

GREAT SANKEY NEWS

The Newsletter of Great Sankey Parish Council

Summer 2007

Volume 2 Issue 1

SPRING BRINGS SOME CHANGES TO THE PARISH COUNCIL



Members of Great Sankey Parish Council at the Annual Meeting in May

Pictured, from the left are: back row Cllr J Wheeler, Cllr L Lewis, Cllr P Hudson, Cllr R Smith, Cllr J Regan, Cllr H Leigh front row Cllr L Smith, Cllr A Litton, new Chairman Cllr V Hudson, Cllr K Gleave, Cllr A Bird

The May meeting of Great Sankey Parish Council saw some changes in the internal structure of the Council. Having been Chairman of the Parish Council since May 2006, Cllr Allan Bird took pleasure in handing over the Chairmanship to Cllr Veronica Hudson, after colleagues voted for her at the meeting. Cllr Alan Litton was voted in to the post of Vice-Chairman.

Membership of the Council committees was also reviewed, and some changes made. Cllr Keith Gleave was nominated and agreed to remain as Chairman of the Finance Committee, while Cllr Bird was asked and agreed to be Chairman of the Employment Group.

The Council also agreed to set up a committee to review all aspects of the Community Centres it operates.

The May meeting proved to be quite lively. New Cllr Harvey Leigh officially joined the Council and a number of Parishioners attended. One group wanted assistance from the Parish Council over a parking issue; and two other groups sought the backing of the Council in opposing planning applications for a telecoms mast and the re-development of Bewsey Old Hall. Additionally Inspector Heywood of Cheshire Police attended to update the Parish Council on various issues. Why don't **you** come to a meeting, to share your views on local happenings?

What else is in this issue

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Local children scoop award

The Annual report for 2006/07 for Great Sankey Parish Council

What's on in the Community Centres

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Award for Local Children



Pictured from the left are Andrew Taylor (David Wilson Homes), Cllr A Bird, Cllr V Hudson, Cllr Gleave with the Children of the Kids Committee

A lot of work has been going on during the past few years to turn what was once part of the disused Burtonwood Airbase into a woodland conservation area for local use, a haven for wildlife and a centre for children to learn more about the environment, in other words 'Our Wood'.

Many children have been involved from the schools in the area and a number of local businesses, but it was all started off by local resident Brenda Bradley and a small group of highly enthusiastic young volunteers who became the 'Kids Committee'.

They worked tirelessly to raise funds and get others involved in the Project. Although so young, the 'Kids Committee' produced a newsletter on their own and did presentations to numerous organisations and businesses, including asking the Parish Council for funds to help make a path which would allow access for people with disabilities. Thanks to their efforts 'Our Wood' was planted with thousands of young trees and spring bulbs, plus lots of wildflowers. The wood is now open to the public and enriching the curriculum of local schools.

In recognition of all their efforts, the Parish Council decided to give the members of the Kids Committee the first in what is hoped to be an annual Award for Youth. This is to reward them for working so hard to improve part of the Parish for all. The picture shows the young people with their awards.

Do you know any young people who have made an effort to improve the Parish, or to make life better for people who live in Great Sankey? Why not nominate them for an Award for Youth.

Information on how to make a nomination will appear in the next newsletter, on Parish Noticeboards and on our website, so watch out for details.

Great Sankey Parish Council Annual Report for 2006/07

Chairman's Report for 2006/07 by Cllr Allan Bird

My year as Chairman has seen a number of success for the Parish Council but has also left a number of challenges for the year ahead.

The Parish Council has very much had a focus in dealing with the problems of nuisance crime which has the effect of making the residents, both young and old, feel insecure.

In working towards this goal we have adopted the twin approach of on the one hand increasing the number of Police Community Support Officers to provide highly visible local policing and, where necessary, enforcement, and on the other hand trying to encourage and engage with local young people.

To this end the Council unanimously voted to increase the number of PCSOs and we have been very impressed with a number of initiatives put forward by the PCSOs to engage with our young people. We held an extremely successful "shadow Parish Council meeting" in October and heard the views of young people from the Parish. We are arranging to make this an annual event.

Some of the Council met with Insp Brian Heywood from Warrington West Neighbourhood Policing Unit, and with PCSOs and Parish Councillors from Penketh in an attempt to organize events for our young people.

We recognized the tireless efforts of Brenda Bradley over the "Our Wood" project, and I am sure Brenda would concede the real stars of the project are the school children of our Parish who put many hours of hard work into turning a wasteland into a National Award nominated amenity, especially the children of the Kids Committee.

The Parish Council has set aside funds in the 2007/08 budget to encourage Youth Projects, and through careful control of the budget once again did not require an increase to the annual precept.

During the year a number of Councillors suffered from long term ill health which had an impact in preventing the Council from moving forward as quickly as we would have liked in some key areas. Sadly Cllr Tony Dodd died in May 2006. Tony has been sadly missed. Cllr Furlong and Cllr Lynn left the Council and I wish to personally thank them for their valuable contributions during their time at the Council.

On a brighter note we welcomed new Councillors Phil Hudson and Peter Ryan and in April co-opted Mr Harvey Leigh to join the Parish Council. Much of the refurbishment of our Community Centres has now been completed.

Finally I would like to personally thank Parish Councillors for giving me the honour of Chairing the Council over the last 12 months, but in many ways the easy bit is making a decision and I would like to recognize the unstinting hard work of the Parish Clerk, Cheryl Wakefield, and her team in implementing the smooth running of our Parish Council.

Watch out for future issues of this newsletter. It will be printed every Quarter, but there will not be a full distribution of every issue because it is very expensive. However you can pick up a copy in the Community centres or at the local library, doctors, dentist, vet etc. Watch the Noticeboards for news

***Did you know that Sankey Brook Credit Union operates in the Parish?
They have a collection point at Hood Manor Community Centre, Raikes Close, off Dorchester Road.
The collection point is open every Friday from 2.15pm to 3.15pm
They would love to welcome new members, or you can simply call in for a chat and see how it works.***

PARISH ACCOUNTS FOR 2006/07

General Income

Precept	£142,885.00
Centres	£39,677.00
Interest	£11,940.13
VAT refund	£7,385.93
Other refunds	£1,495.31
Total Income	£203,383.37

General Expenditure

Wages	£76,402.43
Insurance	£6,767.52
Subscriptions	£2,262.11
Project fund	£10,115.25
Loan repayment	£10,470.00
General admin	£5,116.74
Centre upkeep	£17,504.50
Utilities	£24,754.91
Newsletter	£1,249.03
Training	£611.41
Donations	£1,000.00
Donations under S137	£3,503.80
Litter scheme	£0.00
PCSOs	£40,000.00
WBC Playscheme	£2,800.00
Miscellaneous	£512.15
Community centre heating upgrades	£1,392.37
Community centre refurbishment	£12,216.42
Repairs to flagging	£950.78
Office computer replacement	£563.00
Total expenditure	£218,192.42

deficit (taken from reserves) £14,809.05

Most of the expenditure went on staff salaries, running costs and refurbishment costs for community centres and the Police Community Support Officers.

The Council operates 5 community centres across the Parish and one recreation ground, and employs 8 staff. All are part-time.

Mrs Wakefield, the Parish Clerk, and Mrs Carter run the office. They do the Parish administration and take bookings for the centres.

Mr Dowd, Mr Littler, Mrs Spencer and Mr Waters act as caretakers and cleaners for the community centres.

Mr Wakefield takes care of maintenance of the centres and makes sure the recreation ground and play area is kept in a safe condition during the week, and Mr Chadburn helps with cleaning and checking the recreation ground at weekends.

All staff can be contacted through the office on 01925 712279

During the year the Parish Council said goodbye to 4 members of staff, and welcomed 2 new ones.

Mrs Wright retired from the office in October, and Mrs Thomas also left at the same time.

They were replaced by Mrs Carter. Mr J Waters left for a career in the army and was replaced by Mr Chadburn.

Mrs Higgins retired in April 2007 after 25 years sterling service to the Council. Well done Eunice.

During the year the Parish Council made donations to the following

"Our Wood" Project	£1,000.00	The Tim Parry/John Ball Trust	£100.00
Young Enterprise North West	£100.00	The Royal British Legion	£100.00
Warrington Disability Partnership	£100.00	Hood Lane Pre-School	£50.00
Park Road School SuperGrounds	£2,500.00	Cromdale Way Pre-School	£50.00
Jack and Jill Pre-School	£50.00	Crosfields Junior Football Club	£100.00
John Holt Cancer Support Fdn	£50.00	Hood Manor Church (wall)	£95.80
Awards for Youth	£108.00		
Penketh & Sankey Senior Citizens Arts and Crafts Assoc			£100.00

The Council also had to spend more than £1500 on making good repairs to vandalism around their property. This does not include the cost of staff salaries to clean and check the recreation ground every morning, or to carry out repairs and remove graffiti.

Great Sankey Parish Council Annual Report for 2006/07

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2006/07

The Parish Council spent a lot of time, effort and money in improving and refurbishing the community centres operated for the benefit of local people.

Bewsey Barn was decorated and the kitchens were re-fitted in 2005/06, and in 2006/07 the floors were re-covered, new chairs were bought, the central heating boiler was replaced, the window blinds were replaced, an alarm was fitted in the disabled toilet and the old light fittings were replaced with new and more energy efficient ones.

Hood Manor also had a kitchen refit and new blinds and light fittings. It has been re-decorated and new chairs supplied.

Both kitchens at the Tim Parry centre were re-fitted and re-decorated. The annexe got new blinds (the blinds in the main hall were replaced the year before) and new, more energy efficient lights. Repairs were made to the flagged area in the garden, and an alarm fitted in the disabled toilet.

Hood Lane had some painting done, new light fittings and some remedial work to improve the hot water supply, plus an alarm fitted in the disabled toilet.

Whittle Hall had some repairs made to flagged areas.

All the work was been done with 3 principles in mind – have as much done as possible by the Council's own staff to keep costs down; work around the bookings in the halls to minimize disruption to the hall users; go for energy saving equipment and fixtures as much as possible.

Feedback from the many and varied groups using the halls is that they are much brighter and pleasanter places to go to.

The Parish Council tried to make life better for the people in the Parish in many ways.

The Council increased the number of Police Community Support Officers from 2 to 4 after seeing the positive benefits brought by the original 2 PCSOs.

They allowed the police to use 3 of the community centres as venues for Community Action Meetings, enabling local people to have a forum to liaise with Police over what matters to them.

The Parish Council worked with Police and Warrington Borough Council to try to improve security around the Hood Manor area and succeeded in getting the temporary CCTV set up there.

Individual Councillors used knowledge gained from liaising with parishioners to pass on information to PCSOs to target "hot spots"

After a long campaign the Council succeeded in getting Tim Parry recreation ground to be used as a pilot scheme for "designated alcohol free areas". That should happen this summer.

Following the success of the Litter Awareness Scheme in 2005/06 the Parish Council tried to target the local High Schools to make improvements in the litter around their grounds. Unfortunately this was not so successful, but it did prompt the Borough Council into taking up the initiative on litter in local schools. The Parish Council gave donations to 13 local groups (or organizations that benefit local people), ranging from £50 to local pre-schools to £2500 to the SuperGrounds Project at Park Road school which will benefit the environment and local people.

Great Sankey Parish Council Annual Report for 2006/07

The Parish Council supported Summer Playschemes in the area with a donation and use of its centres, and will do so again in Summer 2007.

The Parish Council set up the Warrington West Youth group to try to kick start activities for local youngsters who feel they have nothing to do in the area. There are now activities at Sankey Forum on Friday nights, and more are being sought.

The Parish Council helped a new craft club start up at Hood Manor, and a keep-fit group at Tim Parry centre.

The Parish Council tried to make itself more effective and efficient.

The Parish Council set up this Newsletter to keep in touch with people, and is setting up a new website too. Try www.thelocalchannel.co.uk/greatsankey after July.

The Parish Council implemented many efficiency measures, from installing Broadband and networking the computers to make the administration more effective, to switching to energy saving lights and appliances, and doing as much maintenance work as possible in-house to save the taxpayer money.

By careful management of the money the Parish Council was able to avoid raising the precept to taxpayers again this year, and was able to keep their hall hire charges unchanged for another year.

The Parish Council has more plans for the future

The Council has been looking at its suppliers of utilities such as telephones and gas, and will be moving to get the best deals shortly.

The Council has set its budget for 2007/08 and it includes 2 funds which will be used to encourage positive action for good in the community. One is specifically targeted at providing benefits for the young people. and the other is for any groups within the community.

The Council is trying to encourage more involvement from the people of the Parish, and will be considering if it is feasible to undertake a Parish Plan to get more people involved in how the Parish will be run in future.

Record of Parish Council meetings attended by Councillors from April 2006 to March 2007

Councillor	Party	Parish	Finance	total	Other	Notes
Allan Bird	LD	9	5	14	YG, E	
Peter Carey	L	4		4		
Keith Gleave	LD	10	10	20	B, YG, CC	Missed 1 PC meeting for a WBC meeting
Phil Hudson	LD	7	7	14		Only joined the Council in September 2006
Veronica Hudson	LD	10		10	E	
Lorna Lewis	LD	9		9	CC	Missed 2 PC meetings due to illness
Alan Litton	LD	7		7	B, E	Missed 2 PC meetings for WBC meetings
Doreen Lynn	LD	1		1	E	Missed meetings for ill health, resigned Jan 07
Jim Regan	LD	6	9	15	B, CC	Missed 2 PC meetings for WBC meetings, I for illness
Peter Ryan	LD	4	4	8		Only joined Council June 06, missed 5 PC meetings ill
Liz Smith	LD	6	2	8	B, YG, CC	Missed 4 PC meetings due to illness
Roy Smith	LD	10	2	12	B, YG, E	Missed 1 PC meeting for a work commitment
Judith Wheeler	LD	7	10	17	B, YG	Missed 3 PC meetings for WBC meetings
Tony Williams	L	4		4	E	Missed 1 PC meeting due to illness
Terry Lewis	LD					In hospital for most of the year

B shows membership of Warrington Borough Council as well. When meeting dates clash WBC meetings take precedence

YG shows membership of, and attendance at meetings of the Youth Group

CC shows membership of, and attendance at meetings of the Community Centre Review Group

E shows membership of, and attendance at meetings of the Employment Group

There were 11 scheduled Parish Council meetings in the period and 12 Finance Committee meetings.

What's on in the Community Centres

Great Sankey Parish Council operate 5 Community Centres across the Parish, and each has a varied programme of events and activities,

For young people

Mums and Tots – a chance for children from 0 to 4 and carers to meet and socialize

At **Whittle Hall** 9.30-11.30am on Mondays and Fridays, contact Andrea Henstock on 01925 723436

At **Tim Parry Centre** 9.00-11.30am on Tuesdays and Fridays

At **Bewsey Barn** 9.00-11.45am on Wednesdays. Contact Tina Bryan on 01925 415557

Pre schools – activities and learning for 2 to 5 year olds

At **Hood Lane Centre** 9.00-12.00am Monday to Friday, contact Jackie, Ann or Val on 01925 231827

Cromdale Way Pre-School at **Tim Parry Centre** between 9.30am and 3pm Monday to Friday. Contact Julie or Lesley on 07799 310733

Jack & Jill Playgroup at **Bewsey Barn** on Mon/Wed/Thurs/Fri. Contact Gill Lawson on 07761 906697

Dance Classes

At **Whittle Hall** dance lessons for 3 to 15 yrs, Tues eve. Contact Miss Gautier on 01244 671464 for more details or e-mail gautier-price@btinternet.com

Drama Classes for Children

At **Whittle Hall** Saturdays 1.30pm for ages 5 to 8, 2.30pm for ages 9 to 12. Qualified teachers (CRB checked). Contact Lesley Mclver on 01942 621445 or see www.helenogrady.co.uk

Army Cadets

At **Bewsey Barn** on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 7-9.30pm

Guides/Brownies/Rainbows

Rainbows & Brownies at **Bewsey Barn** Thursdays, 5.30-7.45pm. Contact Tricia Brown on 01925 710122 or e-mail brownies@broons.org.uk

Brownies at **Tim Parry Centre** Thursdays 6.30-8pm, term-time only. Can be contacted at the centre during meeting times

Guides/Brownies/Rainbows at **Bewsey Barn** one Saturday a month 10am-4pm. Contact Lynn Maple 07810 163527 for more details

For Health and Fitness

Slimming Clubs

Weight Watchers at **Whittle Hall** Tuesdays 6.30-8.30pm. Phone 08457 123000 for more information

Keep Fit

Golden Years Keep Fit at **Tim Parry** on Wednesdays 11-12 am. Contact Jan Booth on 01925 261939

Pilates Matwork Classes

At **Whittle Hall** Wednesdays at 6.15pm or 7.45pm. For all adults - improved posture, stability, relaxation. Contact Helen Baker for details and cost. Tel 01925 638269 or email hbakerpilates@ntlworld.com

Karate Classes

At **Tim Parry Centre**, Fridays 7.30pm. Karate lessons (KUGB affiliated) ages 6 to 60! £3 per session. Contact Ken on 01925 727338 for details or see www.kugb.org.

Martial Arts Classes

At **Whittle Hall** on Thursday evenings from 5pm. Classes from age 3 to adult. Contact Steve James, Matt Fiddes School International on 0151 423 1615 for details.

Yoga Classes

For over 50's at **Whittle Hall** on Wednesdays 11.30-12.30. Contact Santosh Sethi on 01928 713946 for more information

Want to start a community activity? There are still some spaces available in the centres. Contact the parish Clerk on 01925 712279 for details and prices

What's on in the Community Centres - continued

Social Activities

Bingo Clubs

At **Bewsey Barn** on Mondays 7.30-10pm. Contact Mrs J Miller 01925 415840 for details.
Social and Bingo Club at **Hood Manor** on Wednesday and Friday evenings 7.45-9.45pm. Contact Mrs Calland 01925 493109.

Bowling Club

Indoor Bowls for adults at **Bewsey Barn** on Thursdays 8-10pm. No experience needed. Contact Brian Robinson on 01925 415318 for details

Social Groups and Clubs

Heyday Friendship (formerly ARP/O50) meet one Thursday afternoon a month at **Bewsey Barn** for various social activities. Contact Audrey Moar on 01925 723814.

National Association of Womens Clubs meet at **Tim Parry Centre** on Tuesday evenings 7.45-9.45pm.

OAP and Bingo Club meets at **Hood Manor** on Thursday afternoons 1.45-3.45pm

Community Day Care at **Bewsey Barn**. Lunch and social activities for the over 65s on Tuesdays. Contact Hilary Percival for more information 01925 444161

Sankey Brook Credit Union has a collection point at **Hood Manor** on Fridays 2.15-3.15pm. Contact Mrs Thompson for further information on 07810 737538 or 07946 494037

Religious groups

The World Evangelical Gospel Mission meets at **Hood Manor** on Sundays 10.30am-1.30pm. All ages welcome. Contact Pastor Ayo Oderinde on 01925 415067.

Getting in touch, keeping in touch

The Parish Council is there for you, and members are keen to hear your views. You can get in touch by calling a Councillor, or coming to a meeting.

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month (except August) in the Tim Parry Community Centre Cromdale Way, Great Sankey. They start at 7.30pm. The next few dates are 11th July 2007, 12th September 2007, 10th October 2007, 14th November 2007.

You can see what is on the agenda by checking our noticeboards which are located

- **Outside Whittle Hall Community Centre, Lonsdale Close**
- **In Tim Parry Recreation ground, along Wroxham Road**
- **Outside the Spar shop at Hood Manor**
- **Outside Hood Lane Community Centre, facing Sankey Way (A57)**

If you have any questions or queries you can also direct them to the Council through the Parish Clerk, Mrs Wakefield. The office is at Whittle Hall Community Centre, Lonsdale Close, or telephone on 01925 712279 Mon to Fri 9.30am to 1.30pm

Contact numbers for Councillors

(all begin 01925)

Sankey North

Keith Gleave	727963
Veronica Hudson	723374
Roy Smith	654950
Judith Wheeler	655621
Peter Ryan	724512

Sankey South

Phil Hudson	723374
Alan Litton	453264
Harvey Leigh	723107
Jim Regan	482976
Liz Smith	654950

Whittle Hall

Allan Bird	659439
Peter Carey	726008
Terry Lewis	630020
Lorna Lewis	630020
Tony Williams	725427