



Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council

(Incorporating Brookhouse, Carr, Slade Hooton and Newhall Hamlet)

News Update

News for the Parishioners of Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish



Kevin Downing

Welcome to our latest news update

As I begin my second year as Chairman of Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council, I would like to say how proud I am to continue in this role and to work with councillors, our clerk, volunteers and residents for the benefit of the parish.

You may notice that this newsletter looks a little different. This plainer format is something of an experiment. Although our newsletter has become a colourful and attractive leaflet over recent years, we still sometimes hear people say they did not know about something that has been included in it. We hope this new format will be easier to read, easier to spot, and less likely to be lost amongst takeaway flyers and other leaflets.

We have included a QR code linking to the Parish Council website, where parishioners can find useful information, meeting details and contact information. There is also a word search in this edition. The first three parishioners to complete it and email it back to the Parish Clerk will each receive a box of chocolates.

The Parish Council continues to maintain and improve areas across the parish, and I would like to thank our maintenance contractor for the work carried out on our behalf. Recent work has included repairs to stone beds, pruning and tidying planted areas, and general maintenance across the parish. Further investment has also been made in the play area.

It has also been lovely to see Laughton Village Hall being so well used following the renovation works in 2023. The Council is now looking at raising funds to improve the dated meeting room at the other end of the hall, and we will keep parishioners updated as this progresses.

We are also aware of concerns about various incidents involving damage to property across the parish. The Council has a meeting planned with local police and will continue to push for these matters to be looked at as a whole, particularly where offences appear to involve the same person.

Please do let Caroline, our Parish Clerk, know what you think of the new newsletter format. We always welcome your feedback, ideas and suggestions.

Kevin Downing
Parish Council Chairman



Laughton Village Hall Pub Nights - Why Not Come Along?

Laughton Village Hall Pub Nights continue to be a real success, with a good atmosphere, friendly faces and enjoyable evenings that are proving popular with those who come along. There is still plenty of room for more people, though, and we would love to see even more residents give them a try.

How many social activities do we have locally that you can simply walk to? The Pub Nights are a great chance to meet up with friends, enjoy a drink, and spend a relaxed evening in the heart of the village without having to travel anywhere.

Our next event will be on Friday 20th June, when we will be holding a Pie and Pea Supper with entertainment by Varcity.

The evening runs from 6.00 pm to 10.00 pm, with supper served at 6.30 pm. Tickets are £7.50 per person.

Further dates for the diary are:

- **1st August** – Pub Night, 6.00 pm to 10.00 pm
- **19th September** – Entertainment by GMEN, an evening of soul music, £10 per person, 6.30 pm to 10.30 pm
- **30th October** – Halloween Fun and Games for children, £5 per child, 5.00 pm to 7.00 pm
- **31st October** – Pub Night, 6.00 pm to 10.00 pm
- **21st November** – Pub Night, 6.00 pm to 10.00 pm
- **12th December** – Christmas Party with entertainment by Varcity, £20 per person, 6.00 pm to 10.00 pm



For more information, please contact **Janice on 07582 827158** or **Kath on 07917 600854**.

Your Parish Council

Notice Of Meeting

The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 7.15pm, Wednesday 17th June 2026 at the Village Hall, Firbeck Avenue, Laughton-en-le-Morthen S25 1YD. The agenda for this meeting will be on the Parish Council website by the Friday preceding the meeting or by request from the clerk. Minutes of previous meetings are also available on the website and are posted when they have been approved at the following months' meeting. Please remember that we have a new website

www.laughtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Councillors

Chairman

Kevin Downing: 07415059281

E-mail: kdowning@laughtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Vice-Chairman

Janice Cutting: 07582 827158

E-mail: jcutting@laughtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Councillors:

John Hall 07795 555109

E-mail: jhall@laughtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Trudy Hutson: 07580 985180

E-mail: thutson@laughtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Andrew Lowe 07735 127332

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Trevor Stanway: 01909 563418

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Jann Valenzuela

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Clerk to the Council:

Caroline Havenhand

01709 528823

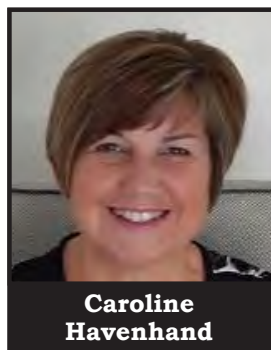
E-mail: clerk-laughtonparishcouncil@outlook.com

www.laughtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

My working days are

Monday to Thursday

10am – 12.30pm



Caroline Havenhand



Future Improvements at Laughton Village Hall

Following the successful renovation of Laughton Village Hall in 2023, it has been wonderful to see the hall being used regularly by local groups, classes, events and private bookings.

The Parish Council is now looking at the next stage of improvements, with plans to update the dated meeting room at the other end of the building.

The aim is to create a smaller, welcoming and practical space for local meetings, small groups and community activities, particularly where the main hall may be larger than needed. The room would also include small kitchen

Summary of Receipts and Payments for 12 months to 31st March 2026

This is a summary of the Parish Council's income and expenditure; these are draft figures pending the outcome of our annual assurance review. The accounts are for the period 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026.

The period for exercise of public rights is Wednesday 3rd June 2026 to Tuesday 14th July 2026. Information relating to how you exercise these rights will be on the Parish Council website and Parish Noticeboards at that time.

LAUGHTON-EN-LE-MORTHEN PARISH COUNCIL			
Summary of Receipts & Payments for the year ending 31.03.2026			
2024/2025 Receipts		2025/2026	
£	45,250.00	Precept	£ 49,500.00
£	780.85	Interest	£ 506.83
£	2,853.00	Allotments	£ 3,586.00
£	-	Grants Received	£ 1,755.00
£	-	Public Works Loans Board loan	£ -
£	1,996.00	Donations - Village Hall projects	£ 2,044.00
£	-	Community Infrastructure Levy	£ 582.46
£	4,009.53	VAT Recovered	£ 1,389.18
£	54,889.38	Total Income	£ 59,363.47
2024/2025 Payments		2025/2026	
	3,598.78	Admin/Supplies/Expenses/Audit	3,327.78
	15,203.77	Net Staff Costs	16,638.05
	1,245.87	Insurance	1,265.41
	669.00	Subscriptions	799.07
	7,762.38	Village Hall	438.15
	2,896.29	Recreation Ground	2,977.85
	904.00	Landscaping	1,745.00
	1,477.85	Allotments & Gardens excl Administration	1,886.69
	2,698.00	Hamlets (new Carr Defibrillator)	220.00
	523.50	Section 137	-
	-	Grants excl 137	457.90
	-	Community Infrastructure Levy	582.46
	4,960.13	Projects	9,397.80
	-	Play Area Repairs	2,895.04
	1,832.93	Defibrillator Maintenance	505.54
	1,993.00	Repayments PWLB	1,992.60
	3,999.99	VAT Paid	3,435.15
£	49,765.49	Total Payments	48,564.49
		Bank Balance at 01.04.2025	£ 77,361.63
		Unpresented Cheque	
		Bank Balance at 31.03.2026	£ 88,160.61
		Totals	£ 136,725.10 £ 136,725.10
The above statement represents fairly the financial position of the Authority as at 31st March 2026 * Subject to Review by our External Auditor			
Signed	<i>K Downing</i>		Chairman
Date	15th April 2026		
Signed	<i>C Havenhand</i>		RFO
Date	15th April 2026		

facilities so that refreshments can be provided for meetings and sessions.

As part of the plans, the Council is also looking at adding an accessible toilet, which would improve the facilities available and make that part of the building more suitable for a wider range of users.

Costings have now been obtained, along with architect's drawings, and the Parish Council has earmarked funds towards the project. The Clerk is now applying for additional funding to help support the work. We will keep parishioners updated as the project progresses.

Play Area Update

The Parish Council has recently carried out repairs and improvements to the play area, including fitting a new cable and seat to the zip wire, along with replacing a number of smaller parts around the site.

Over the next month, residents may notice a large pile of play surface material arriving on the car park. This will be used to bring the play area surface back up to the correct level and help keep the area safe and usable for children.

We are trying a slightly different type of bark this time, in the hope that it will last longer. Maintaining the play surface is an expensive ongoing cost for the Parish Council, so we are always looking for practical ways to keep the play area safe while also making best use of parish funds.

If anyone is able to spare a little time to help spread the bark once it arrives, the Parish Council would be very grateful. Please contact Caroline, the Parish Clerk, if you are able to help.

Word search competition

As part of our new newsletter format, we have included a word search for a bit of fun.

The first three parishioners to complete the word search and return their entry to the Parish Clerk will each receive a box of chocolates.

Please send your completed entry to Caroline, the Parish Clerk, either by email or by post in the village hall letterbox, with your name and address, using the contact details shown in this newsletter.

**Good luck!
and thank you for taking part!**

Z C Z N O V E B O P A C A Y H S A X V A
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ANDREWLOWE **CAROLINEHAVENHAND**
JANICECUTTING **KEVINDOWNING**
JANNVALENZUELA **JOHNHALL**
TREVORSTANWAY **TRUDYHUTSON**

Your Ward Councillor

I would like to thank the Parish Council at Laughton-en-le-Morthen for the opportunity to contribute to your newsletter.

We are now halfway through the current electoral term, and I continue to value highly the close working relationship we have with the Parish Council. Over recent months, we have attended meetings together on matters that are particularly important to our community, including the Whitestone proposal and the Common Farm solar farm development.

It is expected that the panel responsible for overseeing the Community Benefit Fund from Onpath and Common Farm will be confirmed this summer. I will ensure that all eligible community groups receive the relevant information promptly so that applications for funding can be submitted well ahead of the deadlines.

It was also very encouraging to see the success and popularity of the community allotment skip initiative. Given the positive response, we hope to secure funding to provide another in the future.

Finally, I continue to hold my fortnightly surgery at the library on alternate Wednesdays between 9:00 am and 10:00 am, and I would be delighted to see any residents who wish to raise local issues or concerns.

With warmest wishes,

Councillor Amanda Clarke

Ward Councillor Amanda Clarke

Email: amanda.clarke@rotherham.gov.uk



Amanda Clarke

Laughton All Saints Church

News from the Pews!

Our monthly services are:

1st Sunday	Morning Prayer	9.00am
2nd Sunday	You, me and everyone ***	4.00pm
3rd Sunday	Holy Communion	9.00am
4th Sunday	Holy Communion	6.00pm

*** You me and everyone, is modern worship service with all ages in mind. It is a relaxed service that is great for young children with activities for them to enjoy.

We are planning a Parish Summer Fair in church on Saturday 27th June 2-4 pm

More details to follow please check our Facebook page or website

To book a wedding or baptism and for any other details on services and events please contact Jill at the parish office allsaintslaughton@gmail.com or call 07943 222687.

Hangin**g** Baskets Update

The Parish Council knows how much residents enjoy seeing the hanging baskets around the parish during the summer months, and we had hoped to run the sponsorship scheme again this year following the lovely response received previously.

However, parishes across Rotherham were recently advised that permission for hanging baskets on lamp posts would only be given this year where independent stress testing had first been carried out. This is to confirm which lamp posts are suitable and safe to hold hanging baskets.

The timing of this change has created some difficulties for parish councils, particularly in terms of budgeting, arranging the necessary testing, and confirming locations in time for the planting season. These concerns have been raised by parish councils, with the support of ward councillors.

Following discussions, RMBC is now arranging for the stress testing to be procured urgently, with parish councils contributing towards the cost. Until this work has been completed, we do not know exactly which lamp posts will meet the required criteria.

For that reason, the Parish Council has not felt able to run the usual sponsorship scheme at this stage, as we cannot yet confirm the final basket locations. We remain hopeful that the baskets will still be able to go up this year, although they may be delayed and some locations may vary slightly from previous years.

Once the stress testing has been completed and the approved locations are known, we would very much welcome any donations towards the cost of the baskets. We may also be able to look again at sponsorship plaques, depending on the timescales involved.

We appreciate that many residents look forward to seeing the baskets each year, and we will do our best to keep parishioners updated as soon as we have further information.



Regular Activities at Laughton Village Hall

Our well equipped Village Hall is available for hire. It is an ideal location for Weddings, Christenings, and parties. If you would like to book, please contact Ann Mitchell - anncm@live.co.uk information.

Monday: Toddler Playgroup 9.30 am to 11 am Keep Fit - Spin 5.30 pm : Kettlebells 6 pm : Clubbercise 6.30 pm

Tuesday: Keep Fit - Spin 6 am : Bowling 5.15 pm to 7.45 pm Home Schooling Group 10 am to 3 pm

Wednesday: Knit and Natter 9.30 am to 12.30 pm Keep Fit - Spin 5.30 pm : Pilates 6 pm

Thursday: Clubbercise 5.30 pm
Metafit 6.00 pm
Spin/50/50 6.30 pm

Friday: Spin/50/50 6.00 am
Creative Stitching 9.30 am to 3 pm

Saturday: Keep Fit - Spin 9 am : Pilates 9.30 am

Contact for Toddler Playgroup:
Wendy Bulmer 07989 679397

Contact for Keep Fit Classes: Fay Bird 07581 466464

Contact for Creative Stitching: Janet 07721 321214

Contact for Bowling: Sue Salt 07791 950853

Contact for Knitting: Jayne 07735 595136

St John's Road Allotments

St John's Road Allotments are situated just off St John's Road, surrounded on three sides by beautiful countryside. It is a peaceful spot, and a lovely place to spend time outdoors, whether you are an experienced gardener or just starting out.

The growing season is now well underway, with plot holders busy preparing their allotments and planting a wide variety of fruit, vegetables and flowers. There is something very rewarding about growing your own produce, watching it develop through the season, and then being able to pick and enjoy food you have grown yourself.

Allotments are not just about fruit and vegetables. They also offer time in the fresh air, gentle exercise, solitude when you need it, and the chance to switch off from everyday pressures. Many people find that spending time on their plot is good for their mental wellbeing, as well as being a practical way to grow fresh, seasonal food.

There is also a friendly allotment community at St John's Road, with plenty of experienced and knowledgeable plot holders who are happy to share tips, advice and encouragement. Whether you know exactly what you are doing or have never grown anything before, there will be people around to learn from.

The allotment society also holds its popular annual Scarecrow Competition and Summer Fayre, which is always a lovely community event and a chance to celebrate the hard work and creativity of plot holders and local residents. Please keep an eye on the Laughton Facebook pages for dates and further details.

We currently have a few plots available, so if you would like the opportunity to grow your own fruit and vegetables, please visit the Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council website at: www.laughtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Once on the website, go to Our Community and then Allotments for details of how to apply.

You are also welcome to come along to one of our open days, where you will receive a warm and friendly welcome.

It is not too late to get in touch — we would love to hear from you.

