

GREAT SANKEY NEWS

The Newsletter of Great Sankey Parish Council

Spring 2008

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Great Sankey Parish Council welcomes new Councillors

The Council has co-opted 3 new members, to fill the vacancies in Whittle Hall ward and Sankey North ward.

The new members are



Kevin Reynolds and Paul Carter for Whittle Hall, and Christine Bird for Sankey North.



They are pictured above after agreeing to accept office at the February Parish Council meeting.

All have lived in Great Sankey for some time and are keen to make a contribution to local life through the Parish Council.

Cllr Reynolds also volunteered to serve on the Finance Committee

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NO INCREASE IN PARISH PRECEPT AGAIN!

This is the 4th year running that the Parish Council has set its annual budget without asking Parishioners to pay more – see page 2 for more information.

Do you work with local young people?

Could you benefit from training on a Child protection Module?

Great Sankey Parish Council wants to encourage more people to provide activities for local youngsters and so it has voted to pay for Child Protection training modules for the first 100 people to apply.

There are some limits which must be met – no more than 10 people can apply from any one organization, and the activities must benefit young people in Great Sankey.

Apply now by contacting the Parish Clerk, and if your application is approved the cost of the module will be re-imbursed on production of your certificate which proves you have completed the training successfully.

Contact the Parish Clerk on 01925 712279 for more details

PARISH COUNCIL SETS BUDGET FOR 2008/09 AT NO EXTRA COST TO YOU !

At the Council meeting on 9th January 2008 the Parish Council voted unanimously to set its budget for the coming financial year as shown below, which means that it has not asked the taxpayers of Great Sankey to increase their contribution for the 4th year running.

Parish Budget for 2008 to 2009

General Income	Budget
Precept	151,453
Centre Hire	39,000
Interest	8,000
VAT refund	6,000
Total Income	204,453

General Expenditure	
Wages	79,619
Insurance	8,106
Subscriptions	1,100
Loan repayment	10,000
Gen administration costs	6,000
Centre upkeep	26,000
Utilities	25,200
Newsletter	4,700
Training	1,000
Donations	6,000
Police Community Support Officers	44,000
Playscheme	3,000
Miscellaneous	9,500
Proactive youth provision	5,000
Positive Action Fund	5,000
Chairman's Discretionary Allowance	500
Election costs	9,500
CCTV Hood Manor	500
Total Expenditure	244,725
Deficit (to be taken from reserves)	40,272

How has the Council been able to keep the cost to Tax Payers down, again?

There is a bit of good luck involved, but it is mostly due to good financial management.

The good luck is that although the cost to each household has not been increased the

number of homes in the Parish has gone up, so the overall amount of money coming in has gone up by just under £5000.

The good management is that the Parish Council carefully watches every penny that is spent, to ensure best value and no waste for the taxpayers. The Council uses in-house workers whenever it can, to save time and money. In particular the Council has put special emphasis on the use of energy this year, which has saved money but hopefully helped save the planet too. See the article on Climate change on page 3.

Does this mean the Parish Council has cut services?

Absolutely not! The Parish Council still operates 5 community centres and a recreation ground and play area for the benefit of the Parish, and it continues to fund 4 Police Community Support Officers.



It has been instrumental in getting a CCTV camera put up at the Tim Parry Recreation ground, to try to reduce antisocial behaviour there. The Parish Council is currently in negotiations to set up a partnership among the businesses at Hood Manor to fund a permanent CCTV camera there.

The Parish Council is sponsoring an art competition in Junior schools, and Shadow Parish Council meetings in Senior schools, to try to involve the young people in the Parish. And they are seeking ideas from Parishioners for what else they can do to help improve Great Sankey – see page 4 for more info.

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

When Great Sankey Parish Council wanted a new website, Councillors looked at lots of options and decided to set one up with The Local Channel, a provider which hosts free websites for local Councils and communities. The website went live in August 2007, and in December 2007 the Local Channel felt it was so good that they made it their website of the month. Here's what they said

The homepage is one of the most important pages on a website because it's what the visitor sees first, it has to be attractive and populated with useful information so that it entuses the audience to browse further. Below, is the homepage for Great Sankey. As you can see it



ticks all the boxes for a successful homepage.

There are some great useful links featured on the site such as police information, a children's information service, local travel and traffic info and bus timetables.

Below is an example of another webpage on the Great Sankey site called 'things to do in your area' which lists a range of activities with their starting times and contact info.



Really wonderful stuff! Well done!

Please visit at:

www.thelocalchannel.co.uk/greatsankey

Since December we have added several new features including links to weather forecasts for Great Sankey and to the Police Community Action Team Newsletter. Why not check it out.

TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

Everyone must be aware now of the need to be as "green" as possible and to reduce energy use to help tackle climate change. The Parish Council is no exception and has been taking action to try to reduce the energy used at its community centres and the Parish Office, while bearing in mind the effect on the Precept. Fortunately most energy saving measures also save money in the long run.

Here are some of the measures the Council has taken or plans to take – how many of them could YOU adopt too?

Switch off lights and other electrical goods when not in use. The Council uses timers and sensors to help save wasting energy in this way, but nothing beats the good old OFF switch.

Fit low energy light bulbs. Every time we need to replace a light bulb we do it with a low energy one, saves energy and money.

Replace equipment with energy efficient versions – look for the Energy saving logo. We replaced our old boilers with efficient combi boilers and we can see the savings already

Turn thermostats down even just 1 or 2 degrees. We monitor the temperature and timing of heating in the centres to make sure we don't waste any precious heat

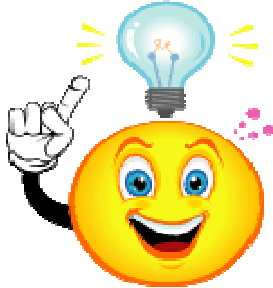
Use your bike or walk when practical – saves energy and money and keeps you fit. The Council is fitting bike racks at most centres to help with this

Recycle as much of your waste as possible. The Council has switched to a waste removal firm that sorts and recycles our rubbish, you can use one of the handy recycling points around the town
Recycle this newsletter – don't bin it, pass it to a friend!

For more help on how you can tackle climate change see our website

WHAT CAN THE PARISH COUNCIL DO FOR YOU?

Great Sankey Parish Council has set some funds aside to help improve the Parish, but the Councillors want to know what **YOU** want.



Do you have a suggestion for something that can be done that can make the Parish a pleasanter place for the people who live here? Share your idea with the Parish Council and let them see if they can make it happen.

The Parish Council can't promise to take up every idea, but does promise to consider them all.

Drop ideas into our suggestions box at

**The Parish Office
Whittle Hall Community Centre
Lonsdale Close
Warrington
WA5 3UA**

or post them to us at that address, or email them to us at

ideasforgreatsankey@uwclub.net

Why not come to a Parish Council meeting?

All residents of Great Sankey are very welcome to attend Council meetings. You can raise issues you want to bring to the attention of the Council, and Councillors do appreciate your participation. Time is set aside to have an update from the PCSOs and for members of the public to speak. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month (except August) at the Tim Parry Community Centre, Cromdale Way, starting at 7.30pm

COUNCIL BUYS BIKE FOR PCSOs



The Chairman, Cllr Veronica Hudson, hands over a bike purchased by the Council for use by the PCSOs which the Council funds. This will help them cover more ground on patrol.

How to contact the Council

You can send enquiries or questions to the Council through the Clerk (Mrs Wakefield) at the office, or you can contact a Parish Councillor direct. The contact numbers are

Sankey North

Keith Gleave	01925 727963
Veronica Hudson	01925 723374
Roy Smith	01925 654950
Judith Wheeler	01925 655621
Christine Bird	01925 712279

Sankey South

Alan Litton	01925 299966
Harvey Leigh	01925 723107
Jim Regan	01925 482976
Liz Smith	01925 654950

Whittle Hall

Allan Bird	01925 659439
Peter Carey	01925 726008
Tony Williams	01925 725427
Paul Carter	01925 712279
Kevin Reynolds	01925 630685

Parish Clerk 01925 712279

The Council was sorry to accept the recent resignation of Cllr Phil Hudson, who has been a hardworking and enthusiastic member of the Council since July 2006.