



HEATON-WITH-OXCLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2017 - 2018

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Parish Council activities 2017 - 2018

‘It is the most satisfying feeling and a great reminder - in these difficult times for most families - of what can be achieved with excellent partnerships between communities, District and Parish Councils who are prepared to go that extra mile!’
Lancaster City Council Cabinet Member

Key Achievements



The ambition of a group of residents and the Parish Council to provide children with a safe and exciting place to play was realised in February 2018 when the brand new £54K Grosvenor Park Play Area was officially opened.

The former play area on Lune Drive, Morecambe which is owned and maintained by Lancaster City Council had become old and worn and in desperate need of a revamp.

Throughout the year the Parish Council and residents worked with Lancaster City Council to develop plans and source funding for an exciting new facility that caters for all ages up to 12 years old, including those with disabilities.

The partnership approach enabled funding to be secured from a variety of sources including £5,000 from Banks Heysham South Wind Farm Community Fund, £9,746 from BIG lottery Awards for All, £5,000 from the Galbraith Trust and £30,000 from the Lancashire Environmental Fund and £4,254 from the Parish Council balances.

Works to install the equipment took six weeks to complete. The play area attractions include Castle Galahad and Little Miss Muffet multi-play structures, a Viking swing with basket, crazy twister rotator, sit on and sit in springies and a roundabout. These are complemented by woodland themed ground graphics and a seating and picnic area.

The play area is proving popular providing an innovative play area that gives children the opportunity to benefit from active play and fun, whatever their ability.



'The candlelit ceremony and commemorative plaque marking 100 years since the explosion at the munitions factory was a lovely tribute to those who died helping their country.'

'A local Resident and relative of one of the victims'



In October, residents, guests and Parish Councillors attended a candlelit ceremony in remembrance of ten people killed between October 1 - 4th, 1917 when a large munitions factory, known as National Filling Factory 13 which covered most of what we now know as the White Lund Industrial Estate, was destroyed by explosions and fire.

From late 1916 the factory comprised many, mainly wooden, buildings over a 250 acre site in which high-explosive shells were filled. A further disaster occurred in January 1920 when the building was being de-commissioned when a further nine people lost their lives.

During the ceremony, Councillor Percy provided a brief history on the factory at its purpose as part of the War effort during the First World War. The Clerk read out the names of the victims and the Chair of the Parish Council, Councillor William Jackson gave an address and unveiled a black granite commemorative plaque in memory of those who died.

The plaque can be seen at the corner of Northgate, White Lund Industrial Estate and Ovangle Road on the piece of land opposite Busy Bees and Asda.



During the year, the Parish Council nominated the former munitions building as a 'significant local heritage asset' of historical and architectural importance as part of the Local Plan consultations. This did not, however, save the building from development into separate units following a second submission of a planning application.

Other achievements during the year included work to improve safety around the culvert on Lune Drive next to Grosvenor Park Play Area, with the Parish Council arranging for the gate to be padlocked and a robust fence erected around the perimeter.



The Parish Council also arranged for the pond area on Roeburn Drive to be cleared and tidied with a view to the area to be then maintained by a small group of residents.



The sign at the entrance to Grosvenor Park was also replaced.

A long running problem with damaged fencing on Wyre Close was resolved when the Parish Council arranged for it to be replaced.

The Parish Council worked proactively with Lancaster City Council's Enforcement team to tackle the blight of fly-tipping. A particular success was to reduce tipping at a local 'hot-spot' for dumping all manner of waste on Moss Road.



The Parish Council also sought to work collaboratively with local business and organisations to deal with the problem of fly-tipping and litter in our area.

Our Parish Lengthsman, John Fairclough carried out many duties during the year including litter picking, planting, dealing with vegetation, maintaining footpaths and land on Ovangle Road (adjacent to the Peugeot Garage) that the Parish Council is responsible for.

The Parish Council reviewed progress against objectives in the adopted Parish Plan covering the three-year period 2014 – 2017. Whilst it was clear that the plan had been ambitious good progress had been made towards the delivery of many of the stated outcomes and actions.

It was acknowledged that some local consultations had not yet taken place as planned, although community engagement generally had improved through the new parish website and the parish Newsletter.

Throughout the three years of the plan, the Parish Council has worked closely with both Lancaster City and Lancashire County Council's and the Police on some major local issues. Also working with Grosvenor Park School and local business to improve and maintain community facilities and the local environment and to respond to important issues such as the needs of vulnerable residents; tackling fly-tipping; reducing the risk of floods and the development of the Heysham M6 link and its impact on the local area.

Looking forward, it was determined that the following key 'ambitions' be adopted for the three-year period 2018 - 2021:

- **Improve our local environment**
- **Enhance access to public transport and improve community resilience**
- **Improve our roads, cycle paths, footpaths/pavements and other local amenities**
- **Identify and respond to the needs of our vulnerable residents**
- **Address the health and wellbeing of our residents to deliver healthier and happier communities**
- **Celebrate the history and heritage of the local area**

In delivering these ambitions and considering reduced balances resulting from significant achievements during 2017/2018 it was determined that the precept for 2018 / 2019 be **£10,312** representing a chargeable precept for a Band D property of **£15.53**.

Strategic Highlights: During 2017 – 2018, the Council has taken a keen interest in, and has made representations on, matters of strategic importance to the local area and the wider Lancaster district including:

1. Lancashire County Council's Draft School Place Provision Strategy 2017 – 2020 proposals on the best course of action to meet needs whilst maintaining or improving quality and standards within our schools.
2. Lancaster Local Plan – setting out the long-term planning aspirations in Lancaster, Morecambe and the rural districts. Direct representation by the Parish Council has helped to refine and shape the Local Plan and its components, including:
 - methodology for Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) for potential site allocations;
 - Sustainable Settlement methodology and subsequent review;
 - Arnsdale and Silverdale AONB Development Plan;
 - Strategic Policies and Land Allocations Development Plan document (DPD);
 - Development Management DPD;
 - Employment and skills supplementary planning document
3. Consultation on *'Boosting the Bay's Economy: Draft Morecambe Bay Economic Plan'* from the Morecambe Bay Coastal Community Team;
4. Lancaster City Council's Community Governance Review aiming at ensuring that *'all areas have improved community engagement, more cohesive communities, better local democracy and a more effective and convenient way to deliver local services'*
5. A research study by Lancaster City Council aimed at examining the quality, distribution and use of open spaces (play areas; parks; allotments etc.) in the local area
6. Heysham M6 link road

7. Compliance with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)
8. Representation at meetings and forums, including Pre-planning application forums and the Community Emergency Plan Group.
9. Consideration of numerous publications, bulletins, briefings and guidance from public sector organisations and other agencies

Financial Summary

The Council must conduct the administration and management of its financial affairs and spend its money in accordance with its legal powers and legislation.

The Parish Clerk is the appointed Responsible Spending Officer with responsibility for maintaining the accounts and providing advice and support to the Council, ensuring value for money and sound financial management.

The Council is responsible for setting a budget and for regularly monitoring income and expenditure against the approved budget.

For the financial year 01 April 2017 to 31 March 2018, the Council estimated that £8,786 was required to fund Council business and its plans for the year through the precept.

Income from the annual precept for 2017/2018 together with grants paid to directly to the Parish Council to help fund the Grosvenor Park Play Area project (£14,746) , interest and VAT refund the total income for the year was **£23,660**.

Expenditure for the year, including notable expense on the play area (£13,500); the White Lund memorial plaque (£494); fencing the culvert (£1,120) and the new sign at the entrance to Grosvenor Park (£460) as outlined in this report, the total expenditure for the year was **£24,204**.

This represents new expenditure on the year of **£545**.

A summary of income and expenditure for 2017/2018 is set out below:

Income	Amount (£)
Precept	8,786
Grants – Grosvenor Park Play Area	14,746
Interest	3
VAT Refund	125
Total Income	23,660

Expenditure	Amount (£)
Grosvenor Park Play Area	-13,500
Fencing – Culvert Grosvenor Park	-1,120
Sign – Grosvenor Park	-460
Memorial Plaque – White Lund	-494
Clerks Fees & Expenses	-4,749
Newsletter printing & distribution	-720
Repairs & Maintenance	-1,355
Other Operating Costs	-898
Insurance	-282
Subscriptions & fees	-64
Website & Computer	-294
VAT Recoverable	-268
Total Expenditure	24,204
Net Expenditure	-545

Looking Ahead

The Annual Report highlights the key activities of the council during the financial year April 2017 to March 2018.

Our actions have been aimed at developing Heaton- with-Oxcliffe Council into an active and quality council that engages with, represents and listens to, its community and has the well-being of its residents at heart.

Going forward there is an opportunity for the Council to extend its support for the economic, social and environmental well-being of the parish community through enabling local action and working in partnership with, and benefiting from, the support of the City and County Councils and other public sector organisations.

The adoption of the Parish Plan has been a major step along what may be a challenging and, at times, difficult road but which promises potentially great results!

In the coming year the Council will put into action and sustain the plans that it has been developing around our key ambitions.

We hope that you find this Annual Report useful and we look forward to serving you in the coming year and we encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity to work together to shape our parish community for the future.

Contact Information

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