

WHALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** held on Thursday 7th May 2009 at 7.30pm in Whalley Methodist Church Hall

1. PRESENT AND APOLOGIES

Present:

Councillor M Highton Chairman
Councillor J Taylor
Councillor S Earnshaw
Councillor A Bury

Apologies were received from: Councillor J Brown
Councillor M Reid
Councillor S Barker
Councillor M Fallon
Councillor E Ronnan

3 members of the public

In Attendance – Mr F Holland, Clerk to the Council

2. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 1st MAY 2008

It was resolved unanimously to confirm that the minutes of the meeting.

3. TO CONFIRM THE PRECEPT 2008/09

The Clerk reported that the precept had been set at £32,000 for the year 2008/09, which was a 0% increase on the previous year. The figure was confirmed by the meeting.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2008/09

I would like welcome everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting.

Whalley PC is made up of 9 councillors who are volunteers and receive no financial support for the many hours spent working for the village. It was an honour to be elected Chairman at last years AGM. I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their support this year and especially the former chairman Councillor June Brown. We have had one change in personnel this year with the resignation of Jon Smith, Jon had only been on the council for a short time but has contributed a lot to the village not only as 'Flood Defence Volunteer' but also with the Scouts and Junior Football teams. Andrew Bury a resident from Calderstones Park was co-opted onto the council in January.

The council held the usual 11 monthly meetings plus AGM and Precept meeting (with a public attendance varying between 2 and 11 which usually included a representative from the police and a borough councillor but not the press!).

Other regular committee meetings are :

1) Planning : meetings are held each month where any planning applications are considered and comments passed to RVBC, objections can only be made on planning grounds. Please

remember that decisions are made by the planning committee of RVBC . The PC do however have the right of first refusal to speak on applications being considered by this committee.

2) Churchyard : Whalley is a closed churchyard and is a major responsibility for the PC. Good progress has been made with the general maintenance and the appearance is much improved. Trees and slippery paths continue to be a major problem and need constant attention. A major worry for the PC is the condition and safety of a number of gravestones, action has been taken for identification and repair.

3) Grounds & Gardens : good progress this year. Water feature has been turned off to prevent algal growth on the stone. Plans for re-siting are being considered. We still have problems ensuring regular emptying of the bins.

The PC also hold a joint meeting with the Calderstones Executive and are represented on many other committees and bodies.

Toilets : the major project in the village this year has been completed within budget. There is a minor delay in commissioning while United Utilities provide new meters for the electrical supply. I would like to thank our benefactor for their contribution to the cost, RV for finally agreeing to a 7/15 contribution, the architect Peter Hitchen of JYM, the builder David Johnstone and most of all Councillor Eric Ronnan for being an excellent project manager. This is a real asset for the bus station in the centre of the village and replaces the inadequate facilities that we have had to put up with for too long.

Best Kept Village : we were very pleased to receive the news that Whalley had won the Large Village category of the Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition. I would like to thank all the village for their efforts in achieving this award and in particular Councillor Mike Fallon and the Village Action Group for co-ordinating both the entry and clean up sessions in the village.

Flood Action Plan : Whalley now has a flood action plan. Following a visit by the co-ordinators from RV to the October meeting and flood water running down King St a few days later, the District Response Forum realized that the Calder was not the only potential source of flooding in the village! I have attended meetings of this group and circulated information to households in the flood risk area.

Sale of land adjacent to 52 Mitton Road was completed. Thanks to John Houldsworth Solicitors for completing the transfer at no cost to the Council.

War Memorial : access path has been completed after a great deal of debate over terminology. I would like to thank Mr George Hardman for his help and support in this area.

Donations continued at 3k this year, primarily made to local groups. I particularly wish to commend work done for young people by all the sport groups in the village including football, cricket, table tennis and bowling. The Pickwick Committee were also supported in the provision of a safe electrical supply for the stalls at the event. Other grants made to Royal British Legion, bench at Calderstones, Police mountain bike project, Whalley Station and SELRAP.

Looking forward to this year:

Bus Shelter : we have applied to Lancashire CC for funding a new bus shelter on King Street.

Concurrent Functions : I am pleased to report the RV has implemented a grant scheme to support PC with expenditure on the lengthsman, burial grounds and parks.

Parking : has not appeared on the agenda this year but is still a major issue for the village. The PC would still like to see time limited short stay parking on the main street but LCC will only consider this when a suitable long stay car park is available. (Same sentence appeared in my last report in 2003!)

Now we have completed the toilets project, we will be looking at opportunities for developing Youth and Community facilities in the centre of the village

Finally I would like to thank our Clerk, Fred Holland for the support he has given to me and the council throughout the year.

Thank you.

5. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

Car Parking Issues

Mr Nicholson highlighted the problem of car owners ignoring yellow lines and parking on pavements thereby damaging the kerb stones. He further asked if the parish council had thought of employing their own traffic warden. Cllr Hill of RVBC stated that after discussion with RVBC leader Ranson the net result would be a traffic warden in Whalley for one, unspecified day per week.

Bank End Barn

Mr Nicholson applauded the efforts of Calderstones NHS Trust in their work on Bank End Barn but suggested that the isolated site was difficult for Whalley residents. He added that the dormitories at the Abbey which were now in a state of disrepair could be used for leisure purposes. The owners are the RC Church but Cllr Hill stated he would investigate and report back after discussion with the RVBC heritage department.

Police Station

Mrs Holden alerted the meeting to the neglected appearance of the Police Station on Princess St. Cllr Highton will discuss the matter with the local officer.

There being no other business, Cllr Highton thanked everybody for attending and closed the meeting at 7.55pm.

Signed.....

Date.....