

CONTACT DETAILS

Alan Taylor (Chairman)

East View, Carr Lane, Much Hoole, PR4 4QB 615620

Nathan Woodcock (Vice Chairman)

Appletree Barn, Town Lane, Much Hoole, PR4 4GJ  
nathanwoodcock00@gmail.com



Eunice Houghton

180 Liverpool Old Road, Much Hoole PR4 4QB 616593

Tom Brown

Mill House Barn, Moss House Lane, Much Hoole PR4 4TE  
614750

Dawn Fenton

3 Southfield, Much Hoole PR4 4HB 616464

Richard Gelder

Brow Farm, Town Lane , Much Hoole PR4 4GJ 616207

Marion Gelder

Brow Farm, Town Lane , Much Hoole PR4 4GJ 616207

Kerry Hayes

Ribblesdale Farm, Brook Lane, Little Hoole PR4 4JB 612068

And lastly....

The Western Parishes in Bloom competition is taking place this year. If you want to put your garden or premises up as a fine example of a little slice of blooming Britain, then visit the South Ribble Council website for details.

Or, You can go to the launch of the event on Thursday 21st March, 7.00 pm at Longton VM Bowling Club. Entries open on 1st March and closing date is 21st June. Judging takes place between 1st and 12th July.

Further details will appear on parish notice boards shortly



A word from the Chairman

Alan Taylor (Chairman of Much Hoole Parish Council)

I took over the Chairmanship of the Council in May and must pay tribute to my predecessor Eunice Houghton for her time in this seat. We have plans for some nice additions to the appearance of the village with new signage, planters and plenty of colour to look forward to in the summer. On a personal note it has been very satisfying to see the plans for a replacement Village Hall progress to a stage where the Parish Council has felt able to lend their considerable financial support to the project, which is now set to move forward to building work commencing early in 2019.

Good things are happening and I would like to thank all those who work so hard around the village and offer a reminder that there is always room for new talent to join us with elections in May this year.

2ND MAY 2019—IS PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS DAY

Have you ever found yourself saying “**somebody** needs to do something about that” or “Why don’t **they** get that fixed”? Would you like an opportunity to help make improvements to the Village?

If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, then have a look at the link below <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/parish-and-community-council-elections-in-england-and-wales> Alternatively, contact the Parish Council Clerk, Russ Weaver, on 01772 930151 or via email: clerk@muchhoolepc.org.uk He will be more than happy to give you more information. c.org.uk and SouthRibble Borough Council websites contain more information.

INSIDE THIS NEWS-LETTER

Lengthsman required  
Pages 2 and 3

Grants available  
Page 4

What’s happening with the Village Hall?  
Page 5

Village improvements  
Page 6

Precept  
Page 7

New Parish Council website  
Page 7

Councillor contacts  
Page 8

Newsletter

Winter / Spring  
2018/2019

Clerk to the Parish Council  
Russ Weaver  
208 Chapel Lane  
New Longton  
PR4 4AE

Email:  
clerk@muchhoolepc.org.uk



www.muchhoolepc.org.uk

On page 3 you will find details of what is involved , what sort of person we are looking for, and of course, all these details are also on the Parish Council website

Full details of the person specification and job description will appear on the Parish Council web site from 1st March 2019

However, a summary of the person specification is shown on the next page which will allow you to consider whether you may be interested

## WHAT IS A LENGTHSMAN?

First thing to say is it isn't necessarily a man. It is a job that both men and women can do.

'Lengthsman' is an old traditional name for someone who looks after all the local jobs that need doing around the Village. A sort of handyman / handywoman.

And Much Hoole needs one.

There is a continual stream of jobs that need to be done, ranging from fixing signs, fixtures and fittings to planting, tending and watering plants. Cutting back shrubs, keeping grass neat and tidy, litter picking and generally keeping Much Hoole looking clean, tidy and well maintained.

It is not a full time job and the hours and tasks are pretty flexible. The Council would be interested to hear from anyone who is able to meet the criteria in the job description and person specification.

There is no requirement to live in the village, so long as you are able to respond to job requests as they arise in addition to the regular scheduled tasks that go with the job.

A Lengthsman will be self employed providing services to Much Hoole Parish Council.

The job description and how to apply will be on the website in March

## Precept

Its good news for the precept, which is the amount of money that the Parish Council adds to the Council tax to fund local spending. For the second year running it has fallen again and has been set at £8,604 for the coming year 2019-2020. £8,604 is a huge reduction on last year's precept of £19,353 (which was in itself a 63.8% reduction on the year before that). In comparison with neighbouring parishes, the amount of Council Tax requested by Much Hoole Parish Council is very small indeed. The Council has been able to look to other sources of income such as Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to undertake things like drainage works, rather than draw on money from local people via the council tax.

The aim of the Parish Council is to keep precepts on the Council tax as low as possible whilst recognising that it has a responsibility to raise sufficient funds to make improvements to the village for the enjoyment of its residents.



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## BRAND NEW PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

More and more information is being viewed online in preference to printed material such as this newsletter, so we have invested in a new website [www.muchhoolepc.org.uk](http://www.muchhoolepc.org.uk)

The site contains a section for local news and as the website develops we will build links to other bodies that can assist such as other Council departments who may be able to help you with queries.

Agendas and minutes of previous meetings are there and you can find out where and when meetings are being held and what is due to be discussed.

The 'Finance' section contains information about the budget, where the money is being spent and the independent auditors opinion on how well the finances are managed and accounted for .

The beauty of the website is that it is regu-

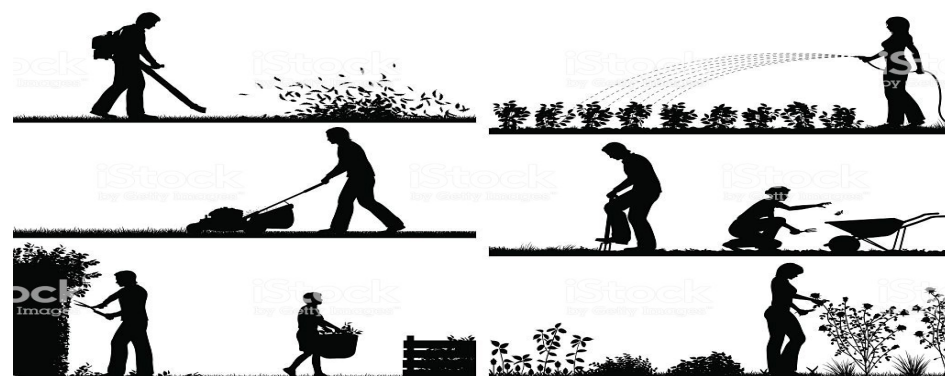
larly updated. As an example, you will get all the details of the forthcoming elections, how to vote, or how to put yourself forward as a prospective Councillor if you want to do that.

Please keep an eye on the website as it will keep you abreast of what is happening in your village in real time.

We appreciate that not everyone will want to, or be able to access a website, so we will continue to produce newsletters from time to time and also keep our three notice boards (at the Methodist burial ground opposite Birchfield, by the village shop, and the end of Town Lane at San Marcos) up to date with information.

We hope the new website will go from strength to strength as we begin to develop it in the coming months.

*Lengthsman: "First thing to say is it isn't necessarily a 'man'. It is a job that both men and women can do."*





Cycle track

The village off-road cycle track was built by the Parish Council to provide a place for young people to use their bikes in a way that would not be possible on public roads.

The track is regularly inspected and maintained. Unfortunately during the summer a considerable amount of damage was done to signs, benches and facilities all of which has been repaired. The trees and foliage alongside the perimeter has been cut back to allow better visibility into the site.

Please respect the facilities and report any damage to the contacts shown on the signage



VILLAGE IMPROVEMENTS

Historic Boundary Marker

At the corner of Birchfield and Liverpool Old Road stands the old boundary marker for Much Hoole and Little Hoole. In danger of becoming overgrown and lost, the Council is intending to acquire this small patch of land and keeping it trimmed, tidy and adorned with planters full of flowers



MORE PLANTERS AND STREET FURNITURE

No one wants to live in a drab and featureless village .

The Council has invested in a number of planters and troughs to fill with flowers and bedding plants to keep the village full of colour throughout the summer and with the right plants, through the winter too.

The village is also lacking attractive signage at its entrances and exits which is something the Council is in the process of putting right

LENGTHSMAN/WOMAN JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Description

- Minor maintenance and repairs to gates, stiles, fences , posts, minor path works etc on public rights of way
- Responding to emergency repairs at short notice as required
- Litter control and tidying of public spaces, maintaining some bins
- Pruning and tidying hedges, bushes. Maintaining, planting, weeding and watering flower beds,
- Planters and other floral displays
- Small scale ditch and watercourse clearing as required
- Grass cutting /strimming/ leaf clearing on Council owned land
- Organising and obtaining materials and equipment required to carry out tasks
- Tasks are subject to reasonable alteration or substitution as required.
- Hours (to be negotiated )
- Hours and tasks are flexible and agreed quarterly by agreement with the Clerk.
- Rate of pay (to be negotiated circa £10 per hour)
- Contract can be terminated by either party giving one month’s notice

Person Specification

- The candidate will be self-employed and able to provide services to the Council and raising invoices *Essential*
- Ability to communicate using email *Essential*
- Owner of phone *Essential*
- Possess basic skills in maintenance and repair techniques *Essential*
- Possess basic skills in maintaining green spaces , planters and flower beds *Essential*
- Possession of a range of personal basic tools for undertaking tasks / ad hoc repairs *Desirable*
- Ability to utilise basic gardening equipment and care for same *Essential*
- Own transport and driving licence required with ability to carry reasonable quantities of equipment *Essential*

Rates of pay are set for Lengthsmen at Scale Points at around £10 ph Expenses in the form of mileage will be payable. A Lengthsman will routinely work around 4 hours per week but this will be negotiable and may vary month on month due to weather and seasonality

Whilst use of own tools is expected, there will be the availability to hire equipment when required. Consumables such as bin bags and personal protective equipment etc will be provided.

Applications are invited with the application opening date being Monday 11th March and closing date being Friday 22nd March 2019

To apply, go to the Parish Council Website [www.muchhoolepc.org.uk](http://www.muchhoolepc.org.uk) and open the application form.

*Details will appear after 1st March 2019*

Complete the form and return it by email to [clerk@muchhoolepc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@muchhoolepc.org.uk)

Or by post to:  
Much Hoole Parish Clerk, 208 Chapel Lane, New Longton, PR4 4AE



# What do Parish Councils do?

The larger Councils like Lancashire County Council are responsible for things like highways, education, social services and the bigger services that are needed wherever you live. One level down from them is the local District Council (in our case that is South Ribble Borough Council). They deal with things like planning, street cleansing , local parks, car parking and domestic waste collection.

So what does a Parish Council do?

Parish Councils concentrate solely on the local area where you live. That is Much Hoole and nothing but Much Hoole.

Parish Councils set a budget to support local improvements, keep the village neat and tidy, provide facilities for residents and bring problems that the larger Councils have responsibility for to their attention. To fund their activities, they ask South Ribble Borough Council to raise money through the Council Tax precept. The part of Council tax allocated to a Parish Council is quite small but is set at a level that is sufficient to allow the Parish Council to make a difference.

Councillors do not get paid, they are local people who want to do something positive for the place where they live.

Councillors have the support of the Parish Council Clerk to advise them and undertake tasks on their behalf. Councillors can take advantage of training which is offered free of charge, so no previous experience is necessary.

If you are interested in being a Councillor then details of how to apply are contained in this newsletter and on the Parish Council website

## GRANTS FOR LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Each year the Council sets aside a small amount of money in its budget to support local societies, sports and leisure groups and organisations .

Grants are not available to individuals but can be given to properly organised and constituted groups that meet the criteria set out in the Council’s grants policy

The Council website (see Documents and Finance) contains details of the policy and how you can apply if you have a need for a little extra funding.



*Plans for the new village hall are finally underway. This year should see building work commencing*

## VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

After several years of fundraising and planning, the project to replace the old Village Hall is finally underway. Built in the 1950s with a structure that was always intended to be temporary, the Village Hall has soldiered on until 2019, albeit in a state of repair that is becoming increasingly problematic and expensive to maintain and run.

The Trustees of the Village Hall have worked hard to raise funds and working in close partnership with the Parish Council, the majority of the money for the project has now been found. The Trustees of the Village Hall are deeply indebted to the Parish Council for their ongoing moral and particularly financial support.

The proceeds of the sale of the ‘Pinfold’ land at the junction of Northern Avenue and Smithy Lane had been earmarked for the building of the hall. The Scout Hut which stood on this land had to be relocated and last year saw the Scouts installed in a brand new building at the rear of the Village Hall, paving the way for the sale of the land .

At the Parish Council meeting in December 2018, the plans for the new hall were presented and the finances of both the Council and Village Hall are now at a stage where, subject to tenders meeting the specifications being received, the building can commence .

As you can see the old hall is looking increasingly tired. Its running costs are escalating and local groups who use it for their activities are having to put up with poor facilities.

The plans for the new hall look exciting. Originally, the Trustees had intended to build a larger hall, but the realities of finance meant that it was unlikely that sufficient money could be raised, so a phased plan was put forward. This will mean that a fully functioning replacement hall can be built with scope for future development and expansion in the future if finances permit.

The Trustees are expecting to be well underway with the building by the summer

