



CRONTON PARISH COUNCIL

# NEWSLETTER

www.cronton.org



SPRING 2018

## Knowsley Parks & Green Spaces Review

**K**nowsley Council is facing a challenging year as austerity measures impact on the amount of government grants made available. It has reached the point at which critical decisions about which services should be funded with priority being given to social services and education.

A decision was taken to end all council maintenance of the 161 green spaces within the borough.

A review team was set up to find alternative ways to fund the green spaces. After a period of consultation and careful examination of all the sites the following recommendation was made:

- 17 identified sites should be sold for housing development in order to raise £40m.
- The £40m would be used to create a charitable trust which would maintain the remaining 144 sites using interest earned from the capital sum. The sites would be maintained in perpetuity.

In order for the proposal to succeed all town and

parish councils would have to agree to surrender any leases they held on green spaces.

The pasture is not one of the 17 sites identified for development.

**After careful consideration the Parish Council has agreed to surrender the lease on the pasture subject to certain conditions as below:**

- The Pasture to be protected and maintained at no cost to the Parish Council in perpetuity.
- There should be no change to the usage of the Pasture with continuation of use for the Gala and Pex Hill JFC football teams at no charge.
- Any reasonable request to use the Pasture by community groups should be granted.

The council is awaiting written confirmation of previously given assurances in this matter.

**All Parish Councillors are fully committed to protecting the Pasture in its present form.**

*Cllr Shaun Cooper (Vice-Chair)*



**F**irstly, let me thank you all for the amazing turn out at the Gala Easter Egg Hunt. We had a record number of children attending and everyone had a wonderful time! I would also like to thank everybody for the kind donations given on the day. They were very much appreciated.



As popular as the Gala is, unfortunately it has incurred a large deficit each year and if it continues we will not be able to host the event any more. It has not been a huge problem up until now as we were entitled to government grants, but this

funding has now been stopped. The only way to continue funding the subsequent Gala is to fundraise as well as making sure the Gala pays for itself.

The Gala Committee has got several ideas with regard to fundraising, mainly table top sales, coffee morning and probably children's craft / fun sessions. Any suggestions are welcome.

**We are planning a Coffee Morning for Saturday, 5 May 2018, 10.00 am to 12.00 pm at the Parish Council Office. Everyone is welcome.**



## THE CRONTON GALA 2018

The 11<sup>th</sup> Cronton Gala will be held on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2018, 11.00 am – 4.00 pm on The Pasture, Hall Lane

**We are desperate for tombola prizes for the Gala. So if anyone has anything we could have, please bring it along to the Coffee Morning. We would be grateful for your support.**

Please also keep an eye open for any up and coming events on the Gala notice-board.

If you are available on the day of the Gala, please feel free to come and help us out. After all we are always looking for new Committee members!

E-mail : thecrontongala@yahoo.com  
Barbi (Chairperson) : 07927 707 150  
0151 216 9755

precept 2018/19	2017/18		2018/19
	Original budget	Forecast outturn	Forecast
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	£	£	£
Common investment income	47	47	47
Bank interest	10	4	5
Office rentals	0	160	96
VAT refund	534	825	148
<b>Total</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>1,036</b>	<b>296</b>

#### PAYMENTS

Core			
Council Insurance	1,364	1,114	1,280
Non domestic rate	475	0	0
Clerk's salary SCP26	8,854	8,854	8,854
NI Employer's contribution	120	96	120
Clerk's Pension Employer's contribution	2,346	2,355	2,355
Postage	200	76	200
Stationery	252	197	200
Photocopying (toner, newsletters)	400	173	450
Audit (External + internal)	450	330	450
Clerks expenses	100	44	100
Electricity + extra meetings, police on duty, agency sessions and local groups	1,000	354	450
Water Rates	250	195	250
Telephone (Broadband/tel package)	350	262	350
Website	175	121	175
Elections	600	0	600
Chairman's allowance	200	200	200
Councillors Expenses	150	0	150
Publicity & Advertising	100	0	100
Affiliations	350	249	350

#### Maintenance

Premises (Council - Interior & Exterior)	600	66	600
The Pasture ground maintenance	6,000	3,848	6,000
Non-Core			
Members & Clerk's training	250	0	250
Donations	950	850	950
Remembrance Day	52	42	594
Christmas	500	427	500
Hall hiring	150	0	150
Office cleaning	444	444	461
Housekeeping	50	20	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,732</b>	<b>20,317</b>	<b>26,189</b>
<b>Net payments</b>	<b>26,141</b>	<b>19,281</b>	<b>25,893</b>

#### RESERVES

Reserve for ear-marked items	6,479	0	8,552
General Reserve	1,813	0	2,377
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,292</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10,929</b>

<b>Forecast net payments 2018/19</b>	£25,893
Reserve	£10,929
<b>Total revenue resources required</b>	£36,822
<u>Less: estimated starting balance 2018/19</u>	-£14,932
<b>Precept required 2018/19</b>	<b>£21,890</b>

## Parish Precept

After a number of years without increase councilors have found it necessary to increase the precept by 3% for the 2018/19 financial year.



This will equate to less than 50p per year increase for a band D household.

The increase will enable the council to deal with inflationary pressures and to slowly increase the reserves in line with the auditor's recommendation. Some of the reserves were used to facilitate the match funding which enabled the drainage work to The Pasture to be undertaken.

All councils are required to have adequate reserves for any unforeseen circumstances.

The council will continue to function as in previous years with grants still being made to local groups and the council offices being available for community activities free of charge. In addition the council will pay for the maintenance of the pasture (1% increase in charges over last year) and continue to finance the service of remembrance and Christmas tree and celebrations.

*Cllr Shaun Cooper (Vice-Chair)*

### ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Monday 14 May 2018 @ 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.



## APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS

Voluntary groups in Cronton are invited to apply for small grants from the Parish Council. Please note that the Council has no power to make grant to a single individual.

Grant Policy and application form are obtainable from the Parish Council or download them from [www.cronton.org](http://www.cronton.org)



**Closing date : 11 June 2018**

## POTHOLES

After a long and cold winter we have seen an increase in the number of potholes and other road damage. I would like to bring to your attention that if potholes have appeared outside your property there is a helpline you can ring to report it. The company—TARMAC—have the contract with Knowsley Council to repair the roads in Cronton. Please give them a ring if you have any problems outside your property/shop.



**TARMAC 0800 023 2334**



*Cllr John Foran*

**T**he Holy Family Social Club has been a key part of our community since the early 1960s and still today supports many local events such as the Wizz Kids after school club, the Walking for Life Health Group via the Cronton Pathways



plus providing a venue for various celebrations such as Christenings, Birthdays and Funerals etc.

The premises over the years had suffered some dilapidation but is recently undergoing some positive improvements in the way of refurbishment of the bar area including new shelving, new marble bar, and new furni-

ture. All the flooring has been replaced and the premises redecorated inside and out.

Future plans are to refurbish the toilets and make some very needed improvements to the car park.

Hopefully these improvements will attract more activity to help secure a long standing facility within our village. They would very much welcome your support.

**Club phone no — 0151 424 3366**

*Cllr Dave Rostance*



## THE PASTURE

**W**e in Cronton are lucky that we have a lovely park—THE PASTURE. The Parish Council has in the past couple of years secured funding for drainage work on the main expanse of grass which has been very successful. We also secured funding to maintain the park to Green Flag standard after Knowsley Council withdrew funding to maintain the park.

In recent times we have had damage to the park play area by youths who live outside the village. Also dog fouling has been a problem due to irresponsible dog owners who do not clear their dog's mess.

We ask all Crontonians who use The Pasture to report any damage done to:

— Merseyside Police by dialling 101 —



*Cllr John Foran*

**POWER  
CUT  
AND  
EMERGENCY**



Call  
**SP ENERGY NETWORKS**  
immediately for  
response and direct  
feedback

- **105**
- **0800 001 5400**



## New arrangements for the accountability and audit of local public bodies in England

### Cronton Parish Council

**T**he Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (the Act) builds on the general principle that all local public bodies, regardless of size, must account for all the money they receive and spend, wherever it comes from. Local taxpayers expect local public bodies to be open and transparent about how they have handled public money, as these bodies are always accountable to the communities they serve.

The smaller authority's Annual Return is subject to review by the appointed auditor under the provisions of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and the NAO's Code of Audit Practice 2015. The Parish Council's appointed auditor is:

PKF Littlejohn LLP, Ref: SBA, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 1 Westferry Circus, Canary Wharf, London E14 4HD  
([sba@pkf-littlejohn.com](mailto:sba@pkf-littlejohn.com))



For 2017/18 Cronton Parish Council is exempted from sending the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return (Annual Return) to the external auditor for a

limited assurance review by satisfying the set criteria including the higher of total gross income or total gross expenditure below £25,000 and no matters arising from the external auditor in the prior year. However, the Council is still subject to internal audit.

To meet the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 and the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities, the Parish Council will publish the following documents on [cronton.org](http://cronton.org) after the Annual Meeting on 14 May 2018:

- Certificate of Exemption
- Annual Internal Audit Report
- Section 1 - Annual Governance Statements
- Section 2 - Annual Accounting Statements
- Analysis of variances
- Bank Reconciliation
- Exercise of public right notice (between 4 June 2018 and 13 July 2018)

If you have any queries regarding the Annual Return, please initially contact the Clerk (Responsible Financial Officer) or the Chairman with a view to resolving the matter in a satisfactory manner.



### WW1 Beacons of Light 11th November 2018

To get involved the Parish Council will be lighting a WW1 Beacon of Light at Pex Hill at 7pm on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018. Residents are welcome to attend and pay their tribute. Details will be given in the next newsletter, whereas nearby households will also be notified individually.



### There are a number of ways you can contact Merseyside Police



**999 For emergency only**

**101 For all non-emergencies**

**Crimestoppers**  
**0800 555 111**

**ONLINE For all non-emergencies**  
[commcen@merseyside.pnn.police.uk](mailto:commcen@merseyside.pnn.police.uk)  
[C.Community.Hub.1@merseyside.pnn.police.uk](mailto:C.Community.Hub.1@merseyside.pnn.police.uk)

### Coming Council Meetings

At Cronton Parish Council Office, commencing at 7.00 pm

#### Monday 14 May 2018

Annual Parish Meeting  
Council Annual Meeting

#### Monday 4 June 2018

General Purposes & Environment Committee  
Finance and Policy Committee

#### Monday 25 June 2018

Council Meeting

#### Monday 9 July 2018

General Purposes & Environment Committee  
Finance and Policy Committee

#### Monday 30 July 2018

Council Meeting  
Finance and Policy Committee

### CRONTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

#### Chairman

Will Cook 0151 424 4612

#### Vice-Chairman

Shaun Cooper 0151 424 6006

#### Councillors

Denis Bray 0151 424 2908

John Foran 0151 424 5248

Pat Green 0151 424 5109

Ged McGann 0151 424 0770

Geoff Pentin 0151 423 0038

Dave Rostance 0151 424 4799

**Parish Clerk** — Vitti Osborne

**Answer Phone No. 0151 420 0235**

**email :**

[crontonparishcouncil10@gmail.com](mailto:crontonparishcouncil10@gmail.com)