

CLERK'S REPORT JANUARY 2009 (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

This annual event took place on **Monday the 1st December 2008 at 6.00pm @ St Christopher's Church**. After a short service and the singing of carols the Christmas tree lights were switched on by the Chairman of the Parish Council.

CHRISTMAS TREE 2008

Members are advised that following erection of the Christmas tree vandalism took place and many of the bulbs and covers were damaged and needed to be replaced. Preston CC was able to respond quite quickly to the damage and replaced the damaged bulbs so that the tree lights were up and running again without much delay.

COTTAM MAINTENANCE

Further works have been undertaken by the lengthsman resulting in a number of areas now looking much better than they did previously.

COTTAM CHRISTMAS TREE

It has been established that the tree in the grounds of Cottam Primary School which had been identified as a possible location for Christmas lights next year is not suitable due to the shedding of its leaves. It may be possible to plant a permanent tree within the school grounds although this option may not have the impact required due to the relative small size of such trees in early years and consideration might need to be given to arrangements similar to those adopted in Lea. Enquiries with regard to options are continuing.

CODE OF RECOMMENDED PRACTICE ON LOCAL AUTHORITY PUBLICITY

Notification has been received that a Public Consultation document has been issued by the Dept for Communities and Local Government which invites responses to questions concerning the above Code issued in 1988. Consultation is open to the public to respond however responses are particularly welcome from **council officials and councillors**. The full 33 page document is available @ www.communities.gov.uk or can be obtained from Communities and Local Government Publications PO Box 236 Weatherby West Yorkshire LS23 7NB or for members who do not have internet access a hard copy may be requested from the Clerk. Responses are required by the 12th March 2009

PLANNING APPLICATION CONSIDERED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

2008/0886 – Erection of single storey extension to the front of the dwelling at 25 Dodney Drive Lea PR2 1XR - No representation

PLANNING DECISIONS MADE BY PRESTON CITY COUNCIL

2008/0838 – Extension @ 50 Cottam Green granted

2008/0839 – Erection of stable block and new vehicular access etc at Field 3700 Darkinson Lane has been refused on the basis that the development would be over large and excessive in terms of size and scale for a private equestrian use in an isolated rural location and that the stable block would be visually prominent and thus be seriously detrimental due to its bulk and size to the character and appearance of the local area in contravention of policy CLF8 of the Preston Local Plan.

2008/0851 – Extension @ Briars Cottage 14 Darkinson Lane granted

WEB SITE

As previously reported the existing web site version is no longer supported. Preston City Council have developed a new community site which this Parish Council will be able to use. The Clerk has already undertaken some training and is in the process of developing the new site for launch in the next few months. The new site should be an improvement on the existing one and when it is completed it will contain far more information than the existing one which is currently restricted in terms of document size

W V McEnerney-Whittle