

**WHALLEY PARISH COUNCIL**



**Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 15 July 2021**  
**Calder Room, 7.30pm Whalley Old Grammar School &**  
**held remotely via zoom**

**Present:** Councillor M Highton(Chairman)  
Councillor J Brown (Vice Chairman)  
Councillor J Threlfall  
Councillor D Sleight  
Councillor G Smith  
Councillor C Ball  
Councillor C Allen

**In Attendance:** M Richardson – Clerk to Whalley Parish Council  
Borough/County Councillor Ged Mirfin, Tony Brown and Paul White

**Remote Attendance:** Borough Councillors D Berryman

**Apologies:** Parish Councilors' P Brown & T Whistlecraft

1748/21 **to receive declaration of interests**

None

1749/21 **to approve as correct the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Meeting held on 20 May 2021**

It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 20 May 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman. The Meeting scheduled for June 2021 was cancelled due to rising COVID infection rates locally.

1750/21 **to receive minutes of other Committees**

Draft Minutes of Whalley Parish Council AGM 20 May 2021

Minutes of the Parish Council Planning Committee held on the 20 May 2021.

Notes of Planning Decisions made by Whalley Parish Council Planning Committee in June 2021

1751/21 **to adjourn Meeting for a Period of Public Discussion**

Tony Brown (resident) congratulated Whalley in Bloom for the spectacular job being undertaken by the volunteer group in preparation for the competition.

He noted concerns about the way Benny's Bar was being run and spoke about the night of the England V Denmark match. He stated at least 60 people were outside the premises drinking, some stood in the road with no social distancing. There was no door supervisor at approximately 11.30pm. Residents in Vale House stated it was like Blackpool. There are also ongoing problems with taxis from Blackburn and Hyndburn using Accrington Road and King Street as illegal taxi ranks. The Chair stated that this information would be considered fully at item 8 on the agenda.

Paul White stated that some trains at Whalley Railway Station were being cancelled in the afternoon due to shortage of drivers. The Station flower beds were now planted up for the judging of Whalley Bloom. He noted an increase in the use of motorbikes on the cut through on Abbots Croft and The Sands.

County Councillor Ged Mirfin stated that a new Safer Lancashire Fund is being created by the Police and Crime Commissioner that would allow Parish Council's to apply for capital funding. Given the ongoing ASB in Whalley he suggested that this could be a funding source to improve the CCTV coverage in Whalley.

Martin Highton confirmed that this was helpful, however, prosecutions from CCTV footage by the Police and Borough Council in the Ribble Valley was virtually nonexistent. Unless the footage is used to prosecute it will be more akin to a 'toothless tiger.'

Councillor Mirfin noted that Whalley Cricket Club concerns over ASB and young people. This has resulted in them offering to contribute to the capital cost of purchasing 2 CCTV cameras to monitor the QE2 Playing Fields.

He noted the headlines of the Clitheroe Advertiser regarding the ASB at Whalley Abbey. This is a pilot project and he stated that although it was able to engage with young people under 14 years of age it had failed to engage with the older teenagers.

Cliff Ball stated that the Council needed to be mindful of the fact this project would not solve problems overnight. The aim in engaging with the younger teenagers is that when they reach 15,16,17 years old they would be less likely to cause ASB and criminal damage in the area.

Councillor Ged Mirfin stated that Lancashire Road Safety Partnership was being reviewed as the countywide mechanism to tackle speeding and road accidents/fatalities. He added a report on Review of Litter Bins collections across the Borough was due to take be presented in a report to Community Services Committee.

1752/21      **Reports from Councillors (Information Only)**

Councillor Gill Smith stated the hedges on Station Road was overgrown and pushing pedestrians into main road. She noted that in Springwood, cyclists are creating safety issues for pedestrians on foot. As a member of the Barrow, Wiswell and Whalley Joint Burial Committee she circulated the Pictorial Guide for the cemetery. The images were created by local artist Sam Rudd. This was part of a wider package of initiatives to make the grounds more accessible.

Councillor Dave Sleight (Chair) Barrow, Wiswell and Whalley stated there was no resolution to recent case of a Grant Transfer because of family members failing to agree. He stated that two quotes had been obtained to deal with Ash Die Back. He noted that it was difficult to walk on the footpaths up Accrington Road due to vegetation growth.

Councillor John Threlfall reported he had been involved in getting the Pictorial Guide published. He noted the recent resident concerns over the access ramp at Whalley Wine Shop. He stated that the overgrown hedges on Mitton Road had been raised in the past by the Parish Council. It had been taken off the LCC planned maintenance programme. Due to the nesting season for birds many hedges were not being cut back until September. The Clerk agreed to put in a request for a hedge to be cut back.

Councillor Caroline Allen noted that a significant amount of good work had taken place on the playground equipment on Proctors Field. As a user of the facility, she stated Ribble Valley Borough Council should be congratulated for the work. She noted the increasing problems with motorbikes and spoke of litter in Vale Gardens from late night drinking.

Councillor June Brown reported the Grounds and Garden Committee had met on the 8 June 2021. The site visit to Vale Gardens as part of the meeting resulted in work to the fascia boards being carried out by Ribble Valley Borough Council. She thanked Alan Coar at the Borough Council. She stated that the Parish Council will plant an Oak Tree in Autumn in preparation for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. She thanked the Whalley in Bloom Group for the tremendous work and reported that she had been invited to Judgement Day that was scheduled on Friday 23 July 2021. She hoped that Lancashire County Council would clean the signage and it was agreed the Lengthsman should clean the Parish owned signs in the centre in preparation for the competition.

She went onto discuss problems from noise at the Lancashire County Council Depot on Rhyddings Lane at approximately 5am in the morning. This had been reported to the Depot and Ribble Valley Noise Abatement Officer. It had been agreed no work would start until 7am. The exception to this would be in time of snow/ice when gritters are on call 24 hours.

Councillor Martin Highton stated that at the Parish Liaison Meeting held in June 2021 a presentation was made by the new Chief Constable and Inspector Andy Ainsworth. This highlighted the structure of the East Division and the numbers of allocated staff. He noted that a Working Group had been set up to address the growing problem of dog thefts.

He reported that Lancashire County Council had quoted £100 for the cost of carrying out the Lighting Column Testing. This will allow the Christmas Lights to be displayed safely. He noted that the crossing at Monks Cross was inadequate and suggested that County Councillor Mirfin seeks advice as to whether it is possible to have a safer crossing point.

He stated he would speak to Ark Limited about sourcing iron bench ends to continue the refurbishment programme. He noted a Fun Day had been planned at the QE2 on the 4 August 2021 for families involved in the Youth Engagement Project hosted at Whalley Abbey.

Councillor Cliff Ball stated that as Chair of the Adam Cottam Almshouses an Audit of the Accounts had been carried out and this had been submitted to the Charity Commission. It had cost £400.

He was seeking 3 quotes for the re-roofing of Almshouses and planned to discuss with Borough Councillor Ged Mirfin about possible funding options.

The Churchyard Committee had not met but the Clerk had requested Brent Stephenson to carry out a safety inspection. She had not received any feedback and agreed to chase.

Cliff went onto outline timescales for Celebration of Queens Jubilee. Platinum Whalley and he hoped to start work in September 2021. Whalley Lions could lead on this project with the Parish Council supporting or visa versa.

1753/21 **To consider and approve a timescale for a future Newsletter**

The Parish Council agreed that a Parish Newsletter should be produced with aim of delivering to residents from October 2021 onwards. The Clerk circulated a previous edition and suggested list of ideas for articles. Councillors' Allen and Smith volunteered to help put the newsletter together.

1754//21 **To consider whether to request a Licensing Review Hearing regarding Benny's Bar, Accrington Road, Whalley.**

The Parish Council agreed, following the persistent complaints, to request a Licensing Review Hearing for Benny's Bar. The Clerk to action.

1755/21 **To discuss and determine a Parish Council Response to the Parliamentary Boundary Commission**

The Parliamentary Boundary Commission for England 2023 has proposed the reconfiguration that will affect Whalley. It means all District Council wards except Whalley Nethertown will be incorporated into a Hyndburn Constituency.

Whalley Parish Council resolved to oppose this proposal. As a service centre and for historical reasons, Whalley as a rural Parish has always looked towards Clitheroe and Ribble Valley not Accrington. The Clerk was instructed to put together a draft formal letter of opposition.

1756/21 **To authorise Accounts, Payments, Receipts and Balances for June2021**

	NW Curr £	NW QE2 £	Skipton £	Total £
Website maintenance	(27.60)			(27.60)
Salary	(768.50)			(768.50)
Home office	(43.33)			(43.33)
Internet	(10.00)			(10.00)
mileage 36 x 0.45	(16.20)			(16.20)
Mobile rental	(5.00)			(5.00)
Invoice 0858Christmas Tree	(5,448.00)			(5,448.00)
Electricals				
Vale GDs Electricity	(8.97)			(8.97)
Room Hire May 2021	(15.00)			(15.00)
JM1732				
Employers Contri MAY AND JUNE 2021 £4.35X2	(8.70)			(8.70)
	<b>(6,351.30)</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>(6,351.30)</b>

**Balances:** Nat West Current: £ 88454.26 QE2 Nat West £0 Skipton £22977.40

1757/21 **To authorise Accounts, Payments, Receipts and Balances for July 2021**

Website maintenance	(27.60)			(27.60)
Salary	(768.50)			(768.50)
Home office	(43.33)			(43.33)
Internet	(10.00)			(10.00)
mileage 28 Miles x 0.45	(12.60)			(12.60)
Mobile rental	(5.00)			(5.00)
Vale Gardens	(8.67)			(8.67)
JM1732	(15.00)			(15.00)
JM1743	(10.00)			(10.00)
	(62.36)			(62.36)
	(10.98)			(10.98)
Vle Gardens May 2021 + Plants Invoice 3212	(341.00)			(341.00)
Whalley Church May invoice 3213	(291.00)			(291.00)
	<b>(1,606.04)</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>(1,606.04)</b>

**Balances:** Nat West Current: £ 82102.96 QE2 Nat West £0 Skipton £22977.40.

1758/21 **Clerks Report for July 2021**

The Parish Council resolved to accept the Clerks report.

1759/21 **The Council Approved the date of the next meeting Thursday 19 August 2021**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on **Thursday 19 August 2021**.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_