

WHALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19 February 2021 at 7.30pm held
remotely via zoom**



Present: Councillor M Highton(Chairman)
Councillor J Brown (Vice Chairman)
Councillor C Ball
Councillor D Sleight
Councillor P Brown (part attendance)
Councillor G Smith
Councillor C Allen
Councillor T Whistlecraft

Apologies: Councillor J Threlfall

In Attendance: M Richardson – Clerk to Whalley Parish Council
Borough Councillors Ged Mirfin, David Berryman, Mark Hindle, Tom
Whitehead (resident)

1690/21 **to receive declaration of interests**

None.

1691/21 **to approve as correct the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on
Meeting held on 21 January 2021**

It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 21 January 2021 to include one amendment on the discussion with regard to the development of Queen Mary's and Bridge Terrace, Mitton Road. To be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

1692/21 **to receive minutes of other Committees**

Minutes of the Parish Council Planning Committee held on the 21 January 2021 were received.

1693/21 **to adjourn Meeting for a Period of Public Discussion**

Tom Whitehead (resident) reported that he had recently moved into the area and was seeking better fibre broadband connection as he was working from home. There are two types of fibre broadband.

- a) ULTRA fast broadband is where the infrastructure exists to connect fibre to the residential or business premises - **COMMUNITY FIBRE PARTNERSHIP**
- b) SUPER fast broadband is where the resident or business connects to a cabinet

In Whalley, there is a waiting list, as there is no capacity near Tom to connect to the cabinet. This is affecting many residents in Whalley that are moving into the area and is barrier to digital engagement, particularly those that are working from home.

BT provides the infrastructure and Tom said there are no plans to increase capacity at the boxes (option b). Consequently he was working from home and streaming through his mobile phone which wasn't sustainable.

He was seeking the views and support of the Parish Council to look at Community Ultra Fast Broadband (option a). BT as the infrastructure provider have launched a scheme to work with local communities that are experiencing connectivity problems to build a customised fibre solution to bring fibre broadband to homes and businesses.

It is provider and resident/business funded solution. BT contributes some of the costs and members of the community fund the rest. A joint financial bid is put together to meet the needs of residents/businesses. BT also advise on any grants you might be able to get to help pay for your part e.g. from local authorities or the Government.

Martin Highton stated that detail in the terms and conditions of OPTION A needs careful thought. This can lead to a financial liability on the resident of approximately £1500 debt if they fail to hook up to the requested system within 2 months `ABU of it being available. There was a threshold that must be passed in terms of 50% of residents in area must express an interest to move this forward. Martin Highton stated that it was already at 79% so this did indicate a growing need.

Commented [MR1]: Û C'XCVBNMBVC'~ZXCVBN'

Borough Councillor Ged Mirfin stated that Whalley had the best connectivity in the Ribble Valley and he was willing to discuss with Tom further about possible connectivity to the box (option b). Tom suggested that he put a briefing note together for the Clerk to circulate but he was seeking the support of the Parish Council to raise awareness of the initiative.

Borough Councillor Ged Mirfin stated COVID cases are declining but that people still had to adhere to the rules. A meeting of the Community Safety Partnership would take place on the 22 February 2021 and he hoped to get up to date crime figures for the area. Colin Hirst at Ribble Valley Council will not lead on CCTV and not Dilys Day. Lancashire Talking (a Police led online Forum for residents highlighted the three priority issues for Whalley residents as; ASB, Speeding and Dog Fouling. He had been busy putting pressure on Lancashire County Council regarding the potholes but did not resurfacing work had taken place – Moor Field, Abbey Fields – near the library).

Borough Councillor David Berryman stated that he was organizing a residents meeting regarding concerns over the Planning Application for Queen Mary's and Bridge Terrace on Mitton Road. He felt there are genuine concerns about the lack of affordability and traffic congestion/safety concerns. He noted a SPID had gone missing off Mitton Road and had approached County Councillor Atkinson to ascertain why and where it had gone?

Borough Councillor Mark Hindle stated that he had been approached by residents complaining of obstructive parking outside Escape Travel Agents on King Street. The inconsiderate parking meant pedestrians are pushed out into the road. As the parking is adjacent to a dropped paving it is difficult to enforce. He had contacted the PCSO who was looking into the matter.

He concluded that given the growing population of Whalley and pressures it was having on the infrastructure and society (re speeding/ASB) it was possible a good time to set up a Working Group of Parish and Borough Councillors to identify larger revenue or capital funded projects. In the past Clitheroe and Longridge had received significant funding and he felt it was now time for much needed investment in Whalley. The feeling was positive and Councillor Martin Highton suggested that this required a formal decision and should be an agenda item at the next meeting.

1694/20 **Reports from Councillors (Information Only)**

Councillor Dave Sleight Councillor Dave Sleight reported that the Burial Committee met on the 5th February. The Ground maintenance contract has been renewed. Abbey Garden Services are to begin the refurbishment of the footpaths damaged by the floods in 2020. Nine small ash-die-back trees are to be removed, as identified in the latest tree report. A grave digger has offered his services. He has supplied references and the Committee have decided on one trial grave. The charges for Cemetery services are to remain the same for next year.

The update of the Memorial Safety Policy is ongoing. Repairs of category 1 memorials, requiring immediate attention, have always required sensitive handling. The subcommittee is to meet further and discuss.

Councillor June Brown reported that a Grounds and Garden Meeting took place on the 4 February 2021. Key topics discussed included increasing the number of Christmas Tree Lights and burying the cables underground. The Bench Refurbishment Programme was making good progress. Work was continuing to replant Vale Gardens. She had attended a Parish Council Liaison Meeting and noted a very interesting and high impact project that will affect many communities in the Ribble Valley – Haweswater Aqueduct - a ten year programme and requested the slides be circulated to all the Parish Councillors. Thankfully this will have less impact on Whalley than Clitheroe and Waddington. The additional dog bin at end of Broad Lane was working well and she requested that a monthly toilet check needed undertaking. She concluded by thanking Martin Highton, Dave Sleight and the Clerk for their continued hard work during the restrictions. She noted that traders in Whalley are anxious about the proposed forthcoming Highway Improvements on King Street that are due to start in April when many of them will be returning to work. The timing was unfortunate. As a Trustee of Whalley Educational Foundation she reported that the planning permission had been refused to improve the community centre.

Councillor Gill Smith stated she attended the Whalley, Wiswell and Barrow Joint Burial Committee on the 5 February 2021 as an observer. She found it interesting and was looking forward to serving on this Committee.

Councillor Cliff Ball stated that no further progress had been made with the Almshouses Roof and the Church Yard Committee had not met due to shielding under COVID 19. He was still keen to ensure the Almshouses Roofing Project progressed.

Councillor Patrick Brown informed the meeting the Laybrothers Dormitory was now weatherproof and it would now be a decision for the Salford Diocese and or the Secretary of State to decide if further money should be spent on preserving the building. He suggested that with Bench Refurbishment Programme, that we should try and engage with the local primary school. He proposed asking the school children to produce a piece of poetry to be placed on the replacement bench on the River Calder. He clarified the barrier to the development of Whalley

Sports Community Park. Martin Highton stated Stephen Barker needed to produce a report and had not. Patrick had received concerns from users of the Clubhouse regarding the increasing unlikelihood of new premises coming to fruition. Martin Highton stated that the land belongs to the Parish Council and a Formal Decision had been taken on to agree that upon early Surrender of the Lease it would revert back to the Parish Council. Currently the lease has only 21 years left and no external funding body will invest in the project with such a short leasehold term.

Councillor Martin Highton reported that he Chaired the Parish Council Liaison Meeting and said he would circulate the slides on the Haweswater Aqueduct Scheme. It was a huge engineering project that involved tunnelling under Waddington and Bowland Fell. He had been contacted by Read and Simonstone Parish Council who reported they are unable to get a grit bin refilled by Lancashire County Council. He had contacted Stately Lighting to get price for increasing the number of tree lights and removing the fixtures on the lamp standard at the bottom of Accrington Road. He noted that we still awaited removal of the Horst Chestnut Tree. Wind damage to a tree in the Church Yard had brought guttering down in the Allotments and Abbey Gardening would repair the damage. He had a complaint from a trader about a mobile Pizza Van visiting Whalley. He had read and had for circulation the recent Government Report on Flooding for circulation.

Councillor Caroline Allen had received a complaint from a resident in Painter Wood but this was the responsibility of Billington Parish Council. She expressed support for setting up a working group to look at larger investment projects in Whalley. As a parent of young child, she stated refurbishment of the playground near the Primary School would be very much welcomed. The basket had been missing for many months and it was well used play; area particularly in lockdown.

1695/21 **To review and appoint an Internal Auditor for Financial Year Audit 2020/21**

The Councillors approved a report to appoint Alan Rogers as the internal auditor for the Financial Year Audit 2020/21. This work will be undertaken in financial year 2021/22.

1696/21 **To review and update Whalley Parish Council Asset Register Prior to the 2020/21 External Audit**

The value of the asset register in 2019/20 was £181,662. The Parish Council resolved to update the Asset Register in terms of valuation as follows for 2020/21 £186,330 (to include King Street Self Watering Planters – purchased 2020 – value £903, Christmas Lights – purchased 2020 – value £2465

QE2 Noticeboard – purchased 2020 – value £1300).

A document was circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed that from the inventory:

- 8 Wayside seats be deleted from the inventory – not known or in existence
- 28 Park Benches are in the Council's Legal Ownership
- 2 Benches to be insured to a value of £748 (Gill Taylor and George Hardman Memorial Benches)
- 1 gate and fences – no longer in existence and no records – to delete
- 3 Noticeboards – no longer in existence – delete

- Update from 1 to 2 Information Boards – 1 on Vale Gardens and 1 on Whalley Railway Station
- Add the following to the inventory
- King Street Self Watering Planters – purchased 2020 – value £903
- Christmas Lights – purchased 2020 – value £2465
- QE2 Noticeboard – purchased 2020 – value £1300

1697/21 **To review and approve the Risk Assessment Register prior to the 2020/21 External Audit**

This updated document was circulated prior to the meeting. The Parish Council resolved to accept the updated Risk Assessment Register 2020/21.

1698/21 **To agree a course of action regarding the Accrington Road Development to try and ensure a Community Car Park is included in the Proposed Development**

The Parish Council wrote to McCarthy Stone following agreed action points at the January 2021 meeting. On the 5 February 2021 Chris Mill from the organisation replied stating:

'I am further advised that those discussions suggested that the car park was deemed to be no longer required as the town had benefitted from other recent upgrades elsewhere since.'

The Parish Council expressed concerns about when and whom the Developer had obtained this impression from?

It was agreed that the Parish Council should write to the Chief Executive/Head of Planning and Leader of Ribble Valley Borough to impress upon them the need for community car park. Should this not be possible with this development then, the Borough Council must look to buying land using the Compulsory Purchase Order process to ensure this community asset is delivered. In the past, the Borough Council has expressed reservation about managing another car park facility. It was resolved that Whalley Parish Council would operate such a facility should the Borough Council not wish to do so. Patrick Brown stated that the land identified for development may have some Archaeological ruins that maybe of interest to the LCC Archaeological Service.

1699/21 **To discuss and agree a formal response to the Strategic Outline Business Case to reinstate a regular passenger service along the Ribble Valley Line**

Documents produced by Stantec (consultant appointed to carry out the study) were circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed that the Parish Council welcomed the development. Whalley Parish Council had consulted members of Ribble Valley Rail, who expressed support for socio-economic reasons. The Parish Council was in favour of extending the passenger service beyond Clitheroe to Hellifield. However, the line was closed in September, 1962) due to lack of use; and questioned what had changed so this would not be the case now?. This development should be part of an overall transport plan for the Ribble Valley - new housing and industrial parks at Chatburn, Gisburn and Hellifield; connections to Skipton, Leeds, Settle and Carlisle; direct services from Hellifield to Preston.

1700/21 **To respond to Lancashire County Council's proposal to Revoke and Impose a 40mph Speed Limit on Clitheroe Road (ORDER 202)**

It was agreed that given the increasing volume of road traffic and speeding issues along this stretch of road, the Parish Council would prefer the stated section of road in Order 202 to be a 30mph speed limit NOT 40 mph.

1701/21 **To consider and determine whether to seek reassessment of Whalley Parish with regard to Lancashire Road Safety Partnership Speed Risk Assessment**

It was agreed that in the absence of John Threlfall this item should be considered at the March 2021 Parish Council meeting.

1702/21 **Parish Councillor Gill Smith was appointed to the Whalley, Wiswell and Barrow Joint Burial Committee**

1703/21 **To authorise Accounts, Payments, Receipts and Balances for February 2021**

Whalley Parish Council		Cash Book	FEBRUAR 2021			
Chq No.	Payee / Payer	Description	NW Curr	NW QE2	Skipton	Total
			£	£	£	£
DD	Easyweb	Website Maintenance	(27.60)			(27.60)
3575	M. Richardson	Salary	(753.35)			(753.35)
3576	M. Richardson	Home office	(43.33)			(43.33)
3576	M. Richardson	Internet	(10.00)			(10.00)
3577	M. Richardson	mileage 56 @0.65	(36.40)			(36.40)
3576	M. Richardson	Mobile rental	(5.00)			(5.00)
3578	Abbey Gardening Services Ltd	Invoice 3092 Whalley Church Dec 2020	(291.00)			(291.00)
3579	Abbey Gardening Services Ltd	Invoice 3094 Vale Gardens Dec 2020	(273.00)			(273.00)
3580	Abbey Gardening Services Ltd	Invoice 3100 Vale Gardens Jan 2021	(273.00)			(273.00)
3581	Abbey Gardening Services Ltd	Invoice 3098 Whalley Church Jan 2021	(291.00)			(291.00)
3582	LALC	Invoice no 2273 Annual Subscription 21/22	(601.20)			(601.20)
3583	Parish & Town Council Training Lancashire	Councillor workshop x2 Modules 1 & 2	(120.00)			(120.00)
3584	EON	Vale Gardens Electricity	(4.31)			(4.31)
3585	Whalley In Bloom	S137 Grant 2020/21	(1,000.00)			(1,000.00)
3586	Whalley Table Tennis Club	S137 Grant 2020/21	(500.00)			(500.00)
3587	Whalley and District Lions	S137 Grant 2020/21	(521.35)			(521.35)
3588	Ribble Valley Rail	S137 Grant 2020/21	(100.00)			(100.00)
3589	Whalley Scout and Guide Group	S137 Grant 2020/21	(825.00)			(825.00)

	Movement in Month		(5,675.54)	0.00	0.00	(5,675.54)
	Cash Book Balance at START of Month		43,114.79	0.00	22,977.40	66,092.19
	Cash Book Balance at END of Month		37,439.25	0.00	22,977.40	60,416.65

Balances: Nat West Current: £43114.79. QE2 Nat West £0 Skipton £22977.40.

1704/21 **Clerks Report for February 2021**

The Parish Council resolved to accept the Clerks report. It was noted that a VAT Reclaim had been submitted to HMRC totaling £2293.

1705/21 **The Council Approved the date of the next meeting Thursday 18 February 2021**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on **Thursday 18 March 2021**.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____