. This information will be considered when planning upgrades & repairs to roads (particularly rural lanes).

Update

- Posts for our 'Speed Warning' devices have been installed on the A34 between Astbury Village and Astbury Meadow Garden Centre. Watch out for 'Smiley SID'...and watch your speed!! There are similar devices currently operating near Moreton.

Accident & Tipping Reports

Please do continue to keep us informed of any accidents you may be aware of in the Parish. This helps us to make the case for change to speed limits etc as only incidents involving injury are normally recorded by the Cheshire Police. Similarly, let us know of any illegal tipping you may notice : again, we guarantee your own details will not be passed on!!

We will need brief details of location, time, date and vehicles involved wherever possible. Contact any member of the PC or Clerk.

Who Are We?

Roger Sutton 01260 273677

Charles Kennely 01260 272205

Mel Lawton 01260 27838

Peter Cliff 01260 278641

Andy Banks 01260 281194

Terry Depledge 01260 271058

Nick Sharman 01260 271374

Rob Lomas 01260 272061

Lindis Pattison-Tadman 01260 270045

Michelle Padmos 01260 274636

Jane Shelmerdine 01260 279870

Dave Roberts 01260 275010

Chairman : John Carter 01260 275828

Clerk : Charlie Pointon : 01260 274891

We meet in the Astbury Village Hall on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm. Please feel free to come along!

Item for the next newsletter, or any comments? Contact Andy Banks. Read minutes of our meetings in 'The Chronicle'



NEWBOLD ASTBURY CUM MORETON PARISH COUNCIL – ANNUAL REPORT 2007

As presented by Parish Council Chairman Dave Roberts at the Annual Joint Parishes Meeting held at Astbury Village Hall on Wednesday 9 May 2007.

This past year has been a learning year for many councillors particularly as half of the members were newly elected in May 2006. Earlier tonight we had a presentation from Cheshire County Council on their hopes for a single unitary council in Cheshire, Cheshire Police have visited on two occasions and members and myself have attended training courses organised by Cheshire Association of Local Councils . All of these have helped your councillors, both new and old alike, to serve the community to best advantage.

I would like to thank especially the members who represent the Council on outside bodies, Keith Carter on the Bent Farm Quarry Liaison Committee, Michelle Padmos who, in addition to looking after the social side of the Parish Action Plan, has represented the Council on the Cheshire Police Forum and County Forum, Nick Sharman who has progressed the website and represented us on the Congleton Borough Council Area Forum 4 and Peter Cliff who has assisted with the preliminary work on progress toward Quality Council status.

Thanks also to Andy Banks for assuming the editorship of the Parish Newsletter, Terry Depledge who has given freely of his time to make and service the parish noticeboards, other members working on the Parish Action Plan and our clerk Charlie Pointon who is involved in the work of these and all other Parish Council matters.

The village green has once more had a wonderful floral display. Thanks also to Robert Lomas for the Christmas lights, to past council member Tim Gresty for continuing to oversee the village green parking and to our Borough Councillor, John Wray and County Councillor Peter Mason for their help and assistance over the year.

Traffic remains the biggest problem in the parishes. A census in Peel Lane showed nearly 7000 vehicles per day passing through the village, approximately 1000 per hour at morning and evening rush hours.

Your council has however made progress; weight restrictions and signage have been formalised and implemented on many parish lanes, the 40mph limit on the A34 has been extended to Magpie Bank, an Eastward extension of the 30mph limit in the village has been requested and plans are in hand to install bollards on the pavement in front of the Egerton Arms. Improvements have also been made by tree planting on the newly created roadside verge in Brook Lane. Thanks to those who helped on the day.

Planning applications have also represented a growing work area for the Council with the apparent wish of several outside bodies to impose unwanted and unwarranted developments in the parishes. Prominent among these was the attempt by Congleton Borough Council to impose an employment site on several acres of green field site on Wallhill Lane. This has now been thwarted by direct parishioner action and detailed planning objections, as was the application for a fishing lake on Watery Lane.

An unsuccessful application was also made for football pitches on Watery Lane following which clay pigeon shooting commenced. Permission was granted for the storage of caravans at Glebe Farm. There is still the unresolved use of Glebe Farm as an HGV depot and the amended plans for the “lavender house” on Gorse Lane which has yet to go before the Borough Council planning committee. Finally the landfill waste site application on Wharf Lane was rejected by the County and thanks are due to local parishioners Sally Ann Banks and Colin Pennington for their inputs.

The Parish Council has also initiated investigations and visits by the Borough and County Councils and the Environment Agency on various sites through the parishes where illegal tipping or planning irregularity was being carried out. If you have any information, please let us know.

Finally, if we wish to keep our parishes green, it is important that councillors and parishioners continue to work together to object to the attempts to despoil the countryside, More parishioners than ever before have attended Parish Council meetings through the past year. This interest has helped the Parish Council to know that it is truly representing the wishes of the majority.

Thank you all for your support.

NB

At the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council which followed the Joint Parishes Meeting, Dave Roberts resigned as Chairman and Councillor Keith Carter was elected Chairman in his stead.

Councillor Roger Sutton was elected vice chairman.

NEWBOLD ASTBURY CUM MORETON PARISH COUNCIL
SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS – FINANCIAL YEAR 2006-2007

This report is a simplified summary of the Annual Accounts as presented to the Annual Joint Parishes Meeting held at Astbury Village Hall on Wednesday 9 May 2007. All figures have been rounded to the nearest pound for ease of presentation.

| <u>Year 2005-6</u> | | <u>Year 2006-7</u> |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| <u>INCOME</u> | | |
| 6030 | Precept | 6050 |
| 1965 | Other income | 278 |
| 620 | Parish Plan grant | |
| <u>7206</u> | Balance brought forward | <u>8367</u> |
| 15201 | Total Income | 14685 |
| <u>EXPENDITURE</u> | | |
| 2400 | Salaries/Wages | 2700 |
| 986 | Administration expenses | 1076 |
| 454 | Insurances | 473 |
| 208 | Audit | 190 |
| 250 | Grants | 250 |
| 40 | Parish Newsletter | 582 |
| 413 | Parish Improvements | 337 |
| 2083 | VAT Paid | 170 |
| <u>6384</u> | Parish Plan | |
| | Total Expenditure | <u>5778</u> |
| 8367 | Balance Carried Forward | 8907 |
| 15201 | | 14685 |

PARISH PLAN

An initial grant of £2500 was made by the Countryside Agency in financial year 2002-3 towards the costs of the production of a Parish Plan. A further grant of £836.36 was made in financial year 2004-5 and a final grant of £620 was made in financial year 2005-6. The Parish Plan was published in 2005. Parish plan funding and costs have now been completed and all future costs arising from the implementation of the Parish Plan will be incorporated into revenue costs as incurred.

AUDIT

The Parish Council has been given a clear report from both internal and external auditors for the financial year ending 31st March 2007.