

## **EUXTON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT A PARISH COUNCIL**

A Parish Council is a body of eligible volunteer Councillors with a Chairman and Vice Chairman. The number of Councillors is reviewed by The Boundary Committee for England which is a committee of The Electoral Commission for England - Euxton has 18 Councillors.

The Parish of Euxton is divided into 3 wards - North East, North West and South, served by a total of 18 parish councillors.

The population of Euxton, taken from the 2001 census was 8,318, but today this figure is very out of date, and is more around 10,000+. The electorate of Euxton as at September 2010 was 7,325. Euxton covers an acreage of 2,915.

As at 29 September 2010 there were 4,551 properties in Euxton, which is still rising due to the building on Buckshaw Village. These are split by wards, as below.

**Euxton North West** (Runshaw Lane both sides, Greenside estate, Firbank and Brookside north of Chapel Brook, Cedar and surrounding Avenues, all Wigan Road from Packsaddle Bridge to Chapel Brook, School Lane, Euxton Lane to the crossroads with Pear Tree Lane, Cherryfields and the Canonswood estate). Euxton North West has approximately 1,902 properties. (8 Councillors)

**Euxton North East** (Whinney and Pear Tree Lanes, Buckshaw Village to the roundabout at Main Street, Euxton Lane from the crossroads with Pear Tree Lane to Badgers Walk and Brook House Grove). Euxton North East has approximately 932 properties, and rising. (2 Councillors)

**Euxton South** (Dawbers Lane, all properties off Wigan Road which are south of Chapel Brook, Balshaw Lane and the two estates each side, Church Walk and Casterton). Euxton South has approximately 1,702 properties. (8 Councillors)

The whole Council is subject to an election every 4 years approx (last being May 2010 the next will be 2014).

The Parish Council obtains its funding from the local element of residents council tax which is listed separately (approx £30.60 for a band D property in 2011/12).

The Council is a body and is distinct from its members (either as individuals or collectively) and its acts, assets and liabilities are its own and not those of its members.

Councillors are volunteers and as such receive no payment. They give their time freely to attend meetings. There are 10 programmed full council meetings which are held one each month, on the third Thursday beginning at 7.15 pm (except July and December).

*The Parish Council depends on its members being able to make time to attend the meetings and there is a clause within the Standing Orders\* which sets a limit to the number of consecutive meetings you may miss before being replaced. \*(Standing Orders are the rules a Parish Council adhere to besides The National Code of Local Government Conduct)*

Besides the full Council meetings there may be other meetings such as Extra Ordinary or Committee meetings. Also, there is one annual meeting called the Annual Assembly meeting, this is basically a residents meeting, chaired by the Parish Council's Chairman.

The business of the Council is managed by the Clerk (an employee of the Council). The Clerk is not a Councillor and does not make decisions for the Council but does advise of developments, law, requirements etc. The Clerk manages the Council business such as the financial matters, employee supervision, minutes, meeting arrangements, paperwork, agendas, noticeboards, continuous projects, council assets, emergency repairs, equipment, supplies, land etc.

The Parish Council is responsible for the amenities it provides such as its own seats, noticeboards, open space, play areas etc. Responsibility for other items such as public footpaths, street lighting, litter bins etc lie with the Borough or County Councils.

The Parish Council has input into matters which effect the village such as planning applications, which are controlled by the planning authority, which is Chorley Borough Council. The Parish is informed of planning applications and decisions and asked for its comments or recommendation.

The Parish Council is non-political. It is solely involved in issues, items and developments for the village's benefit and assistance.

All decisions are decided by vote. Each Councillor has one vote with the Chairman of the Council having one vote, but also one casting vote, if needed.

The Council's website has a large amount of information on many other subjects concerning the Parish Council, these are just a small sample:

- Precept
- Code of Conduct
- Powers of a Parish Council
- Meeting dates and minutes
- Election procedures
- Functions
- Policies