



WHALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** held on Thursday 28th April 2011 at 7.30pm in Whalley Primary School, Church Lane, Whalley

1. PRESENT AND APOLOGIES

Present:

Councillor M Highton Chairman
Councillor S Earnshaw
Councillor J Brown
Councillor M Reid
Councillor S Barker
Councillor M Fallon
Councillor E Ronnan

Apologies received from:

Councillor J Taylor
Councillor A Bury

5 members of the public present

In Attendance – Mr F Holland, Clerk to the Council

2. TO CONFIRM THE PRECEPT 2011/12

The Clerk reported that the precept had been set at £31,680 for the year 2011/12, which was a reduction equivalent to -1.5% on the previous year. The figure was confirmed by the meeting.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2010/11

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 re-elected Chairman at last years AGM and I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their support this year.

The council held the usual 11 monthly meetings plus AGM and Precept meeting (with a public attendance varying between 1 and 9 which often included one or both borough councillors and sometimes a representative from the police).

Planning meetings are normally held each month where any planning applications are considered and comments passed to RVBC, any objections can only be made on planning grounds. However, this year has been dominated by the public consultation on Ribble Valley's 'Core Strategy' and two major planning applications for further housing developments in the village. This involved arranging 2 challenging public meetings and several extra planning meetings to prepare our response. RVBC were left in no doubt about the strength of feeling in the village on the document and the planning applications. I would particularly like to thank our Chair of Planning, Councillor Stephen Barker for the many hours of preparation prior to these meetings and successfully speaking against the Coop application at the Ribble Valley planning

committee. We were pleased that the committee refused permission for this development but we await news on the appeal against this decision and the date for determination of the proposed CEG development

Other regular committee meetings are:

Churchyard: Whalley is a closed churchyard and is a major responsibility for the PC. The general maintenance contract continues to work well. A further area has been cleared and turfed this year, the appearance is much improved and this will be much easier to maintain. Trees and slippery paths continue to be a major problem and need constant attention. This year the tree survey has identified a tree that needs removing. A major worry for the PC is the condition and safety of a number of gravestones, a survey has identified a number that are in urgent need of attention and a programme of repair has started.

Grounds & Gardens: good progress this year. I would like to thank our lengthsman, David Smalley and the gardener for their work in this area

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

Pickwick: I would like to thank the Pickwick Committee for their work in creating a successful event and promoting the village and hope that they will continue in this role. They have my support and that of the Parish Council.

Whalley Economic Action Plan: No further progress with the plan this year.

Toilets: some rectification work was completed following the 12 month defect survey and the operating lease was finally signed!

Youth Shelter: This project has been under consideration this year but there are still major outstanding issues to resolve particularly potential location. I would specifically like to thank Councillor Jill Taylor for her work on this project.

Best Kept Village and Britain in Bloom. A group led by members of the C of T is planning to enter the village in the Britain in Bloom and also the Best Kept Village competition next year.

The P C has offered the group a grant and support from the lengthsman and gardener.

Flood Protection: Ribble Valley BC have provided flood protection equipment to many 'at risk' properties through the E A flood protection grant scheme

War Memorial: I would like to thank Mr George Hardman for his help and support in the maintenance of this area.

The constitution for the Whalley and Wiswell Joint Burial Committee has been adopted.

Donations continued at 3k this year, primarily made to local groups. The formal application procedure adopted last year has continued and all applicants provided the necessary information. 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.

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

Parish Council Surgery: We have started a monthly surgery where members of the community can meet a parish councillor.

This is the last meeting of the current council as this is an election year so I would like to thank the 3 councillors that are not standing for re-election Gill Taylor, Mike Reid and Andrew Bury for their contribution to the council.

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

I look forward to continuing to work for the benefit of the village in the new council. It is our intention to work towards meeting the requirements for 'Quality Council' status.

Thank you.

4. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

Whalley Community Hydro

Mr Gathercole represented Whalley Community Hydro and briefed the meeting on the aims, objectives and developments in the project to develop hydro-electric power at the weir on the River Calder. The proposal is to generate the equivalent of 100kw per hour, construction commencing in April 2012 with completion in the autumn. The consortium is in discussion with LCC regarding repair of the wall whilst concerns regarding the state of the weir are attracting a multi-agency approach. He wished to alert the community to the benefits of renewable energy, including educational visits by schools, and asked the parish council for non monetary support for the project. The project has a web site; www.whalleyhydro.wikidot.com. The project will be considered as an agenda item at the next parish council meeting

The Sands

Mr Pate reported that a resident of the Sands has recently fallen due to the poor maintenance of the highway. LCC hold the responsibility for this area and the clerk will again contact LCC. Discussion regarding a footpath took place whereby if constructed, pedestrians, especially school children, would not have to walk on the road with its attendant dangers.

Whalley Moor

Mr Gathercole alerted the meeting to the benefits of the recently constructed walk, he reported that the lack of wheel chair access was a problem.

Parking in Whalley

The ever present problem of indiscriminate parking in the village was discussed with particular reference to persistent offending in the vicinity of Whalley Wine Shop.

There being no other business, Cllr Highton thanked everybody for attending and closed the meeting at 8.25pm.

Signed.....

Date.....