

## **Pollution of Dog Clog Brook — CRONTON**

**R**esidents living near to the brook which passes through the village may have become aware of unpleasant odours. This is due to pollution as a result of illegal tipping of contaminated waste at the site of the old Rainhill sewage works.

**L**ast year Knowsley Council asked the owner of the site to make it safe following concerns about safety and vandalism. It was agreed that clean, uncontaminated inert material could be used to cover the areas of the site deemed to be unsafe. Without the knowledge of the land owner contaminated waste was tipped at the site and then covered with clean material. Over time this has resulted in Leachate being released into redundant drainage systems, field ditches and drains that connect to Dog Clog Brook. The effect on the brook has been dramatic and pollution extends over 2 miles from the site.

**L**eachate is a solution that is formed by rain passing

through waste material. It does not pose a risk to health but in this case it has seriously affected the environment of the brook.

**T**he land owner is cooperating fully with the relevant agencies to stop the flow of leachate. It is anticipated that the necessary work will be completed shortly. The Environment Agency assures us that the brook will recover over time particularly if exposed to heavy rainfall. There is likely to be some continuation of the public nuisance from odour, particularly during warmer weather and lower flows in the brook.

**T**he Parish Council is liaising with a number of agencies to determine if more action can be taken to alleviate the problem. In the meantime we advise parents to warn children not to play near the brook.

**T**he site is currently subject to a very complex criminal investigation. The land owner is spending considerable amounts of money to alleviate the problem and has offered a reward for information leading to a successful prosecution of

those responsible.

**If you have any information you think may be useful please call the Environment Agency on 0800 807060.**

**Further news** on the development of this issue will be posted in the window of the Parish Council Office.

### **CONTACT US**

#### **Address**

Cronton Parish Council, 7 Hampton Drive, Cronton, Knowsley, Merseyside WA8 5BZ

#### **Chairman**

Will Cook 0151 424 4612

#### **Vice-Chairman**

Pat Green 0151 424 5109

#### **Councillors**

Denis Bray	0151 424 2908
Shaun Cooper	0151 424 6006
Marlene Cowan	0151 420 3104
Ged McGann	0151 424 0770
Geoff Pentin	0151 423 0038
Dave Rostance	0151 424 4799
Ian Watson	07770 395599

#### **Parish Clerk** — Vitti Osborne

Answer Phone No. 0151 420 0235

#### **email :**

council@cronton49.freemove.co.uk



## Cronton Gala 2014

will be held on **Saturday 14 June** at The Pasture



**\* Volunteers are needed \***

The next Gala Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday 22 April 2014, 7.00 pm at the Parish Council Office, 7 Hampton Drive. It is an informal meeting to gather new ideas and plan events. You are welcome to attend to find out more. **Contact — Ian Watson 07770 395599**



## Scarecrow Competition

Scarecrows should be displayed **from Monday 9 June** and judging will take place **during in the early evening of Friday 13 June**. For further details, please watch out for notices in the Parish Council Office window or contact Ian Watson.

## Grant Applications 2014

The Parish Council values the work of local voluntary groups. If your group is seeking a small financial support for a project or an event, you are welcome to submit a Grant Application to the Parish Council for consideration by the **10 June 2014**.

Application forms and guidelines are available by contacting the Clerk **Vitti Osborne** on **0151 420 0235** or via the Council's email address

**council@cronton49.freeserve.co.uk**

*Note : The Parish Council has no power to give a grant to a single individual.*



## ANNUAL

## PARISH MEETING

**Monday 12 May 2014**

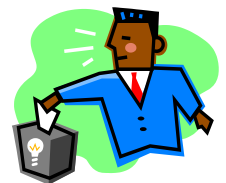
**7.00 pm — Cronton Parish  
Council Office**

**This is your opportunity as  
a registered elector to ask  
any questions or voice any  
opinion that you may have  
about the community.**

If you have any matter of interest that you would like to discuss at the meeting, please send them in to the Clerk at 7

Hampton Drive, Cronton WA8 5BZ  
**by 25 April 2014.**

Notice of Meeting with agenda items will be displayed in the window of the Parish Council Office on 29 April 2014



## Cronton.org

Welcome to the new  
look village website

Thanks to Ian Watson &  
Bess Smith



# PEX HILL LOWLAND HEATH

Neil McMahon - The Conservation Volunteers, Pex Hill



Pex Hill is one of Merseyside's last remaining areas of heathland contributing approximately 12% to Merseyside's lowland heath.

In Victorian times (1868) the first of the covered reservoirs was built by the Widnes Corporation on site, using sandstone mined from the quarry at Pex Hill. The water was used to feed the growing industry and population of Widnes. As this grew over time, two more reservoirs were added, the last in the 1930's.

In Edwardian times, Pex Hill was classified as common ground when local people used the site for grazing of domestic animals such as cattle and horses. These animals kept down any vegetation except for heather and other dwarf shrubs that were unpalatable to them.

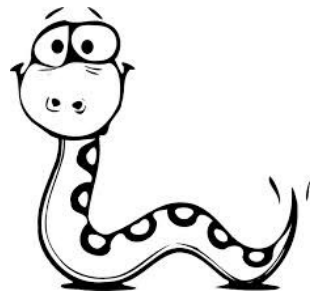
Later in time, the site was occupied by 107 Anti-Aircraft Regiment and 443 Battery of the 61 Searchlight Regiment as it was ideal for spotting aircraft coming in to bomb Liverpool during in the Second World War.

United Utilities (North West Water at the time) acquired the site later and left it open to the public for recreational use. Unknown to many people of the area, the site is not actually a public park but private land that the land owner leaves open to the public.

In the past, it has been insufficiently managed and has lost

much of the natural heritage that once inhabited the site. Projects that have been undertaken over this time have been extensive tree planting onto this important Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitat as well as footpath construction and other conservation related projects.

Due to excessive nutrients increase and scrub and bracken invasion, the area over the past twenty years has declined as much of its natural flora and fauna has been lost, including grass snake and common lizard, last recorded around 1997.



## What The Conservation Volunteers have been and are doing now!

What The Conservation (formally BTCV) has done over the past 7 years has been to introduce a management plan for the site. This includes re-establishing footpaths, introducing disabled friendly gates, woodland management and woodland planting to raise the biodiversity of the areas with the planting of approximately 850 mixed native species trees

within the woodland and regime of heathland management to attempt restore the heathland back to much of its former glory. This has included the felling of some of the trees on the heathland area, mainly the more invasive birch, and the planting of approximately 1200 heather plants onto the heathland, not to mention the spreading of many different types of seeds to introduce other heathland species back to the site.

The Conservation Volunteers do understand concerns of local people who visit the site when they see trees being taken away from the heathland but would like to assure people that we only have the site's best interest at heart.

Information on events and volunteer opportunities, contact :

Pex Hill Visitors Centre, Pex Hill, Widnes, Cheshire WA8 5QW—Telephone 0151 423 4433



In an emergency call **999**.

For everything else, call **101**.



## PRECEPT 2014/15

	2013/14		2014/15
	original budget	Forecast outturn	Forecast
<b>Receipts</b>	£	£	£
Common investment income	47	47	47
Bank interest	12	10	10
Office rentals	0	0	30
VAT refund	244	244	260
<b>Total</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>347</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
<b>Core</b>			
Council Insurance	1,169	1,136	1,169
Non domestic rate	475	0	475
Clerk's salary SCP25	8,225	8,224	8,308
NI Employer's contribution	120	74	120
Office Cleaner	377	377	381
Postage	120	49	115
Stationery	250	191	300
Photocopying (toner, newsletters)	350	177	350
Audit (External + internal)	500	500	450
Clerks expenses	60	36	60
Electricity + extra meetings, police on duty, agency sessions and local groups	800	600	1,000
Water Rates	263	213	263
Telephone (Broadband/tel package)	432	275	432
Website	175	107	175
Elections	600	0	600
Chairman's allowance	200	200	200
Councillors Expenses	150	0	150
Publicity & Advertising	100	0	100
Affiliations	336	320	336
<b>Maintenance</b>			
Premises (Council - Interior & Exterior)	550	76	550
<b>Non-Core</b>			
Members & Clerk's training	250	0	250
Donations	950	950	950
Remembrance Day	52	42	52
Christmas	700	658	700
Hall hiring	165	0	165
Housekeeping/Refreshments	80	66	80
The Pasture	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,449</b>	<b>14,271</b>	<b>17,731</b>
<b>Net payments</b>	<b>17,146</b>		<b>17,384</b>
<b>RESERVES</b>			
Clerk's Pension Provision	1,000	0	1,000
Reserve for ear-marked items	5,248	1,550	4,196
General Reserve	2,289	0	4,534
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,537</b>	<b>1,550</b>	<b>9,730</b>

	£
Forecast net payments 2014/15	17,384.00
Reserve	9,730.00
<b>Total revenue resources required</b>	<b>27,114.00</b>
Less: estimated starting balance 2014/15	-12,017.00
Council Tax Reduction Scheme Grant	-1,252.00
<b>Precept required 2014/15</b>	<b>13,845.00</b>

The precept is always at a low level and there has been no increase in the past four years. Last year, a substantial amount of money was used to enhance the health and safety of the new Children's play area. We would like to continue giving small financial support to the local voluntary groups who play a significant part in community life.

The Council is committed to delivering quality services for the benefit of the village, but with the ever-rising cost of public utilities and inflation, plus a reduction in the Council Tax Reduction Scheme Grant, we are this year left with no option but to **slightly increase the precept by approximately £1 per Band-D equivalent.**



### Coming Council Meetings

At Cronton Parish Council Office, commencing at 7:00 pm (Meeting notices will be posted on the notice board)

**Monday 12 May**

Annual Parish Meeting

Annual Council Meeting

**Monday 2 June**

General Purposes and Environment Committee

Finance and Policy Committee

**Monday 23 June**

Council Meeting



**The press and public are welcome to attend all Council meetings and will be invited to speak at the public participation session.**