

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The Parish Council operates a controlled system for recording and presenting financial information. The Parish Council accounts are subject to both an independent Internal and External audit each year and Annual Returns are prepared and submitted to the Audit Commission. The audit for the year ended March 2007 was concluded successfully with no matters arising.

All financial and regulatory information is prepared and submitted in accordance with required deadlines.

Summary of 2007/08 Finances (*Unaudited*)

Balance B/F 1 April 2007 3,899

Receipts

Precept	4,500
Bank Interest	53
Advertising	60
Vat Refund	98
Inland Revenue Incentive	150
NALC Bursary for Clerk Training	165
Other Reimbursements	175
Total Receipts	5,201

Payments

Employee Costs	3,091
General Administration/Subscriptions	767
Insurance and Audit Costs	518
Subscriptions	143
Room Hire	144
Newsletter / Web Site	137
Election Expenses	1,130
Parish Plan Activities	329
Total Payments ex VAT	6,259

VAT on Payments 42

Total Payments Inc VAT 6,301

Balance C/F 1 April 2008 2,798

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr Derek Ormerod
134 Southport Road
Ulnes Walton
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Cllr David Williams
9 Wray Crescent
Ulnes Walton
Tel: 01772 623117

Cllr Dorothy Todd
Great Nelsons Farm
Ulnes Walton Lane
Ulnes Walton
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Cllr Eileen Doran
178 Southport Road
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Tel: 01257 452516

Cllr Geoffrey Gill
Lostock Bridge Farm
Ulnes Walton Lane
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Tel: 01772 600644

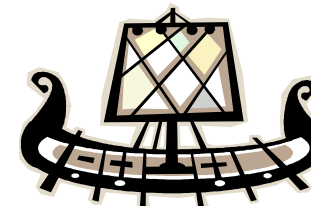
Cllr Brendon Pickthall
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CONTACT DETAILS FOR CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

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Ulnes Walton Parish Council

ANNUAL REPORT 2007/08



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**THIS REPORT IS PUBLISHED ANNUALLY AND
DISTRIBUTED TO ALL HOUSEHOLDS IN THE PARISH.**

ISSUE DATE: APRIL 2008

CHAIRMAN'S OVERVIEW

Dear Resident,

I am pleased to introduce this Annual Report summarising the activities of the Parish Council in 2007/08. As I note in the accompanying Newsletter, we are a busy Parish with much to be proud of.

It is perhaps worth reminding readers that the work of the Parish Council largely depends on the involvement of volunteers who on election choose to dedicate their personal time and effort in pursuit of the well-being of the local community. With this in mind I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow members of the Council for their efforts on behalf of the Parish as recorded in this document.

The role of Parish Councillors in local government is an ancient and honourable one. We *are* the grass-roots and our purpose is to be as near to the feelings of a local community as it is possible to get. In this context 'Parochial' is an adjective which deserves rehabilitation!

It isn't a perfect world though. As a Council we are often frustrated when colleagues at District and County level fail to appreciate or acknowledge the special perspective on local issues we are uniquely able to provide.

In my more optimistic moments I sense that things are changing for the better! Although our Quality Parish status (a distinction we are working hard to maintain) has been slow to provide tangible benefits, it is clear that central government is committed to the ideal of extensive community involvement in decision making.

As a community we need to be alert and agile to take advantage of this commitment. This means that we need to be actively engaged where the action is. For a start this means getting involved:

- in the Lancashire Locals, regular meetings sponsored by the County Council in an attempt to bring decision making to a more local level.
- in whatever structure replaces the Area Forums previously organised by the District Council to fulfill a similar function within Chorley Borough.
- in the Chorley Partnership, an organisation dedicated to promoting collaboration between the public, private and voluntary sectors in the development of Chorley.

These are places where a significant part of our future will be debated and determined and where making sure that our voice is heard is a real challenge for the Parish in the future.

Cllr Derek Ormerod
Chairman of Ulnes Walton Parish Council

SUMMARY OF THE PARISH COUNCIL'S ACTIVITIES

Council Meetings and Membership

Following the Local Elections in May 2007 where four Members were elected, your Parish Council met for its Annual Meeting in May 2007 and elected Cllr Derek Ormerod to the position of Chairman. 11 parish council meetings were held during the year.

A bye-election was held in November 2007 to fill the two vacant seats on the Council and we were pleased to welcome two new Members onto the Council. The arrival of our new councilors ensures that we are now a fully elected Council, one of the key conditions required to maintain our quality status.

Change of Clerk

In August 2007, we saw the departure of our Clerk, Lynne Rowett who moved onto a new post. Amanda Partington took over the role in September 2007. Amanda also serves as Clerk to Bretherton and we feel sure this appointment will help strengthen our existing links with neighbouring parishes.

Engaging with Residents

The newsletter, which is produced quarterly, is one of the Council's primary ways of communicating with residents. Work also continues to develop and expand the web site, which provides the latest information on Council activities.

Value for Money

The Parish Council is diligent in ensuring that the money it spends on your behalf is wisely used for the benefit of the residents in the parish. A financial summary of 2007/08 is provided in this report.

The Parish Council carried out a thorough review of its finances and budget requirements and set its budget for 2008/09 at the January 2008 meeting. The precept has been set at £5,306, making an average Band D property in the parish to £20.34. This is an increase on last year, due in the main to increased costs across the board for insurance, audit and, in particular, election expenses.

The Parish Council continues to seek external grant aid for projects wherever possible and is now encouraging business advertising in its newsletter to generate income to cover the costs of production.

Quality Parish Status

The Council has decided to make every effort to maintain its Quality Parish status and is appreciative of the efforts of our new Parish Clerk in working towards this goal.

Parish Plan Review Group

Early in 2007 we received a grant for £2,000 from Community Futures to undertake a review of the Parish Plan. A Parish Plan Group was formed and a theme for the review emerged as 'Health and Well-being of the Community'

The Parish Plan Group has met regularly over the year hosting a successful Community Health Day in October 2007 followed by the circulation of a Village Information Leaflet, which provides many useful contact details.

The Parish Plan Group continues to develop initiatives such as the Community Car Scheme and providing residents with information in order to support activities for all age groups across the community.

Road Safety in the Parish

The Parish Council continues to pursue highway safety across the parish. Initiatives currently being pursued include a reduced speed limit on Southport Road, parking restrictions at the junction of Leyland Lane and Southport Road and quiet lane status on Holker Lane.

Ulnes Walton Trail

The Parish Council has continued to work with the Home Office and Lancashire County Council on this project. Planning consent has been granted for the project and the footpath to the South of the prison made accessible. Future developments to the Trail, including the erection of the sculptures produced in the workshops at Garth are planned.

Wymott Park

Following the unfortunate rejection from the Big Lottery Fund for funds to develop the play facilities on Wymott Park, the project was temporarily put on hold. The project is now emerging with momentum and the Council is currently in discussion with Chorley Council to identify ways of improving the village amenity.

Other Involvement

Parish Councillors and the Clerk have attended many meetings during the year with other bodies including meetings of the Lancashire Locals, Lancashire Association of Parish and Town Councils, Community Forums, Parish/Borough Liaison Meetings, Lancashire Parish Charter and liaison meetings with NOMS and representatives from HMPS Garth and Wymott.

The Year Ahead ...

2007/08 has been a significant year of change with two new Members on the Council and a change of Clerk. As the Council now moves into 2008/09 it looks forward to progressing its plans for key projects such as the Trail and Wymott Park, maintain close links with community groups and work for the good of its community.

In order for the Council to be successful, it needs the support of its residents. If you have any issues of concern or wish to propose a new initiative for the Council to follow up, please don't hesitate to contact the Clerk.