



CRONTON PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER



www.cronton.org

Answerphone No. 07547 908 795

SPRING 2022

Parish Council Crest

A number of people have asked about the origin of the Parish Council crest.

The **crow** at the top of the crest represents the 16th century name for Cronton which was Crownston.



The left hand panel has a **sheaf of corn** to represent the farms with the **village stocks** underneath.



The right hand panel has a **beehive** which represents the old pub of that name which was sited opposite the site of the current chip shop at the junction of Smithy Lane and Cronton Road.

The tools below the beehive represent **the making of watch parts** which took place in the terraced cottages at Town End. The parts were taken to Prescot which at one time had a thriving watch making industry.



The bottom panel is **the stone cross** situated at the junction of Smithy Lane and Hall Lane.

Village artist Allan Evans painted a large copy of the crest which can be seen above the stage at Cronton Community Centre.

.Cllr S Cooper, Chair

Ukraine

Parish councillors unanimously agreed to fly the **Ukrainian flag** at Coronation Gardens in solidarity with the heroic Ukrainian people. We hope that this awful war ends soon and the people of Ukraine can once again live in peace.



The Parish Council will use its Facebook page to keep residents informed about any activities that may take place in the village in support of Ukraine.

Cllr S Cooper, Chair

Great British Spring Clean – 1 April 2022



We participated in the Great British Spring Clean on Friday the 1st of April where 10 people from the village armed with bags and litter pickers targeted the hot spots throughout the village. The focus was on the following key areas;

Mill Lane and Pex Hill, Sandy Lane, Cronton Road from Sandy Lane

to Queensbury Way, Cronton Road from Sandy Lane to Wheatfield Road, Penny Lane, Tue Lane and the Pasture.

20 bags of rubbish were collected and duly picked up by Knowsley Council so a big Thank You to those involved.

Cllr D Rostance, Vice-Chair

Speed Indication Devices

You may have noticed in the past that we have, on occasions, had the temporary use of a speed indication device which was placed in Smithy Lane opposite the C of E school. We are convinced these devices have a positive impact on speed reduction.



You also may have noticed that in neighbouring Widnes there are a number of these devices some very close to the Cronton border and most of them have been funded by local neighbourhood groups in association with Halton Council.

We are also mindful that there is significant housing development on our borders both in Whiston and Widnes and this will inevitably put extra pressure on our roads in particular Cronton Road and Smithy Lane. Our aim is to provide two devices to be located in these areas.

These SID devices are a considerable cost in the region of 4.5/5K and our plan is that the Parish Council will plan to save some reserves to meet these costs over the forthcoming years but of course this will take some time. With that in mind it was proposed to follow the Halton model in pursuing the possibility of embarking on a local village funding appeal that would undoubtedly accelerate the process so **your views/participation on this would be most welcome.**



Contact : drop us a note, speak to a councillor, or via the website

<https://www.cronton.org/contact/>

Cllr D Rostance, Vice-Chair

Parking

Inappropriate and selfish parking has become a problem in the village particularly outside the two village schools and along Cronton Road.

Wheelchair users, those with pushchairs and pedestrians in general should not have to walk in the road due to vehicles being parked on the pavement. It is particularly dangerous on Cronton Road which is a busy major route.

The Parish Council are liaising with Merseyside Police and Knowsley Highways Department to try and resolve the problem.

Merseyside Police did have a scheme which allowed residents to report inappropriate parking but we are not certain if the scheme is still running. The Neighbourhood Police Sergeant is looking into this matter for us.

We are aware that many of the vehicles causing the problem are owned by people who do not live in the village but we do ask residents to be considerate when parking.

Further updates will be available on the Parish Council website and Facebook page.

Cllr S Cooper

DOG FOULING/PROBLEMS WITH RATS IN THE VILLAGE



The Parish Council have been made aware of a problem with rats in Cronton. It is not unusual to see vermin during winter, however there are some actions residents can take to avoid infestation.

- old wooden decking will provide a safe and dry home for vermin.
- rubbish piles at your property will harbour rats.
- bird seed and other food for birds will attract vermin.

At the first sign of rats report the problem to Knowsley Council - www.knowsley.gov.uk

DOG FOULING in the village continues to be a problem, whilst most dog owners will clean up after their pets there are still some owners who don't seem to care - please be considerate and clean up after your dog.



Cllr John Foran

**CRONTON PARISH COUNCIL
BUDGET 2022/23**

Items	Budget 2022/23
CORE EXPENDITURE	£
Council Insurance	1,200
Clerk's salary (part-time)	10,007
NI Employer's contribution	142
Clerk's Pension Employer's Contribution	2,832
Postage	106
Stationery	250
Photocopying	375
Newsletters	225
Audit	400
Clerk's expenses	100
Electricity	500
Water Rates	360
Mobile phone card	20
Zoom account £15 x 12	190
Website	600
Elections	600
Chairman's allowance	277
Councillors Expenses	150
Affiliations	340
CAPITAL/MAINTENANCE (Core)	
Premises (Council)	300
The Pasture maintenance	5,000
Defibrillator	787
Speed Indicator Fund	800
NON-CORE EXPENDITURE	
Members & Clerk's training	200
Grants	1,000
Remembrance Day	50
Christmas	600
Housekeeping/Refreshments	42
Office Cleaning	551
Hall hiring	150
General Reserves	8,347
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	36,501
INCOME 2022/23	£
Precept	22,826
Estimated starting balance	4,933
Reserves	8,347
Estimated income	395
TOTAL INCOME 2022/23	36,501
Tax base 2022/23 (band-D equivalent)	458
Parish precept per band-D equivalent	49.84

Precept 2022/23



Each year the Parish Council agrees a budget for the new financial year which begins on 1st April.

This year Councillors have been very conscious of the increases in the cost of living affecting all of us. Accordingly, the Parish Council has produced a budget which does not require an increase in the parish precept (the amount of money we take from you each year).

There will be no change to how the Parish Council operates and the Parish Council office will still be available free of charge to Cronton community groups.

The Remembrance and Christmas services will still be funded as will the annual grant scheme.

The precept figure is calculated using a formula which produces a band D equivalent amount.

The band D equivalent for the year 2022/23 is the same as last year at £49.83 which is approximately 96p per week.

Cllr Shaun Cooper, Chair

Speed Watch Scheme

As previously reported the Parish Council has signed up to the Merseyside Police speed watch scheme with a number of Councillors being trained in the use of a hand-held speed detector device. The intention was that speeding motorists would receive advisory letters about speeding. It was not intended to be an enforcement operation but one of educating drivers about speeding.

Unfortunately, the roll out of the scheme was stalled due to the Covid-19 pandemic and there is some uncertainty about the viability of the scheme.

The Parish Council has asked Merseyside Police if the trained Councillors can mount monitoring operations whilst the future of the scheme is decided.

Further updates will be provided on the Parish Council website and Facebook page.

Cllr S Cooper, Chair

As detailed in our previous newsletter the Parish Council is working with Knowsley Council to develop a new Pasture Master Plan to provide significant improvement to the park including;

- Replacement of play equipment in a more sustainable format i.e. non-combustible.
- Replacement of the sculpture trail again in a more sustainable format.
- The installation of an upper area perimeter path to allow all year safe access.
- Re-painting of entrance and play area metal fencing.

To fund this we are pursuing via the Borough Council grants that support green space and sporting facilities, and we are hopeful that in the near future we can commence these processes and achieve our objectives.



Sculpture Trail



Most people are very familiar with **The Owl & the Pussy-Cat** poem that tells the tale of two animals setting off to sea in a 'beautiful pea green boat.' But what many people do not know is that the poem, by Edward Lear, was actually written at Knowsley Hall. This fascinating fact and Lear's connections to Knowsley



are set to be celebrated throughout 2022 with a huge sculpture trail featuring 16 pairs of 2 metre-high owls and pussy-cats. Look out for them in Cronton. Events will also take place in the village in September. **Get involved** <https://www.cultureknowsley.co.uk/>



CRONTON GARDEN CENTRE

Thank you for planting the troughs. Your continued support for the community is greatly appreciated.

Meeting notices will be posted on the notice board and on www.cronton.org. The press and public are welcome to attend all Council meetings and will be invited to speak at the public participation session.

WARD COUNCILLORS (Whiston and Cronton)	
Terry Byron	0151 208 3281
Gillian Flatley	07713 818 795
Tony Newman	0151 292 4884

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Monday 8 May 2022
@ 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.

Coming Council Meetings
At Cronton Parish Council Office, commencing at 7.00 pm

Monday 9 May 2022
Annual Parish Meeting
Council Annual Meeting

Monday 30 May 2022
General Purposes & Environment Committee

Monday 20 June 2022
Council Meeting

Monday 11 July 2022
General Purposes & Environment Committee

Monday 25 July 2022
Council Meeting

CRONTON PARISH COUNCIL	
7 Hampton Drive, Cronton, Knowsley, Merseyside WA8 5BZ	
Chairman	
Shaun Cooper	0151 424 6006
Vice-Chairman	
Dave Rostance	0151 424 4799
Councillors	
Will Cook	0151 424 4612
John Foran	0151 424 5248
Rosanne Hayes	0151 903 3994
Ged McGann	0151 424 0770
Lianne Terry	Liannflood @hotmail.co.uk
David Thomas	david.athomas @talktalk.net
Parish Clerk — Vitti Osborne	
Answerphone No. 07547 908 795	

Cronton Gala News

Cllr Rosanne Hayes

A Coffee morning was held on Saturday 2nd April, where residents were invited to join the committee for coffee and cake. Several cake donations were welcomed, children were able to take part in free crafts and a free raffle was held, with the winner receiving a lovely Easter hamper. A collection was also held for Ukraine and the village raised an incredible £554, with an additional amount of gift aid an overall total of £692.50 has



been sent to the Disasters Emergency Committee.



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee will take place over the bank holiday weekend of 2-5 June, and we are looking to hold an event on the Pasture on Saturday 4th June – more details to follow.

Gala 2022 – 10th September

Our annual Gala planning is in full swing and is set to be held on Saturday 10th September. This will be continuing from the successful

event held last year and will again host a fairground, various stalls, a bar, food and a full programme of entertainment. Anyone who would like a stall, or would like to help out we'd love to hear from you.



We are also looking for raffle prizes, and we have a brochure due out with advertising space starting from £35.

For updates and further information on any of our events please see our Facebook page – The Cronton Gala and Instagram – @the_cronton_gala or email crontongala@aol.com.

A big thank you to Ken Bevan for the beautiful floral display at St Anne's Well and the Coronation Gardens. His generosity and efforts are much appreciated.

St Anne's Well



Coronation Gardens