

PARISH COUNCIL'S ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2007/2008

The audit of the parish council's accounts for the year ended 31st March 2008 has been completed in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2006 and the Audit Commission Act 1998.

The income for the year ended 31st March 2008 totalled £12,597. The main income strands were the Parish Precept, Parish Field Maintenance Grant, Capital Grant from West Lancashire District Council and Donations.

The expenditure for the year ended 31st March 2008 was £11,619. The main aspects of expenditure were the Parish Field Maintenance, Parish Field Drainage Project, Children's Play Area Maintenance, Parish Insurance, Elections Costs, Internal and External Audit Fees, Parish Clerk's Salary and Expenses, a Boundary Sign and Donations.

There was a carry over of £979. The audited accounts can be viewed by contacting the Parish Clerk (contact details on the front page of this newsletter).

PARISH FIELD CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

An inspection of the children's play area within the parish field was undertaken on 14th August 2008. The inspection was undertaken by an inspector from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents.

The overall assessment by the inspector was that the play area was in good condition and is well maintained. From a Parish Council perspective the inspection report is very encouraging and reassuring in that the health and safety dimension of the children's play area is given a high priority by the Parish Council.

The Parish Council "signed off" the inspection report at their November 2008 meeting. On going reviews of the children's play area will be undertaken during 2008/2009 and any remedial work identified will be undertaken.

QUALITY STATUS

Following the award of Quality Parish Council Status, Hilary Rosbotham (Chairman) and Arthur Gore (Parish Clerk) attended a presentation ceremony at County Hall, Preston on 1st November 2008.

The achievement of Quality Status marks a very important milestone in the history of Bickerstaffe Parish Council. At the present time Bickerstaffe is one of the smallest parishes to take receive such an accolade which very much reinforces the old saying 'big is'nt always beautiful'.

A further interesting point is that only 24 Parish and Town Councils out of 225 across Merseyside and Lancashire have achieved Quality Status. Therefore we can very proudly say that we are in the 'Premier League'.

WAR MEMORIAL

The War Memorial Project has successfully been completed and when looking at 'before and after pictures' the scheme of work has made a considerable improvement.

The scheme of work was undertaken by Stone Central who are a specialist stonemasonry, restoration and conservation company based in Manchester.

In addition to thanking Stone Central the Parish Council would also like to convey their thanks to Lord Derby, Holy Trinity Church and West Lancashire District Council who made financial contributions to the overall cost of the project.

RURAL BEAT MANAGER

The Parish Council would like to welcome P.C. Martyn Collins as the newly appointed Rural Beat Manager for Bickerstaffe, Simonswood and Westhead. P.C. Collins took up his duties on 13th October 2008.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

At their November meeting the Parish Council designated the extension to the parish field car park and as their project for 2009/2010. Estimates for the project will now be obtained together with bids for funding being taken forward which will include a capital grant bid to West Lancashire District Council.

12 th January 2009	Parish Council Meeting at the Four Lane Ends Mission commencing at 7.45pm.
9 th February 2009	Parish Council Surgery at the Stockley Crescent Meeting Room commencing at 7.00pm until 8.00pm.
9 th March 2009	Parish Council Meeting at the Stockley Crescent Meeting Room commencing at 7.45pm.
13 th April 2009	Parish Council Surgery at the Four Lane Ends Mission commencing at 7.00pm until 8.00pm.
11 th May 2009	Parish Council Assembly at the Four Lane Ends Mission commencing at 7.30pm.
11 th May 2009	Parish Council Annual General Meeting at the Four Lane Ends Mission commencing at 8.15pm.
8 th June 2009	Parish Council Surgery at the Stockley Crescent Meeting Room from 7.00pm until 8.00pm.
13 th July 2009	Parish Council Meeting at the Four Lane Ends Mission commencing at 7.45pm.
10 th August 2009	Parish Council Surgery at the Four Lane Ends Mission commencing at 7.00pm until 8.00pm.
14 th September 2009	Parish Council Meeting at the Four Lane Ends Mission commencing at 7.45pm.
12 th October 2009	Parish Council Surgery at the Stockley Crescent Meeting Room commencing at 7.00pm until 8.00pm.
9 th November 2009	Parish Council Meeting at the Four Lane Ends Mission commencing at 7.45pm.
7 th December 2009	Parish Council Surgery at the Four Lane Ends Mission commencing at 7.00pm until 8.00pm.

