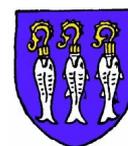


WHALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 20 February 2020 at 7.30pm in the Old Grammar School, Whalley.



Present: Councillor M Highton(Chairman)
Councillor J Brown (Vice Chairman)
Councillor C Ball
Councillor P Brown
Councillor D Sleight
Councillor J Threlfall

In Attendance: M Richardson – Clerk to Whalley Parish Council
Members of the public (7) Including Borough Councillors G Mirfin M Hindle

1583/20 to receive declaration of interests

None.

1584/20 to approve as correct the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Meeting held on 16 January 2020

It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16 January 2020 be approved as a correct record.

1585/20 receive minutes of other Committees

The minutes were received of the:

- Planning Committee meeting held on 16 January 2020
- Churchyard Committee meeting held on 10 June 2019

1586/20 to adjourn the meeting for a period of public discussion

Chairman Martin Highton welcomed and introduced Alison Rosthorn the Branch Manager responsible for Whalley Library. Alison thanked the Council for the invitation to attend. She has been in post since April 2019 and is taking proactive steps to get into the community of Whalley and integrate the Library services. She would like to get more groups using the Library if possible. The location of Library means it can be slightly further out from the centre. Hopefully with being more embedded into the existing community activities it means more people will use the facilities. She stated that the Clerk and herself are now in regular contact and they display agendas and minutes of the Parish Council meetings on the Public Information Noticeboard. She stated that if the Council was aware of any up and coming events then we should let them know. There is an LCC Community Heritage Month planned for May and

Whalley has a rich history she would very much would like highlight. Councillor Ged Mirfin stated the LCC Highways will be resurfacing the road around the Library soon. Councillor Hindle questioned whether Parking was problem.

Paul White provided an update on the Whalley Railway Station. Fortunately, the flooding had not affected the service. The proposed Bridge Closure did not take place due to the notifications not been correctly advertised. The number of passengers travelling to Clitheroe seems to have reduced, perhaps due to the new ticket machine?

Clitheroe Interchange has now been closed due to budget cuts. Negotiations continue with the car park land at Whalley Railway Station owned by Andrew Ronan. The short-term plan is to renegotiate the lease and create more parking spaces. Long term the owner may try to build on the land subject to planning permission. Martin Highton suggested that Ribble Valley Borough Council could look to Compulsory Purchase Order the land.

Tony Brown felt the much work still needed to carried out in clearing the drains. The response to the flooding was slow with Lancashire County Council personnel not turning up until 12.30pm on Sunday 9 February 2020. The Mill Race needs clearing outs as much debris been washed down river.

1587/20 Councillor Update

Cliff Ball as Chairman of Adam Cottam Almshouses stated work is progressing well; all walls have been stripped, tanked and dry lined. Ceilings and walls are currently being plastered. It is hope to start fitting the kitchen next week. The change of rooms – kitchen to living room is very successful; our resident will have a much larger living area with a new side window improving lighting.

The Churchyard Committee met on 3 February 2020. Following this meeting the Clerk organized a meeting with the recommended contractor to repair 8 memorials in the Churchyard. His estimate is now in and work will start next week; it will be invoiced before end March 2020. The trees have survived the recent storms so far; it was very fortunate that the trees lining Church lane were dead headed before the storms started. Some outstanding actions remained from the Tree Report and the contractor had been instructed to carry out this work as soon as possible. The Churchyard paths were Bati-cleaned before Christmas as requested by the Church Warden.

A resident on Mitton Road has asked about proposed works on Broad Lane. The Clerk was unaware that Remedial work was schedule to take place. Cllr P Brown stated this was in the Highways Bulletin that is circulated to Councillors from the Clerk. Parking on the pavement outside Breda Murphy's continues to cause obstruction problem; Cllr Threlfall has passed this on to the local Police.

The Bus Station Toilets are in a deplorable state. Cliff stated enough is enough; the toilets are a disgrace and not how we would want visitors to experience. Time for action. Ribble Valley Borough Council is responsible for maintenance under the lease. Promises had been made to

improve the interiors by the Borough Council but this has not happened. Martin Highton stated the Council was in breach of the Leasehold Agreement and that Parish Council had waited long enough. The Parish Council could serve notice on the Borough Council for the breach.

Councillor June Brown was invited by and attended a Holocaust Remembrance Service at Merseycare on the 27 January 2020. This prompted discussion about the Kosovo people being brought to Whalley over 20 years ago.

Patrick Brown stated work was ongoing with the Lay Brother Dormitory Project and an architect had been appointed to draw up a Schedule of Works. He continued to work on submitting a proposal for Historic England to protect Queen Mary Hospital at Calderstones.

Dave Sleight stated that as Chairman of Whalley, Wiswell and Barrow Joint Burial Committee flood damage was caused to the paths and drains on the turning circle and a claim was being submitted to the insurance company. The Clerk had reported the raised/leaking manhole cover outside the Burial Grounds that was raised at the February Churchyard Committee meeting.

John Threlfall stated that due to work and holiday commitments he had been unable to attend the last meetings of the Churchyard and Burial Committee. He proposed attending the Village Hall Committee on the 3 March 2020. The submission of Accounts to the Charity Commission had been incorrect.

Martin Highton stated at the Parish Council Liaison Committee (PCL) meeting the Rotary Club Challenge was presented to all Parish Councils. In addition Whalley Village Hall is seeking to plant more trees. A presentation of planned Clitheroe Heritage Open Days took place and Councillors agreed that this is worthy cause. Patrick Brown suggested the Parish Council ask North West Film Archive to come along and host an evening at the village hall. The Council agreed this was a good idea and Patrick agreed to come back to the Council at the next meeting with more details including a price. Pendle Hill Partnership attended and stated there was money available for Parish Councils access – a suggestion of seeking funding to replace the bench a Clerk Hill is a possible project.

1588/20 Flooding – Sunday 9 February 2020

Martin Highton stated that flood warnings had been given and on Sunday 9 February 2020 despite floodgates being put up by residents and businesses in preparation. Water came flooding through the walls and floors of houses adjacent to the River Calder. The damage had been less severe than the Boxing day floods of 2015 due to the measures that had been put in place. The flood waters came very fast and the sheer volume of water meant that nothing could stop it. He commended Whalley and Billington Flood Action Group for their support to residents and businesses affected again. Disappointingly, the wet weather had continued and another flood alert was issued on Saturday 15 February 2020. Councillor Ged Mirfin commented that Environment Agency had problems locating the Flood Barriers for the Longworth Road area. He questioned the logic in sharing a flood barrier with other areas that are now prone to flooding. He advocated that permanent resources are deployed and stored in flood prone areas like Whalley and Billington. Central Government funding is available as follows:

- £500 Community Resilience Grants eligibility and details to follow from Government

- £2500 grants for businesses but they must demonstrate serious loss;
- Waiver of Council Tax and Business Rates for 3 months for those affected by the floods.

1589/20 To receive and update on the Multi Agency Approach to ASB and Young People

Borough Councillor Ged Mirfin stated that Ribble Valley Borough Council had organized a De briefing for a recent Substance Misuse Report. He suggested that the Clerk contact Colin Hirst and request places for the Parish Councillors to attend given the ongoing ASB problems.

1590/19 To receive and update on speeding initiatives

Councillor John Threlfall was still awaiting feedback on the Speed Trailer data.

1591/20 To review the internal audit process and appoint an auditor for financial year end 2019/20.

The Parish Council approved the revised terms of reference for the internal audit based on Statute and National Guidance and appointed Alan Rogers as the Internal Auditor for 2019/20.

1592/20 To review and approve an Update of the Asset Register prior to the 2019/2020 External Audit

The Parish Council approved proposed changes to the valuation figure in the Asset Register following the Bench Audit of 2019/20. The Valuation Figure has changed from £180,914 submitted in the 2018/19 Annual Return to £181, 662 to be submitted in the 2019/20 Annual Governance and Accountability Return

This takes account of two new benches purchased at a cost of £374 each (George Hardman/Jill Taylor Memorial Benches) Total £748.

The Parish Council approved the change to the number of benches on the Asset Register from 34 in the 2018/19 AGAR to 20 in the forthcoming 2019/20 AGAR.

1593/20 To review and approve the Risk Assessment Register in Preparation for the 2019/20 External Audit

Prior to the meeting Councillors were asked to consider and amend, where appropriate the risk assessment register. A number of changes had been agreed and these were accepted and approved.

1594/20 Authorisation of Accounts, Payments and Receipts and Balances for February 2020

The Parish Council authorised the following payments, receipts and balances for February 2020:

Payments

Website Maintenance	(27.60)
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Salary	(718.71)
Home office	(43.33)
Internet	(10.00)
62 mileage 53@0.65p	(40.00)
Mobile rental	(5.00)
S137 Grants 2019/20 Whalley in Bloom	(1,000.00)
S137 Grants 2019/20 Whalley Table Tennis Club	(500.00)
S137 Grants 2019/20 Whalley Juniors Football Club	(600.00)
S137 Grants 2019/20 Ribble Valley Rail	(100.00)
S137 Grants 2019/20 Foundation for RV Families	(500.00)
S137 Grants 2019/20 Smiley Explorers	(500.00)
Vale Gds Dec 19 Invoice 2825	(273.00)
Church Dec 19 Invoice 2818	(389.00)
Vale Gds Jan 20 Invoice 2827	(273.00)
Church Jan 20 invoice 2828	(291.00)
	(5,270.64)

Receipts £0

Balances : Nat West Current: **£12,176.93** Nat West QE2: **£0**

Skipton Building Society: **£21,742.69**

Martin Highton confirmed and presented a cheque totaling £11,000 the outstanding Bridging Loan debt from the Trustees of QEII Playing Fields. This will be paid into the Whalley Parish Council Nat West Current account.

1595/20 Clerks Report

The Clerks Report for February 2020 was accepted and noted the further Finance Training she had received by LALA in February 2020.

1596/20 The Council Approved the date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council would take place on **Thursday 19 March 2020.**

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____