

THE ELSWICKIAN

NEWSLETTER OF ELSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

ISSUE 9

£30,000 PLAYGROUND GRANT SUCCESS

We reported in the last edition of the Elswickian that the Parish Council intended to apply to the Sita Trust for a grant to create a new children's playground at the Village Hall site in Roseacre Road. The Parish Council is delighted to report that the grant application has now been approved with the trust agreeing to pledge £30,000 to the scheme, subject to a number of conditions. These include a requirement for work to commence on the project within 6 months and for match funding to be in place. Fylde Borough Council has agreed to provide £15,500 but before the grant can be confirmed the village must raise £6,500.

Although our appeal in the last Elswickian for volunteers to form a fundraising committee received a very positive response in the form of a number of donations, it was less successful in attracting enough volunteers. With less than six months to go before the scheme must start if it is to go ahead, we desperately need more volunteers. The Council wishes to express its thanks to those who have come forward so far. If you can help please contact any of the councillors listed on the last page.

One sector of the community that has risen to the challenge is the local businesses. Both Bonds and the Boot and Shoe have organised fund raising events to help the appeal. Bonds have challenged local children to suggest a new ice cream flavour to add to the numerous flavours that they already sell. The child who submits the winning flavour will receive £5 together with 5 half litres of the new ice cream. The runner up will also receive £5. The main beneficiary however will be the playground fund as Bonds have offered to donate all the profits from the new ice cream to the fund. The new ice cream will be on sale at the kiosk throughout August.

The Boot and Shoe is also supporting the appeal with two events. This Saturday night 28th July the pub is expected to be full with a race night. As half the proceeds from the night will be donated to the appeal we are hoping for a bumper turn out from the village. A second fundraiser is being planned in the pub in August. Details of this event will be announced shortly.

As we have a once in a lifetime opportunity to provide a state of the art playground for the children of the village we hope that you will do your bit to make it a reality. If you cannot join the committee please support the fund raising events that have been planned. Alternatively why not organise an event yourself or with friends. Whilst £6,500 may seem a lot of money to raise, with enough help and support it could be raised very quickly.

Employment Tribunal

In June the Parish Council successfully defended a claim made against the Council at the Employment Tribunal.

Following his resignation from his position of clerk to the Council in January this year Mr Roger Eckton issued a claim against the Council to the Employment Tribunal Service for alleged arrears of salary amounting to £2,546.06. In making his submission Mr Eckton alleged that the Council had been negligent in failing to agree a contract of service with him and he claimed that he should have been paid at a higher incremental rate commensurate with his level of duties. The Council rejected his claim on the grounds that a detailed statement of employment had been issued to him on his appointment and the decision not to award further increments arising from concerns with his level of performance, had been in accordance with this statement.

The matter was heard by the Employment Tribunal in Manchester on 7th June 2007 and the Tribunal found with the Council on both counts. The Council considers it important to publicise this matter as if Mr Eckton's claim had been successful it would have resulted in an increase in the Council Tax for the village.

A copy of the ruling and associated papers are available for inspection on notification to the clerk or any member of the Council.

New Clerk

Following Mr Eckton's resignation the Council is very pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs Victoria Elvy as the new Clerk to the Council. Victoria has been the clerk to the Council of our near neighbours, Little Eccleston with Larbreck, for the past 18 months and will in future undertake the clerk's duties for both parishes.

Mrs. Victoria Elvy
30 Gillow Park
Little Eccleston
PRESTON
PR3 0ZT

Tel 01995 672282

Email: elswickparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk

Britain In Bloom

It would be a great injustice if we did not comment on the spectacular floral displays that Andrew Atkinson and his small team have achieved in the village this year. The village was judged in the Britain in Bloom competition last Thursday (17th July) and we have high hopes of improving on last year's third place in the Large Village class. One of the judges actually commented that the quality of the displays was equal to that at the Tatton Flower Show. Our thanks once again must go to Andrew and his team.

Sadly despite the wonderful displays we still have the occasional occurrence of anti social behaviour by a small minority which threatens the enjoyment that many people glean from the displays. We have had several reports of damage to plants through children playing football or people allowing their dogs to foul the flower beds. If you see any anti social behaviour please report it as soon as possible to any member of the Council so that appropriate action can be taken.

Leisure Bookings

Despite the inclement weather that we are all suffering some people are still trying to engage in summer pursuits such as tennis and bowls. Now is an opportune time to remind everyone of the excellent village leisure facilities at the Village Hall site and to outline the booking conditions.

Tennis, bowls, netball and football (both 11 and 5 a side) are all available providing that you have a membership card. Membership is free and open to all. A membership application form is included on page 6 of this Elswickian. Further copies are available from Bonds or from any member of the Council.

Bookings for netball and football must be made in advance to the clerk of the Council (Victoria Elvy 01995 672282) at least three days prior to the first event. Throughout the summer months (from 1st May to 30th September casual tennis bookings will be accepted at Bonds kiosk during normal opening hours and casual bowls bookings may be made with the Bowling Club. There is no requirement to be a member of the Bowling Club.

Footballers Wanted

Singleton Football Club, which last year changed its name to Elswick F C is looking for new players for the forthcoming winter season. The team which plays at Elswick on Sunday afternoons wants to hear from any one over the age of 16 years who would be interested in turning out for the team. More details can be obtained from Ian Joynes on 07866 554480.

Swim Bus / Equitable Taxation

At the recent Fylde Borough Council elections the Lytham St Annes Conservatives again took control of the Council and already the consequences are being felt in the rural areas. This week the Cabinet (which entirely consists of Conservative members) decided to axe the Swim Bus which for the past 28 years has enabled rural children to visit the swimming baths in Kirkham once a week during the school summer holidays.

The Cabinet also voted to reconsider introducing what they call 'Equitable Taxation'. If this is eventually adopted by the Council it will have dire consequences for the Council Tax payers of Elswick.

The idea is that each area of the Borough should pay for its own amenities. This is unfair to Elswick as the facilities (bowling green football pitch etc.) in Elswick were funded by the Sports Council and Fylde Borough Council to serve a wide rural area. If Equitable Taxation goes ahead it will mean that villagers in places such as Thistleton will pay considerably less Council Tax than people in Elswick but will still be able to use Elswick's facilities.

Under the latest proposals the Cabinet at Fylde has decided that many facilities in Lytham St Annes should be considered as benefiting the whole Borough (i.e. Lowther Gardens and Ashton Gardens etc.) and should therefore be paid for by all areas of the Borough. Thus Elswick people will be expected to pay for facilities in Lytham St Annes but people in Lytham St Annes will not have to contribute to facilities in Elswick, which will have to be paid for entirely by the people of Elswick.

Incredibly whilst Elswick enjoys precious few facilities compared to Lytham St Annes if these proposals are adopted the average Elswick Council Tax payer will be expected to pay £35 more Council Tax per year than people in Lytham St Annes. (Based on a Band D property). The Parish Council along with our Borough Councillor is obviously fighting these proposals and we will keep you informed of any developments through the Elswickian.

Young Person's School Holiday Coaching Sessions

Although Fylde Borough Council has axed the Swim Bus the Council has nevertheless decided to organise supervised coaching sessions for young people throughout August. The events are completely free and are open to all young people between the ages of 8 to 16. Sessions will be held at the multi sports area at the Village Hall site in Elswick at the following times:-

Tuesdays 14:30 – 16:00
Thursdays 14:30 – 16:00
Fridays 16:30 – 18:00

ELSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Multi-Sports Area 2007/8 Membership Application

Membership Number:

Name:

Address:
.....

Postcode:

Telephone:

If under 18 years of age, Date of Birth:

I hereby apply for membership of Elswick Multi-Sports Area. I have read the rules and conditions of hire and agree to abide by them. *(If under 18 years of age this application must be signed by a parent or guardian)*

Signed:

Date:

Parent /Guardian's Name (where applicable).....

Parent /Guardian's Signature (where applicable).....

On completion this form should be returned to the Clerk of the Council or Bonds Kiosk

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Continuing Vandalism

Despite the watchful eye of the Council's CCTV system and the numerous actions already taken against individuals recorded by it, vandalism continues to be a problem on the Village Hall site.

Most recently we have had damage to the septic tank behind the new changing rooms and further damage to the fence which surrounds it. The septic tank, which cost £4,500, is now inoperative and may need replacing. It is hard to comprehend why anyone would want to forcibly remove the lid from a septic tank, thus exposing its contents and risking contamination or infection, just so they can throw sticks and debris into it directly in view of a CCTV camera! Images from the CCTV are currently being analysed and appropriate action will be taken against anyone we can identify.

Once again we ask parents to make sure that your children are aware that they are being watched when they visit the Village Hall site as the Parish Council intends to prosecute every act of vandalism detected in the village and will sue for compensation in all such cases through the civil courts.

Elswick Best Kept Garden / Hanging Basket Competition Results 2007

Gardens Front & Side, visible from the road

- | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1st. | Mrs P Eastham | Lonsdale Cottage, Roseacre Rd. |
| 2nd. | Mr & Mrs Livingstone | 25 Ash Close. |
| 3rd. | Mr & Mrs Procter | 11 The Meadows. |
| Highly Commended | | |
| | Mr & Mrs Furse, | Treveneague, Beech Rd. |

Hanging Basket / Wall Basket & Window boxes visible from the road

- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| 1st. | Mrs G Iveson | 3 West View, Grange Rd.. |
| 2nd. | Mr & Mrs Taylor | 69 Roseacre Drive. |
| 3rd. | Mr & Mrs I Steel | Weavers Croft, High St. |
| Highly Commended | | |
| | Mrs M Halliwell | 8 Roseacre Rd. |

Thanks to all, who made the effort to enter this annual competition and help make the village look so picturesque for 2007.

Also thanks to this years Judge, Mr Vinny Taylor. Winner of the Best Hanging Basket 2006.

Parish Council Meeting Dates

Here are the Parish Council Meeting dates for the next six months. Unless otherwise stated regular scheduled meetings take place in the Village Hall committee room at 19:45 and members of the public are welcome to attend.

30 July (Monday in Pavilion) 23 August
27 September 25 October
22 November No meeting in December

Parish Council Contact Details

At the Parish Council and Borough Council elections in May your previous councillors were all returned unopposed for another four years in office. We thank you for your trust and support.

Clerk to Elswick Parish Council.

Mrs. V. Elvy,
30, Gillow Park, Little Ecclestone, PRESTON, Lancs, PR3 0ZT.
Tel 01995 672282. email: elswickparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk

Chairman of the Council 2007/2008

Coun. J. N. Rowe.
Tel: 01995 671928 email: rowearchitecture@aol.com

Vice-Chairman of the Council 2007/2008

Coun. D.M. Chedd.
Tel: 01995 670303

Coun. M. J. Emmington.
Tel: 01995 671015

Coun. P. J. Hayhurst.
Tel: 01995 670931

Coun. K. R. James.
Tel: 01995 671109

Coun. M. T. Molloy.
Tel: 01995 670295

Coun. R. E. Taylor.
Tel: 01995 671091

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