

WHALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 16 January 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

Apologies: Councillor J Threlfall

In Attendance: M Richardson – Clerk to Whalley Parish Council
Members of the public (9) Including Borough Councillors G Mirfin D Berryman

1572/20 to receive declaration of interests

None.

1573/20 to approve as correct the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Meeting held on 21 November 2019

It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21 November 2019 be approved as a correct record.

1574/20 receive minutes of other Committees

The minutes were received of the:

- Planning Committee meeting held on 21 November 2019

1575/20 to adjourn the meeting for a period of public discussion

Chairman Martin Highton wished everyone a happy New Year and thanked Borough Councillor Ged Mirfin for arranging for Sergeant Kevin Day and PCSO Caroline Pemberton from the Police to attend the meeting. This follows ongoing concerns about ASB in Whalley; both from young people and the nighttime economy.

Sergeant Day thanked the Council for an opportunity to attend and gave a brief outline of his experience in community policing. He stated that a key challenge of Policing the Ribble Valley was the geographical coverage. He explained that although there had been a lot of press coverage nationally on the additional resources being alloted to Policing this would not be felt on the ground for approximately another 12-18 months.

He stated that Policing in Ribble Valley as a 'rural area' was different from urban centers such as Burnley or Blackburn. In the urban areas they had two teams of police officers; First response teams dealt with 999 calls and Neighbourhood Policing Teams non emergency calls. In Ribble Valley they had one team of Hybrid Officers that dealt with both 999 calls and Community Policing. The Ribble Valley Area had been divided into 4 areas. The Police Constable for Whalley was Jo Dolan supported by PCSO Caroline Pemberston until Katie Fergusosn returned from maternity leave. Consequently, Ribble Valley Police often relied on back up from Colne or Blackburn and this could impact on response times.

A resident spoke about the spiralling problem of drug dealing taking place in Whalley on the streets and in the pubs. Some ASB issues were taking place due to young people travelling into Whalley – it had become a destination place. Recent criminal damage at Whalley Abbey Gate House was an example of this. Another resident questioned the Police about prosecutions and whether the individuals are residents of Whalley or are travelling into the area.

The Police reiterated the importance of reporting and everyone concurred it was important. Both Parish and Borough Councillors have consistently asked residents to report but the under-resourcing and lack of response means residents just give up. It therefore becomes a 'chicken and egg situation.' Although the data may suggest the problem is not 'severe, but it could be due to under reporting. It also became clear that Ribble Valley Borough Council are NOT sharing information with the Police particularly relating to ASB arising from Licensed premises and this was a matter for these organisations to address.

The Parish Council will put further communication out on their website and the imminent newsletter about the importance of reporting. Another discussion took place about the use of CCTV to successfully prosecute. The quality of images from CCTV footage and conflicting reports from the Police and John Heap at Ribble Valley Council about its operational status has just muddied the waters. Requests for an additional CCTV cameras at Whalley Railway Station where people come in and out of the area would be really useful and Ged Mirfin wants to look at the S106 monies to fund this.

Again Councillor Mirfin stated that there are a variety of tools at the disposal of the Police and Borough Council to try and manage the ASB problem effectively including Public Protection Orders and Reviewing the Licenses of premises that are hot spots of ASB. A member of the public said the residents should be encouraged by the persistent efforts of Ged Mirfin and Parish Council to get action on the ground. A member of the public suggested that posters should be put up by the Police in Licensed Premises, public and community buildings about the importance of reporting.

Councillor David Berryman is trying to resurrect 'Friends of Whalley Moor' and is in contact with David Hewitt at Ribble Valley Council to look at the better management of the area and further tree planting. The area is behind Calderstones Housing Estate.

Paul White reported that the ticket machine on Whalley Railway Station was now working. The privately owned car park that commuters used had NOT been fenced off but the Northern Rail Penalty Notice had been removed. Tony Brown stated that contractors Roy Cattermole had felled 8 Lombardi Poplars at Vale Gardens and had done a fabulous job. He went onto state that

there was a continue lack of parking enforcement. Know traders were now flouting parking restrictions and using spaces all day. Cllr June Brown said she had raised this John Heap but also suggested we could include this in the letter to LCC County Councillor Albert Atkinson.

1576/20 Councillor Update

Cliff Ball as Chariman of Adam Cottam Almshouses stated work has commenced on the refurbishment of No. 36 Station Road. The resident moved out on Monday 6th January into accommodation provided by RVBC Housing. The contractor took possession on Tuesday 7th January and immediately started work. The studded wall to the bathroom has been removed as has the stone wall dividing the utility area from the kitchen. The work so far has revealed previous repairs which led to the damp/condensation problems; water was getting behind the shower resulting in the stonework being permanently wet. The contractor has suggested that the kitchen is moved over to the left of the entrance; this will leave a larger area for the living room. At present it seems probable that this suggestion will be adopted.

The Churchyard Committee had not met, but outstanding action was required following the assessment of memorials by Brent Stephenson in early December. The Church Warden asked if the paths could be bati-cleaned before Christmas; the request was passed on to Jordan but it is not sure if the work was carried out. Breda Murphy's. Parking on the pavement causing obstruction remains a problem; Cllr Threlfall has passed this on to the local Police. Railway Bridge has been struck twice with hay loaded on trailers resulting in piles of hay being left on the road. Local Police informed.

Councillor June Brown reported she had received resident reports of tractors being overloaded and shed the loads on Mitton Road. As Chairman of Grounds and Garden Committee she reported the successful removal of the Lombardi Poplars and thanks Cllr John Threlfall for his work with bus companies and highway authority that made the operation run smoothly. She had attended the Almshouses Meetign (see Cliff Ball's report above).

She highlighted the success of Whalley Pickwick Afternoon on the 1st December 2019. She said it was a big success and she felt that more family orientated than of previous years. She attended the Carol Service at St Lukes Calderstones and asked if the Clerk would write a letter of thanks to John Rowbotham. She had also attended an enjoyable Coffee Morning hosted by Whalley in Bloom. She concluded by stating Whalley was a great place to live and much social capital existed which was a huge asset to the area.

Patrick Brown reaffirmed the comments on Whalley Pickwick Afternoon. He reported the lights on the MUGA did not work for individuals only formal organized events . Reports had been taken about the amount of chewing gum outside Brady's nightclub that had been reported to Ribble Valley Council. A new Librarian had been appointed for Whalley and she planned on attending the next History Society meeting. He had also been invited to serve on Historic England/Salford Diocese joint funded project for a Dormitory Project in Whalley Abbey grounds.

Dave Sleight stated that as Chariman of Whalley, Wisewell and Barrow Joint Burial Committee tree work was due to take place as a result of tree report that took place in August 2019. This

included felling of 2 trees in the memorial garden that had Ash Dieback. The soil bank in the the memorial garden was infected with Mairs Tail. Repairs still needed to take place to memorials but they had experienced difficulties contacting the usual contractor that undertook this work.

Martin Highton stated he was onsite during the Lombardi Poplar removal the work ran smoothly. He stated the Pickwick afternoon was a success and the weather meant there was a good turnout. He stated that the Council had been contacted by LCC regarding a Licence for the Christmas decorations. This had originally been carried out by LCC but was no longer the arrangement. The Parish Council had to supply details of the insurance policy. The Notice Board for the QE11 was ready for delivery and he had arranged a meeting with Jon Smith to identify a suitable location. It is anticipated the noticeboard will be installed in early February 2020.

1577/20 To consider and determine request for 2019-20 Funding under S137 Local Government Act – Grants to Voluntary Bodies

The Clerk outlined that six requests had been received for funding and Councillors had received copies of the applications prior to the meeting. A debate took place about the request for Funding from the Foundation for Ribble Valley Families. He stated that this could be a reoccurring submission and that he felt the Council had not really supported this type of funding request in previous years. Martin Highton suggested it did fall within the funding criteria and no organization could automatically assume year on year funding.

The Committee Approved the following Allocations:

- £600 - Whalley Juniors Football Club
- £500 - Whalley Table Tennis Club
- £100 - Ribble Valley Rail
- £1000 - Whalley in Bloom
- £500 - Smiley Explorers
- £500 - The Foundation for Ribble Valley Families

£3200 TOTAL

1578/20 To receive and update on the Multi Agency Approach to ASB and Young People

The Chairman requested that the Clerk considers funding from Police Commissioners Community Action Fund to tackle ASB and young people and report back to the next meeting.

1579/19 To receive and update on speeding initiatives

Councillor John Threlfall was absent from the meeting and had led on recent work. This would be progressed at the next meeting.

1580/20 **Authorisation of Accounts. Payments and Receipts and Balances for December 2019**

The Parish Council authorised the following payments, receipts and balances for December 2019:

Payments

Website Maintenance	(24.00)
Salary	(718.71)
Home office	(43.33)
Internet	(10.00)
Mobile rental	(5.00)
28 miles @ 0.65p mileage	(18.20)
Reimbursement Scanner	(54.04)
Electricity Vale Gds	(24.59)
0770 Xmas Lights 2019	(2,676.00)
Z3194 Church Tree Annual Inspection	(336.00)
JM1560 Nov Room Hire	(30.00)

(3,939.87)

Receipts £0

Balances : Nat West Current: **£22,149.38** Nat West QE2: **£0**

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

1581/20 **Authorisation of Accounts. Payments and Receipts and Balances for January 2020**

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

Payments

Website Maintenance	(27.60)
Salary	(718.71)
Home office	(43.33)
Internet	(10.00)
mileage - 70 miles @ 0.65p	(45.50)
mobile phone	(5.00)

Plaque Reimbursemt 200038718	(24.00)
Clerk Training - FINANCE	(25.00)
Electricity Vale Gds	(8.03)
Vale Gds Nov	(273.00)
Church Yd Nov 2803	(291.00)
Invoice 358ND Vale Gds	(4,560.00)
	(6,031.17)

Receipts £0

Balances : Nat West Current: **£18,325.50** Nat West QE2: **£0**

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

1581/20 **Clerks Report**

The Clerks Report for December 2019-January 2020 was accepted.

1582/20 **The Council Approved the date of the next meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council would take place on **Thursday 20 February 2020.**

The meeting closed at 9.13 pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____