

WHALLEY PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 15 February 2018 at 7.30pm in the Old Grammar School, Whalley.

Present: Councillor M Highton (Chairman)
Councillor J Brown
Councillor M Fallon
Councillor C Ball
Councillor D Sleight
Councillor P Elson
Councillor L Rimmer
(From item 2) Councillor J Threlfall

Apologies: None

In Attendance: S Barker -stand in Clerk to Whalley Parish Council
Members of the public – 5

1215/18 to receive declaration of interests

None

1216/18 to approve as correct the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18 January 2018

It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18 January 2018 be approved as a correct record of the meeting, although it was noted that Cllr Brown's declaration of interest related to the planning meeting of the same date

1217/18 to welcome Councillor John Threlfall to the Council

The Council welcomed John Threlfall following his cooption at the meeting on 18 January 2018. It was confirmed that he had signed the Declaration and Register of Interests.

1218/18 to adjourn the meeting for a period of public discussion (information only)

Mr Brown reported to the Council that the issue of the Royal mail van driving on the pavement of King Street between the dentist and the pillar box outside the post office had arisen again, prior to the 5pm collection. Members agreed that the Clerk should submit an appropriate letter to the Royal Mail at Blackburn about this offence by one of their staff. Mr Brown also reported on the repairs which had been carried out to two potholes outside the post office, but that a slightly shallower one immediately adjacent had been ignored.

1219/18 to receive minutes of other Committees

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of the 18 January 2018 and the Grounds and Gardens Committee of the 3 October 2017 were presented to the meeting.

1220/18 To receive reports of Councillors' from other committees (information only)

Cllr Ball reported that work was progressing to the almshouse at 34 Mitton Road, and that the contractors hoped to conclude work by the third week in March. The appointee for that property had given backword, and the vacancy was to be re-advertised. Abbey Landscaping Services had completed work at the front of the properties, which was a great improvement.

Cllr Ball also reported on ongoing issues with the former Calderstones Cemetery. Planning permission had been granted by RVBC. Cllr Ball stated that, although assurances had been given by the developer, work was continuing on consecrated ground and known burial sites were being covered over for car parking. He stated that objectors had contacted all authorities they considered could influence the development, including RVBC, the Home Office, the Ministry of justice, the Ribble Valley MP and the Diocese of Blackburn. He indicated that there was confusion over what development could lawfully take place on the site. The developer was commencing the process of application for the ground to be deconsecrated, including placing a notice in the Parish Church without the knowledge of or permission from the Vicar (Cllr Ball later informed the meeting that this notice was in fact invalid as part of it had been redacted).

Cllr Ball also reported on the erection of a post at Breda Murphy which should have the effect of preventing parking on the pavement; of his attendance at the re-opening of Whalley Library; and on the repair of the potholes on Clitheroe Road, whilst he had reported another pothole by the bridge on Station Road

Cllr Fallon circulated a photograph which he had taken of vehicles parked on the pavement near Whalley Bridge, dangerously, and on the presence of potholes on the Abbeyfields estate.

Cllr Brown had attended a meeting of the QE2 development group, the meeting to plan for the commemoration of the Armistice, and the Parish Council Liaison Committee. Concerns had been expressed to her at the lack of opportunity for consultation in the LCC planning process for proposed works at Whalley C of E Primary School.

Cllr Elson reported on the issue of the uncut hedge on Station Road/Abbeyfields, where he had now received a letter from the resident concerned setting out the history and putting responsibility on LCC, which he would follow up with Cllr Rimmer.

Cllr Threlfall had nothing to report, but expressed his happiness at having been coopted.

Cllr Rimmer reported on her actions since May 2017 with regard to the hedge mentioned by Cllr Elson, including having sent photographs to LCC, and verbal contact which she had had with members of staff at Riddings Lane.. She stated that there was an issue with sycamore which had seeded within the hedge which she considered could undermine the retaining wall and possibly cause problems for the stability of Station Road.

Cllr Rimmer also reported on issues with the path alongside Spar Car Park, part of the designated route to school, which could be 3 inches deep in water, causing children and other users to walk on the car park, potentially coming into conflict with traffic. The surface had been satisfactory until it had been dug up by Electricity North West. The Clerk was to be requested to contact LCC, following her previous successful approach relating to the path by the school.

Cllr Sleight reported on the Burial Committee meeting on 2 February 2018. The annual Tidy - up-Day was to be held on 13th March. The Grounds Maintenance contract was to be put out to tender. To try to mitigate problems with reserved plots, consideration was to be given to placing

a terracotta tile in the centre of the plots below grass level. Revision of the Cemetery Rules was progressing towards a final version. Fly tipping had occurred near the brook, which was the committee's responsibility to clear.

Cllr Sleight also commented on the proliferation of potholes, and the apparent ineffectiveness of repairs.

Cllr Highton had attended the QE2 meeting where specifications for the goals and surround for the Multi Use Games Area and the Green Gym had been considered. Grant aid had been received of a substantial sum, and thanks were due for the generosity of Jon Smith and his business in providing guarantees.

From the Parish Council Liaison Committee meeting, Cllr Highton requested members of the Council to check that their records held on the RVBC website were correct and up to date.

Cllr Highton reported on the ward boundary changes to take place within the parish, where there would be 4 wards electing 5, 2, 1 and 1 councillors respectively. He reported on the likely number of electors in each ward, although this would change with development and other factors. He advised that potential candidates should pay particular attention to ensuring that they have nomination papers signed by residents of the ward in which they were standing.

Cllr Highton reported on the concerns of Whalley in Bloom about the condition of beds near certain licensed premises, which had been passed on to RVBC. (Representatives of Whalley in Bloom and Councillors then embarked on discussion about the condition of parts of the village, the level of responsibility shown by certain licence holders, emptying of bins and education of young people with regard to littering). He stated that a report on the possibility of a Cumulative Impact Policy was to be considered by the next meeting of RVBC Licensing Committee.

Cllr Highton also reported that a consultation was due to be held on the closure of the information centre and booking office at the Clitheroe Interchange.

1221/18 The proposed closure of Barclays Bank Whalley branch

It was reported that Barclays had announced the closure of their Whalley Branch on 4 May 2018. Arrangements would be made for customers to carry out certain banking activity at the post office, although with a degree of delay. It was appreciated that this was a commercial decision by the bank, but members considered that, whilst it was disappointing that another facility was being lost to the so called service centre, it would be futile to make representations.

1222/18 to authorise the accounts for payments, receipts and balances for February 2018

It was resolved to accept the accounts for payments and receipts for February 2018.

1223/18 Clerks Report

The Clerk circulated a report of the correspondence, emails and circulation of reading material for information. Cllr Highton reported that a further request had been received from the Whalley History Group for grant aid for acquisition of software and antivirus protection, but members agreed with him that this approach should be declined as there are free options

available. Representatives of Whalley in Bloom were advised of how they could make contact to take advantage of the resources available in the Great British Spring Clean.

1224/18 **Armistice Celebrations 2018**

Cllr Ball reported that the events for Armistice 100 (a commemoration rather than a celebration) had been given the logo “Whalley Remembers”.

He thanked those who had assisted with distribution of leaflets for the public meeting on 6 February, which had been well attended with over 50 residents attending. Many ideas had been put forward, and an action group of several volunteers was to meet on 16 February to plan events. There would be fund raising events in the weeks leading up to Remembrance Sunday, with proceeds going to the Royal British Legion.

The intention was to keep the events on 11 November simple, with the Act of remembrance followed by the Service of Thanksgiving and then a Community Party at the Abbey for which the East Lancs Concert band had been engaged.

Cllr Ball reported on an article in the Lancashire Telegraph where views had been expressed about the proposed event which he considered to be unacceptable, and it was agreed that the Chair should write to those who had made the comments setting out the Parish Councils position and observations on the comments which had been made.

1225/18 **Borough Councillors’ Report**

Apologies had been received from both Cllr Holgate and Cllr Hill. It was reported that they had referred to the Cumulative Impact policy item before the Licensing Committee, and that they would continue to monitor the situation regarding the Calderstones cemetery.

1226/18 **to consider and approve the date of the next meeting of the Parish Council as Thursday 15 March 2018**

It was resolved to hold the next meeting of the Parish Council on Thursday 15 March 2018.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____