

CLERK'S REPORT NOVEMBER 2009 (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

LANCASHIRE BRANCH CPRE

Members are invited to a free CPRE event on the 25th November 2009 which will provide a visual presentation on Planning & Sustainability. Papers are enclosed. Please advise the Clerk if you intend to go in order that CPRE can be advised.

PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES

Further advertising of the Cottam Ward vacancies will take place in the December Newsletter.

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING.

Members are asked to note that the TWO lighting ceremonies will take place on the 2nd December 2009. Members are encouraged to attend Cottam Primary School @ 3.30pm and then St Christophers Church @ 6.00pm. Carols are expected to be sung by local primary school children from Cottam Primary at the Cottam event and Lea Community Primary School at the St Christopher's event. Notice enclosed.

MAINTENANCE ISSUES

A recent meeting with Preston City Council has solved some of the issues with regard to land ownership in the Cottam area. Mention was made at this meeting with regard to general maintenance issues. Preston City Council have not yet taken over the land owned by English Partnerships and suggested that the undertaking of low level maintenance in these areas by the Parish Council might act to the detriment of the endowment that is to be agreed between English Partnerships and Preston City Council. Whilst the Parish Council have a verbal agreement with English Partnerships which allows us to do some low level works it is perhaps prudent at this stage to leave English Partnership areas alone or at least agree specifically with Preston City Council any works in those areas. There was seemingly some concern that the Parish Council are doing low level maintenance works which are improving some specific areas. It was confirmed that the Parish Council had passed a resolution to undertake low level maintenance works and that a general verbal permission had been obtained from 'officers' of PCC. This general verbal permission was re-confirmed by telephone the following day so as to ensure that works undertaken were approved. Some supplies (paint) are being provided by PCC.

Part of the low level maintenance mentioned above involves occasional additional grass cuts on some of the smaller greens. Comment had been made that it would be better if the Parish Council undertook 'all' cutting of these 3 or 4 small areas in order to maintain consistency. PCC were not prepared at this stage to allow the Parish Council to consider such a course of action which was the equivalent of devolved services all be it the areas are very small. This does not however stop the Parish Council from considering 'devolved services' in the future.

It was established that grass cutting on the Western Approach was only done twice per year due to cost restraints. A request was made that the cuts took place at more appropriate times since particularly in the spring the grass became very overgrown before it was attended to. PCC have taken on board the comment and have also agreed to review the issue of regularity of cuts next year when grass verges and the like may be incorporated into the LCC Public Realm Strategy.

W V McEnnerney-Whittle