

WHALLEY PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 18 July 2019 at 7.30pm in the Old Grammar School, Whalley.

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

In Attendance: M Richardson – Clerk to Whalley Parish Council
Members of the public (5)

1509/19 to receive declaration of interests

June Brown, Martin Highton as Trustees of the Queen Elizabeth Playing Fields Trust. Dave Sleight Trustee of Whalley Community Sports Park.

1510/19 to approve as correct the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Meeting held on 20 June 2019

It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council Annual Meeting held on 20 June 2019 be approved as a correct record.

1511/19 receive minutes of other Committees

The minutes were received of the:

- Planning Committee meeting held on 20 June 2019

1512/19 to adjourn the meeting for a period of public discussion

Councillor Martin Highton welcomed the David Berryman as the new Borough Councillor for Whalley Nethertown. Eric Ronnan presented to the Committee a sculpture provided during the recent Table Tennis twinning event in France. He commented that it was a successful exchange and that Whalley Tennis Club and Whalley Art Group had expressed interests in participating in future twinning events.

Borough Councillor Ged Mirfin reported that following the last Parish Council meeting he had attended a recent Community Safety Partnership Meeting and raised the concerns and petition of the Whalley Anti Speeding Group led by James Pay. The hot spots for speeding based on data presented at the last meeting included Mitton Road, Accrington Road, Wiswell Lane and the main roads of Billington and Langho. At the meeting he questioned whether any S106 monies remained following the housing developments in Whalley that could be used to help combat speeding. He reported that Planning had advised him some monetary allocation was still available to spend on anti-speeding initiatives based on trigger points set in the initial planning/development

application for Monks Cross/Sidings/QE2 and Broad Lane. He suggested that rumble strips or signage could be used to help reduce speed in the Mitton Road area.

Lancashire Constabulary gave a commitment for the Speeding Van to be used in the area in the next 2 weeks. Lancashire County Council gave an undertaking to reassess the 'bottleneck' of traffic on Mitton Road. A suggestion had also been made by Colin Hirst to write to the developer Taylor Wimpy and seek additional funding to contribute to the suggested initiatives.

The Community Safety Partnership also considered the growing problems of anti-social behaviour in Whalley. A multi-agency meeting took place in May 2019. Since this meeting further incidents had occurred but once again, residents were encouraged to report. The CSP suggested that the Police and Borough Council look at Community Protection Orders and Public Space Orders as tools to help more proactively manage the situation. Crime data presented at the meeting highlighted that Whalley had the 2nd worst ASB problem in the Ribble Valley for both adult and youths. The former tends to be focussed around Bradys wine bar and the latter the Sands, King Street and the Cloisters.

Whalley has seen a 32% increase in the last quarter for Burglary and Criminal Damage and in terms of violence and sexual offences it had the highest rate in the whole Borough. Discussion focussed on the need to report and it was suggested that key messages should be put in the next Parish Council newsletter. Martin Highton reiterated that lack of resources from the Police and Ribble Valley Borough Council meant that issues were not being effectively addressed.

Ged Mirfin reported that the recent planning application to build an additional 125 houses in Wiswell had resulted in a well-attended public meeting in Whalley. He stated that Highways had objected to the Planning application on the grounds of safety.

Tony Brown stated that ASB from the night-time economy continued to cause problems with the Police attending an incident outside the Swan Pub on King Street. He questioned whether any enforcement was taking place as regards on street parking and requested that action needs to be taken.

Paul White reported that criminal damage had taken place at Whalley Railway station to the planting area by youths. The youths became verbally aggressive when challenged. A new ticket machine is due to be installed at the station. Criminal damage had also been caused to the noticeboard on the station and he requested the Parish Council look into fixing it.

1513/19 **Councillor Update**

Councillor Martin Highton stated the Parish Council had met with the Director of Community Services John Heap Ribble Valley Borough Council and was given assurances that action would be taken to address concerns about overflowing litter bins, the maintenance of Whalley Bus Station toilets and Anti-Social Behaviour. He gave assurances that the CCTV cameras worked but the images of low quality due to the age of the stock. These will be replaced in the Capital Programme. Only 30 prosecutions had taken place using CCTV images for whole Borough which was surprisingly low.

Councillor Dave Sleight as Chair of the Whalley, Wiswell and Barrow Joint Burial Committee. As part of the memorial garden development the Committee was working with Thomas Rock to

obtain a price for a feature. A Working Party had been set up to carry out this task. The Committee was looking for additional garden maintenance contractors.

Councillor June Brown reported that she had attended the Almshouses Trust Meeting and thanked Cliff Ball for all his hard work and forward planning. She stated the Ribble Valley Borough Council meeting with John Heap was productive. She attended the Whalley in Bloom Garden Party on the 6 July at Brooks Lane. The aim of the event was to raise funds and it was great afternoon. The Group had their own band and Fred Holland previous Parish Council Clerk was part of the group. She raised concerns about customers of public houses frequently taking beer glasses outside. This was against Licensing Policy and most establishments provided beer gardens for customers wanting to drink outside. She requested that this is raised with Ribble Valley Borough Council Licensing and a generic letter is perhaps sent out to all Licensees. Finally she stated that she had received a complaint from a resident about the state of the footpath that can be accessed along Accrington Road. Mountain bikes are frequent users and have churned up the path. Complaints continued from residents about the excessive speed of tractors in Whalley. Lancashire County Council have completed the white lining north of King Street.

Cliff Ball reported that the Adam Cottam Almshouses Trust met and it has become necessary to undertake repairs to No 36 Station Road. This dwelling was refurbished some 10 years ago but it is now in need of comprehensive internal repair. Also, it is necessary to make some repairs to the roof; the condition of the roof was flagged up in the 2015 Quinquennial Report – a full re-roof will have to be undertaken as funds allow. The Trustees visited No 36 on Wednesday 17th July and the meeting which followed resolved to undertake some temporary repairs as soon as possible. It will not now be possible to resume transfers into the M&G Investment accounts; the Almshouses Association has been consulted regarding the possibility of increasing our loan and a visit is planned for Tuesday 23rd July. Following the last Churchyard Committee meeting work **has** been ongoing to remove dead wood from the trees along Church Lane. Further Tree works will take place in October following the Tree Inspection Report. He added that following the Armistice/Remembrance events of 2018 in addition to the £10,000 donated to the Royal British Legion ‘Whalley Remembers’ has now donated £700 to the Normandy Memorial Trust.

John Threlfall reported his attendance at Lancashire County Council event to consider the 4th Transport Plan 2012-2040. The key themes of the plan are access, health, environmental improvement to transport and asset management. He noted that 20% of health-related problems are due to genetics and 80% related to lifestyle choices.

1514/19 Proposed increase to the Parish Clerks Current Contracted Hours

The Council considered and unanimously approved a proposal to increase the Parish Clerks current contracted hours from 54.16 per month to 72.16 per month for salary purposes. The growth of Whalley population due to house building has brought with it a number of complex issues requiring more Clerk time.

1515/19 Consider a proposal to purchase a Public Noticeboard for the Queen Elizabeth Playing Fields following completion of works under the LEADER scheme.

The Councillors were advised that in order to make the final claim for monies spent under the LEADER project this would require the public display of the grant making body. The Councillors were provided with various options of noticeboards with corresponding prices. It was proposed and seconded by Cliff Ball and John Threlfall that the Parish Council purchase a suitable

noticeboard at a cost not exceeding £1600 from the Parish Noticeboard Company. The location of the noticeboard will be determined by Trustees of the Queen Elizabeth Playing Fields.

1516/19 Authorisation of Accounts. Payments and Receipts and Balances for July 2019

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

Payments	£
Website maintenance	(24.00)
Salary	(539.43)
Home office	(43.33)
Internet	(10.00)
mileage 82 x 0.65	(53.30)
Mobile rental	(5.00)
	<hr/>
	(675.06)

Balances : Nat West Current: £30776.06 Nat West QE2: 0
 Skipton Building Soicety: £21,742.69

1517/19 Clerks Report

The Clerks Report for July 2019 was accepted.

1518/19 Request from Ribble Valley Council for Local Ideas for projects “Towards and Action Future”

Ribble Valley Borough Council is part of a Pennine Partnership which has been awarded pilot status by Sports England to look a projects to increase the number of people in the area becoming active and remaining active. It seeks to look at activity in the broadest sense and across age ranges and abilities. A bid will be submitted in September 2019 by the Partnership made up of a number of projects to tackle local issues. Although no specific project ideas were forthcoming the Parish Council welcomed the initiative and spoke about social isolation be a growing concern of the ageing population. Projects that seek to address this would be priority in the Council’s view.

1519/19 To approve the date of the next meeting of the Parish Council as 7.30pm Thursday 15 August 2019

It was resolved to hold the next meeting of the Parish Council on **Thursday 15 August 2019**.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____