



Local Government Act 1972

Churchyard Committee
Committee of Whalley Parish Council

Members of the Churchyard Committee, you are summoned to a Meeting to be held on Thursday 3rd August 2023 in the Parish Church of Saint Mary and All Saints at 4.30pm

Signed: *EKHaworth*

Liz Haworth - Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer

Minutes

Agenda items should be submitted to the Clerk seven clear days before the meeting. The Clerk will forward members of the committee, all relevant information and supporting documents, 3 clear days before the meeting.

1.	Attendance & Apologies	
	Present: Cllr Cliff Ball (Chairman), Revd Jonathan Carmyllie, Judith Davies (Church Warden), Cllr Martin Highton, Cllr John Threlfall. In Attendance: Liz Haworth Parish Clerk.	
2.	Prayers	
	Revd Carmyllie offered an opening prayer.	
3.	Chairmans Introduction to new members	
	Cllr Ball welcomed the new members Judith Davies and JohnThrelfall.	
4.	Trees	
	A large bough has fallen from one of the trees in the churchyard facing the back of the houses on King Street. This was reported immediately to the Parish Council who in turn instructed Ken Linford a Consulting Arborist to undertake an inspection of the tree the next day. He attended site and reported 'The failure is of a high canopy secondary branch with significant weight when in full leaf and girth diameter of 250mm. The failure point does not show any evident decay but does display a significant delamination of the timber which can occur in summer when heat rain and sap flows are inconsistent and strength in branches can be compromised. It often happens in Beech and Horse chestnut but can happen in sycamore. See attached photos. This is sometimes referred to as <i>summer branch drop</i> . Prior to the event it is impossible to spot if this kind of failure is going to occur unless a fracture has commenced. In the last 15 years horse	

	<p>chestnuts along the school boundary had two such failures but with no ground damage or injury.</p> <p>The good news is that the failure was into the church land and not onto the pub garden over the wall, no injury was caused and no damage was caused to Gravestones in the church yard under the canopy of the tree. You will need your contractor to clear the debris. I would suggest that he does an aerial inspection of the major limb and branch unions in the upper canopy and cut back the damaged limb in the tree as soon as possible.'</p> <p>The Parish Council arranged for the debris to be removed and instructed a tree surgeon to carry out the inspection as per report.</p> <p>Chris from the Dog Inn has contacted the Church with concerns of the overhanging branches into his property which may cause damage to his property or worse people who are gathered in the beer garden should another branch fall.</p> <p>In view of the recent bough fall and concern raised by a neighbour the Chairman stated that it was incumbent upon the Churchyard Committee to show that everything possible is being done to ensure that the trees are safe (whilst accepting that no tree can be considered as completely safe). To expedite this the Churchyard Committee has requested that the Parish Council;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Update on the report from the contractor tree surgeon inspecting the tree. 2) Instruct Ken Linford to do a further inspection on said tree and all of the sycamores lining that side of the churchyard. <p>ACTION: Clerk to chase tree surgeon and contact Ken Linford to arrange a meeting with Cllr Ball to inspect the sycamore trees.</p> <p>ACTION: Clerk to write a response to Chris from the Dog Inn to update on actions taken and to further update once we have the new report on the trees.</p> <p>ACTION: clerk to contact Dave Hewitt RVBC to update him on recent events and of the committee's concerns of the trees with regards to public safety.</p>	
5.	Pathways	
	<p>It was reported that the flags around the churchyard are generally in good order and kept clean.</p> <p>The path from the south door of the church through the graveyard needs repair. Discussions were had around a solution to improve the surface in keeping with existing surrounding surfaces. ACTION: Revd Carmyllie is going to contact the Diocese to make an application to make repairs to the surface of the path.</p>	

6.	Clearance	
	Cllr Ball has requested the clearing of shrubs and bushes at SW corner of the churchyard by Abbey Gardening as part of the ongoing grounds maintenance contract of the churchyard.	
7.	AOB	
	<p>There continues to be a blocked drainpipe from the water runoff the roof. This is to be monitored.</p> <p>The committee walked around the churchyard to inspect the areas discussed.</p>	

The meeting closed at 5.15pm

Cllr Clifford BallChairman.....Date