



GREAT SANKEY NEWS

The newsletter of Great Sankey Parish Council

2009

New Chairman for Parish Council

Wednesday 13th May saw the Annual General Meeting of Great Sankey Parish Council, and Cllr Keith Gleave was voted in unanimously as Chairman for the next year. He thanked and paid tribute to Cllr Alan Litton, the outgoing Chairman, as he said Cllr Litton had done wonders in the past 12 months and he hopes he can continue in the same way.



Cllr Gleave thanks Cllr Litton for his service

Cllr Litton said he felt it had been a tremendous year, and he was particularly pleased that the Parish Council had been able to engage so well with local people in recent months. He thanked the members of the public who were at the meeting for their interest and said he hoped they would continue to remain involved.

Cllr Jim Regan was voted in as the Deputy Chairman for the year, and he also took over the Chair of the Parish Finance Committee from Cllr Gleave, who stood down from that office after a number of years in the post.

The composition of the of the standing committees was confirmed as below

Finance Committee

Cllr J Regan (Chairman), Cllr K Gleave, Cllr P Carter, Cllr K Reynolds, Cllr J Wheeler

Employment Group

Cllr A Litton (Chair), Cllr A Bird, Cllr V Hudson, Cllr H Leigh, Cllr R. Smith, Cllr T Wood

Youth Projects Group

Cllr A Bird (Chair), Cllr R. Smith, Cllr L Smith, Cllr T Wood

New Logo for Parish Council

You may have noticed on this Newsletter, and on correspondence from the Parish Council, that the Council has adopted a new logo. This is part of an effort to raise awareness of the Parish Council and what it can do for you. But don't worry, unlike expensive and well publicised corporate changes made by other organisations in the past the Parish Council did not waste pots of your money on this. The Council invited groups who use the Community Centres to submit ideas for designs and Les Hart, who worked for the Cromdale Way Play Group, came up with an idea based on the Sankey family coat of arms, but updated to reflect modern times. The old shield background became an acorn, to reflect the many wooded areas in the parish, and the 3 salmon from the old emblem stayed to represent all the ponds and streams which thread through the area.



A motto "Working for our Community" was incorporated to reflect the philosophy of the Parish Council. A local artist, Greg Fuller, donated his time to put a professional polish on the basic design, and then a local firm turned it into an electronic image we can use

on our stationery. So for a very modest outlay, less than £150, the Parish Council has a logo to instantly identify its work. Truly great oaks from little acorns grow!

GOOD NEWS FOR GREAT SANKEY TAX PAYERS – no increase in the Parish Precept for the fifth year in a row - see page 2 for full story

What else is in this issue

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Parish Council keeps a close grip on Finances

At the January meeting of Great Sankey Parish Council the Council set its budget for 2009/10 and by careful management of funds was able to keep the precept it charges its Parishioners exactly the same as it was last year. In fact this is the fifth year in a row that the Parish Council has not asked the taxpayers to contribute any extra to the Parish funds! The full budget is shown on this page.

The Council is particularly happy to able to do this, as it is aware that the current economic climate is putting a strain on all our family budgets. However it is also happy to say that it will not be cutting back on any of the facilities and services it offers to the people in Great Sankey.



The other members of the Finance Committee – L to R Cllrs Kevin Reynolds, Judith Wheeler and Paul Carter



Cllr Keith Gleave, former Chair of Finance and Cllr Jim Regan, the current Chairman of the Finance Committee

These include
5 Community Centres which can be rented for various activities;
a recreation ground and children's play area;
a website;
part funding of 4 Police Community Support Officers who are dedicated to the Parish;
funding of Summer Playschemes;
funding of CCTV to help combat crime at Hood Manor;
contact with Parish Councillors who are happy to help with any problems or requests you might have.
In addition the Parish Council listen sympathetically to requests from groups for help (sometimes financial, sometimes practical) with various activities and good causes.

Parish Budget for 2009/10

General Income

Precept	£154,819.00
centres	£36,000.00
Interest	£10,000.00
VAT refund	£4,800.00
Other refunds	
Total Income	£205,619.00

General Expenditure

Wages	£85,840.00
Insurance	£7,064.00
Subscriptions	£1,100.00
Loan repayment	£9,600.00
Gen admin	£5,800.00
Centre upkeep	£25,000.00
Utilities	£26,551.00
Newsletter	£4,500.00
Training	£1,000.00
Donations	£6,000.00
PCSOs	£44,000.00
Playscheme	£3,000.00
Miscellaneous	£9,500.00
Proactive Youth Provision	£5,000.00
Positive Action Fund	£5,000.00
Chairman's Discretionary Allce	£500.00
CCTV Hood Manor	£4,600.00
Total Expenditure	£244,055.00
expected deficit *	-£38,436.00

* Deficit to be taken from reserves



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Chairman's report for May 2008 to May 2009 By Cllr Alan Litton



This has been a very busy year for the Parish Council. It must be a record year for direct partnership with residents. The involvement of the council and individual council members in the Titan Prison Campaign and the Flood Alleviation

proposals have been prime examples of this.

Hundreds of residents attended a meeting at Whittle Hall early in the Civic year. This kickstarted a massive campaign to harness opposition to the government's proposals to consider building a Titan Prison on the Omega site. This campaign has taken up many hours of Councillors' and residents' time and has been an example of dedicated commitment to a cause. Now we have heard that the WRAPP campaign was entirely successful. No prison is to be built on Omega.

The Council is continuing to work with residents and United Utilities to ensure that the most appropriate site is found for flood alleviation works; seeking to both protect precious green spaces and at the same time to find the solution necessary to relieve the flooding problem for residents in Pycroft Road. Many residents have attended Council meetings over this issue, and I believe they have valued the way the Parish Council has acted in the best interests of the whole community. A thorough approach and a willingness to listen to residents have marked this work. Councillors have been very encouraged by involvement of residents, some of whom have taken an interest in other issues that have come before Council. **We do welcome all residents to our meetings and are always ready to listen to their concerns and to take them seriously.**

The Parish Council has some concerns over the impact of Tolls on the proposed Mersey Gateway Bridge and the Silver Jubilee Bridge. The Parish Council represented Great Sankey's interests at the public enquiry, we await the outcome.

In summer 2008 the Parish Council funded 6 weeks of Playschemes over 3 venues, which were very popular and successful. Further schemes are running this summer with additional schemes possibly provided in cooperation with Warrington Wolves.

The Council is concerned to work positively with young people and has established a project group to look at ways forward. A shadow Parish Council involving young people from our High Schools is planned for October 2009.

An art competition in our Primary Schools was sponsored by the Council. This was very successful and the winning entries were published in our newsletter, which is also on our website.

I have outlined some of the highlights of the past year, but these are in addition to the ongoing work of the Council in running its five community centres; maintaining its play areas; and supporting residents' groups in a variety of projects. One such project is the work of the Dorchester Road Residents Association, who are working hard to refurbish the Park on Dorchester Road. The Parish Council is helping with funding for this, as well as support from Ward Councillors.



On 26th April 2009 we held our first Civic Service in St. Mary's Parish Church. This was well attended and received. It was an opportunity to celebrate life in Great Sankey. In his address the Vicar of St. Mary's, the Rev Michael Buckley, spoke about our new logo and in particular the initials **GSPC**. He used the initials to say what he felt should describe a local Councillor. He thought that GS could stand for **GOOD SERVANTS** and PC could stand for **PASSIONATE COMMITMENT**. This is a challenge to us as Councillors.

I would like to thank all our Parish Councillors, our Clerk, Assistant Clerk and centre staff for all their work over the past year, and I look forward to us all being able to offer **Good Service** and **Passionate Commitment** in the coming year.



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Annual report for 2008/09

Where did the money go – Parish Accounts 2008/09

General Income	
Precept	£151,453.00
centres	£ 36,814.25
Interest	£12,086.65
VAT refund	£4824.72
Other refunds	£32.53
Misc	£444.45
Total Income	£205,655.60
General Expenditure	
Wages	£81,169.54
Insurance	£6891.16
Subscriptions	£1,622.47
Loan repayment	£9,750.00
Gen admin	£5,981.18
Centre upkeep	£22,119.48
Utilities	£28,115.93
Newsletter	£3,606.38
Training	£141.00
Donations	£650.00
Donations under S137	£650.00
PCSO's	£44,000.00
Playscheme	£2,500.00
Miscellaneous	£700.00
CCTV	£3249.30
Proactive Youth Provision	£200.00
Positive Action Fund	£0.00
Chairman's Discretionary Allowance	£40.00
Total expenditure	£211,386.40
deficit (taken from reserves)	£5,730.80

Most of the expenditure went on staff salaries; running costs and maintenance costs for the 5 community centres and one recreation ground run by the Parish Council; Police Community Support Officers and CCTV. The Council employs 9 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. Five people are employed as caretakers and cleaners for the community centres. The Council has one Centre Maintenance Officer and also one person is employed to clean the recreation ground and

play area at the weekends and report any damage. All staff can be contacted through the office on 01925 712279

During the year the Parish Council made donations to the following

W'ton Assoc for special children	£100.00
Walton Lea Project	£50.00
W'ton Disability Partnership	£100.00
Jack and Jill Pre-School	£50.00
Old Hall Community Group	£500.00
Hood Manor Residents Social Club	£50.00
Cromdale Way Pre-School	£50.00
The Royal British Legion	£100.00
Hood Lane Pre-School	£50.00
Crosfields Jnr Football Club	£100.00
Dorchester Road Residents Society	£50.00
Penketh & Sankey Senior Citizens	
Arts and Crafts Assoc	£100.00

Record of Parish Council meetings attended - May 2008 to April 2009

Councillor	Parish	Finance	Other	Total
Allan Bird E, YG	8		4	12
Paul Carter FC	11	11		22
Keith Gleave B, FC	11	10		21
Paul Gore	7			7
Veronica Hudson E	7	*2	1	10
Chris Lee	9			9
Harvey Leigh E	4			4
Alan Litton B, E	10		1	11
Karen Lowe	2			2
Jim Regan B, FC	8	11	*1	20
Kevin Reynolds B, FC	9	10		19
Liz Smith B, YG	8		4	12
Roy Smith B, E, YG	11	*1	4	16
Judith Wheeler B, FC	7	7		14
Trudi Wood B, E, YG	11		3	14

B shows membership of Warrington Borough Council as well. When meeting dates clash WBC meetings take precedence
FC shows membership of, and attendance at meetings of the Finance Committee
E shows membership of, and attendance at meetings of the Employment Group
YG shows membership of, and attendance at meetings of the Youth Group
 * denotes attendance as a substitute for another Councillor

In the year there were 11 scheduled Parish Council meetings, 12 Finance Committee meetings, 1 Employment group meeting and 4 Youth Group meetings



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Annual report for 2008/09 continued

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2008/09

The Parish Council has been involved in many initiatives to try make the Parish a pleasanter, safer place to live.

The Parish Council has done, and continues to do, a lot of work behind the scenes to represent the best interest of residents during the planning of Flood Alleviation measures in Great Sankey. They continue to liaise with United Utilities and the community to try to get the best solution for the largest number of people (although it is impossible to please all of the people all of the time).



The Mayor, Borough Council and Probation Service representatives at Hood Manor to check on the refurbishment

Parish Councillors campaigned long and hard to get the recent refurbishment of Hood Manor Centre done, then played a practical part by allowing the Probation Service, who did a lot of the work, free use of the community Centre as a base for the gardening operation.

The Parish Council has given financial support or practical help to a number of residents associations, either to help with projects to improve local parks and open spaces (Old Hall Community Group, Dorchester Road Residents Association) or support them in other issues (Chapelford and Briarswood).

The Parish Council has continued to support the work of Cheshire Police in trying to make the Parish a safer, pleasanter place to live. It gave funding for 4 Police Community Support Officers who are assigned exclusively to Great Sankey, and allowed free use of the Community Centres for Community Action meetings. The Parish Council also paid for CCTV coverage at the Hood Manor Centre.

The Parish Council has tried to help both young and old in the Parish



Residents enjoy the Wii, watched by Cllr Hudson, Tracey Potter and Cllr Regan

Senior citizens are sometimes forgotten when help is being given out, but the Parish Council made a point of remembering and gave gifts to the 3 Care facilities in the Parish to help brighten the lives of the residents. Two of the homes asked for garden furniture, but Green Park requested a Wii, which has been enthusiastically received by residents there.

The Parish Council tried various measures to engage young people in the Parish, one of which was a competition through the schools for youngsters to produce a picture showing "Sankey Tomorrow". The Council also commissioned 3 very successful Summer Playschemes to run in its centres and has entered into a partnership with Warrington Wolves to gain Lottery funding to run extra Playschemes in the future.

The Parish Council has continued to manage your money efficiently, so it could continue to offer support during difficult economic times

The Parish Council is proud that it has not increased the rates it charges householders for 5 years, while continuing to maintain and improve its service. This year it did not raise its charges to groups who use the Community Centres, as it knows many local groups are struggling in the current economic climate. It dealt sympathetically with one or two groups who asked for temporary help with the rent through a difficult patch, while at the same time pursuing a vigorous policy against users that tried to default on paying their rent. The Council is also proud to say it received a clean bill of health from the independent Auditors again this year.



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Annual report for 2008/09 continued

The Parish Council faced and put right many problems

Yet again, in common with so many others, the Parish Council's property has fallen victim to litter, graffiti, vandalism and anti-social behavior, particularly the recreation ground and play area at Tim Parry Community Centre. The Council has continued to put the damage right, and to report it to Police.

PLEASE HELP US CUT DOWN VANDAL DAMAGE AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR BY REPORTING INCIDENTS TO THE POLICE – remember it's your money that has to be spent on repairs - phone 0845 458 000

The Parish Council is continuing to try to improve life in the Parish

The Parish Council has been made aware of a lack of allotments in the area, and has begun investigating what it can do about this. It is working closely with the Warrington West Neighbourhood Area Board to see what other benefits it can bring to the Parish.

The Parish Council made great efforts to engage with more of the community and improve its communications with Great Sankey residents

Parish Council involvement with the flood alleviation measures and the Titan Prison protest allowed it to have more contact with local residents and it has tried to build on this with public meetings and by using its website and noticeboards as a means of getting information about current local issues to the public.

The website, which can be found at www.thelocalchannel.co.uk/greatsankey is full of information about the Parish and activities at the Community centres, and has many useful links to other sources of local information.

For those without internet access the Parish Council publishes information about what it does in this annual Newsletter and Report which is distributed to all households in the Parish. The Council also posts information on noticeboards around the Parish.

Parish Council Noticeboards can be found outside Whittle Hall Community Centre, in Tim Parry Recreation

ground (Wroxham Road), and outside the Spar shop at Hood Manor.

Notices of Parish Council meetings are posted on them every month, plus details of any public meetings, so check them regularly.

All residents of Great Sankey are very welcome to attend Council meetings.

The Parish Council meets once a month, every month except August, and anyone from the Parish can attend. Time is set aside to have an update from the Police Community Support Officers and for members of the public to raise issues they want to bring to the attention of the Council. If you don't want to stay for the whole meeting you can check the agenda and just stay for the parts that interest you. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month (bar August) at Tim Parry Community Centre, Cromdale Way, starting at 7pm. Dates for the next few meetings are 9th September 2009, 14th October 2009, 11th November 2009, 9th December 2009

How to contact the Council

You can send enquiries or questions to the Council through the Clerk, Mrs Wakefield at the Parish Office (tel 01925 712279), 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
Trudi Wood	01925 790712
Chris Lee	01925 791922

Sankey South

Alan Litton	01925 299966
Harvey Leigh	01925 723107
Jim Regan	01925 650057
Liz Smith	01925 654950
Karen Lowe	01925 712279

Whittle Hall

Allan Bird	01925 659439
Judith Wheeler	01925 655621
Paul Carter	01925 712279
Kevin Reynolds	01925 442139
Paul Gore	01925 480777



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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 the Parish office 01925 712279 for dates
At **Tim Parry Centre** 9.00-11.30am on Tuesdays and Fridays, contact Anna on 07840 873783



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 on 07799 310733
Jack & Jill Pre-School at **Bewsey Barn** on Monday to Friday. Contact Gill Lawson on 07761 906697 or email info@jacknjillpreschool.co.uk

Dance Classes for children and young people

At **Whittle Hall** dance lessons for 3 to 18 yrs, Tues evenings. Contact Miss Gautier on 01244 671464 for more details or e-mail gautier-price@btinternet.com

Army Cadets

At **Bewsey Barn** on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 7-9.30pm see www.cheshirearmycadets.com

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

Guides/Brownies/Rainbows

Brownies/Rainbows at **Tim Parry Centre** Thursdays either 5.30 or 6.30pm start, term-time only. Can be contacted at the centre during meeting times, or ring Parish Office on 01925 712279

Guides/Brownies/Rainbows at **Bewsey Barn** one Saturday a month 10am-4pm. Contact Barbara Robinson on 07935 931417 for more details

Rhythm time – music classes for babies and children

At **Whittle Hall** on Tuesday mornings, classes for babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers. Contact Jane on 01270 529224 for more details or see www.rhythmtime.net or email JaneLeavy@googlemail.com

After school club

At **Tim Parry Centre**, child care for ages 4 to 12, before and after school, Mon day to Friday. Contact Jackie on 07929 264886 or email cookieslinkclub@googlemail.com

For Health and Fitness

Slimming Clubs

Weight Watchers at **Whittle Hall** Tuesdays 6.30-8.30pm. Phone Michelle on 01925 483755 or 0845 3451500 for more information or see www.weightwatchers.co.uk
Nothing to Hide Slimming Club at **Whittle Hall** Thursdays 9.30am to 10.30am. Contact Georgia Nunney on 01925 711846 or email georgianunney@hotmail.com

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.

Social Activities

Bingo Clubs

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



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What's on in the Community Centres - continued

Bowling Club

Indoor Bowls for adults at **Bewsey Barn** on Thursdays 8-10pm. No experience needed. Contact Brian Robinson on 01925 415318 for details or email oldhallcommunity@yahoo.co.uk



Dog Training classes

At **Whittle Hall** on Fridays at 6.30pm. Contact Angela or David Jones on 01925 712131 for more information

Social Groups and Clubs

Warrington Friendship Club (formerly Heydays) meet one Thursday afternoon a month at **Bewsey Barn** for various social activities. Contact Mrs Rowland on 01925 264214 to check details of next meeting.

National Association of Womens Clubs meet at **Tim Parry Centre** on Tuesday evenings 7.45-9.45pm. Contact Betty Pennington on 01925 710336 or Glenda Cottrell on 01925 726638 for more information

Craft Club

At **Hood Manor** every 3rd Monday evening on the month, 7pm to 9pm, all welcome. Contact Mrs McCarthy on 01925 419761 or Mrs Jowett on 01925 428427 for more information.

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

PLEASE NOTE, THESE LISTINGS ARE CORRECT AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRESS, HOWEVER PLEASE CONTACT ORGANISERS BEFORE GOING TO A MEETING OR CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR ANY NEW ADDITIONS
www.thelocalchannel.co.uk/greatsankey

How to book a Community centre

If you are interested in starting up your own activity or society, or if you simply want to book any of the centres for a one-off event, please contact Mrs Wakefield or Mrs Carter at the Parish Office, Whittle Hall Community Centre, Lonsdale Close, Great Sankey, Warrington WA5 3UA, Tel: 01925 712279.

The Other Parish Community Centres are

Bewsey Barn Community Centre
Old Hall Road
Off Cromwell Avenue
Warrington
WA5 9PA

Hood Manor Community Centre
Raikes Close
Off Dorchester Road
Warrington
WA5 1UH

Tim Parry Community Centre
Wroxham Road
Warrington
WA5 3NR

Hood Lane Community Centre
Hood Lane North
Warrington
WA5 1ET

Are you looking for a venue for your Club or to run a class? There are still some vacant time slots in our Community Centres. Contact the Parish Clerk for availability and prices