

WHALLEY PARISH COUNCIL



Draft Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19 July 2018 at 7.30pm in the Old Grammar School, Whalley.

Present: Councillor M Highton (Chairman)
Councillor J Brown (Vice Chairman)
Councillor M Fallon
Councillor C Ball
Councillor P Elson
Councillor D Sleight
Councillor L Rimmer
Councillor M Reid
Councillor J Threlfall

Apologies received: PCSO Katie Ferguson

In Attendance: M Richardson – Clerk to Whalley Parish Council
Members of the public – 4

1284/18 to receive declaration of interests

None.

1285/18 to approve as correct the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21 June 2018

It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21 June 2018 be approved as a correct record of the meeting with the amendment suggested re the hedge on Mitton Road.

1286/18 to adjourn the meeting for a period of public discussion (information only)

Paul White stated that the litter bin adjacent to the bench on Station Road had disappeared. The Clerk reported that she had contacted John Heap at Ribble Valley Council who said it had been moved because they had received complaints from residents about it smelling. The Borough has yet to decide where it will be relocated. The Parish Clerk asked he let the Parish Council know when a decision was made. The Parish Council noted that the public litter bins were often full by the weekend and asked the Clerk to find out how often they are emptied by the Borough Council.

Mike Wedgeworth was in attendance and explained he wanted to thank the Parish Council for the support during the Whalley in Bloom regional inspection. The national judging will take place on the 2nd August 2018. The Regional Inspection seemed to go well and the 24 volunteers had been working very hard during the hot weather to keep the displays looking fabulous. In preparation for the National Inspection he hoped the Chamber of Trade would remove some of the flags that had been put up for a shopping event. He felt these distracted from the floral displays.

The future development for Whalley in the National in Bloom Competition was very much about expanding and enhancing what has already been achieved. With this principle in mind, he stated that the Forest Garden at the rear of the Queen Elizabeth Playing Fields could be a huge asset to the village. Set up some years ago, the founding member was now moving out of the area. The area had been handed over to this voluntary group by the Trustees of QE2 with no formal arrangement in place. The voluntary group was diminishing with only one active volunteer and the area was overgrown but had lots of fruit trees and huge potential.

Whalley Primary School in support of the competition and their growing interest in ecology hope to plant some fruit trees on the grassed playing area at the top of The Sands. He also outlined plans for the School to seek use of the defunct allotments owned by Whalley Abbey if the Diocese was agreeable. Finally, Mike thanked Abbey Gardening for all their hard work in the build-up to the regional inspection.

The Whalley in Bloom Team invited all members of the Parish Council to attend the forthcoming meeting following the National Inspection.

Tony Brown stated that Eric Ronan was going back to Kosovo to revisit the families that were evacuated to Calderstones Hospital nearly 20 years ago following the war. Eric Ronan still remained in contact with one family that settled in Preston. Eric Ronan stated that he would like to take a letter on behalf of the Parish Council expressing our continued good wishes and remembering the kindness during a difficult time. The Parish Council supported the request and the Clerk would draft a suitable letter in preparation for his visit.

Tony Brown highlighted that residents had 10 days to go to make their views known to Ribble Valley Borough Council who were carrying out an informal consultation on the recent growth of licensed premises in Whalley. A survey had been drafted to seek the views of residents, businesses and consultees. He had taken paper copies of the survey and handed them out to residents that lived close to the bars and pubs. Wendy Clarkson had also been very active in trying to raise awareness with residents in the centre about the consultation.

1287/18 to receive minutes of other Committees

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of the 21 June 2018 were received.

The minutes of the Grounds and Garden Committee meeting of 18 March 2018 were received.

The minutes of the Churchyard Committee meeting of 3 July 2017 were received.

1288/18 To receive reports of Councillors' from other committees (information only)

Councillor Philip Elson circulated an Enforcement S154 of the Highways Action dated 16 October 2017 that was sent the resident with an overgrown hedge on Mitton Road. Lancashire County Council had sent this letter but Phil had only just been handed it by the resident. The Technical Officer that had sent the letter will double check with the Legal Department about whether the hedge was the responsibility of the County Council. The resident believed it was not her responsibility. Consequently, the hedge has remained uncut and now obscures two road signs. The annual inspection appeared to have taken place via Google Maps. Councillor John Threlfall added that it was not uncommon for Council's as a response to saving money on services.

Councillor John Threlfall had received some reports about misuse of the access road onto Broad Lane from the Monks Cross Estate. The agreement currently in force is that it should only be used by emergency services and contractors on the site. He went onto circulate a paper to report back on the Lancashire Association of Local Council's Hale Day Training module for new Parish Councillors. The course was well attended and informative being run by Bill Whittle. At the end of the session the participants were given a copy of the 2018 NALC publication, 'The Good Councillors Guide.' The second training module will take place on Saturday 21 July covering budget, precept and planning.

Councillor Rimmer reported that she had attend the Grounds and Gardens meeting on the 3 July 2018. The outstanding Audit of Parish Council owned benches still needed to be completed. She highlighted that circulation of paper-based information amongst the Councillors was taking too long and that sometimes she was receiving information that was 1 or 2 months out of date. The Parish Councillors agreed to make a concerted effort to move paperwork on more quickly. Finally, she stated that reports had been fed back to her about drug dealing near the toilets. The Clerk stated she would report this to PCSO Katie Ferguson.

Councillor Fallon stated that he attended the Grounds and Garden Meeting on the 3 July 2018. He circulated a photo of a very dilapidated Whalley Road Sign on the by-pass. The Parish Clerk was tasked to get Jordan Szabo to remove it and if possible renovate it.

Councillor Ball reported at the Almshouses No. 34 is now occupied and the new resident is delighted with her new home. It is planned to fit new uPVC windows to the front elevation of nos. 30 & 36 giving all three dwellings a similar appearance. Ribble Valley Borough Council Planning have been made aware of this work. He had also submitted an article on the Adam Cottam Almshouses to the Almshouse Association for inclusion in the Almshouses Gazette.

He had attended the Churchyard Committee meeting in June 2018 and had spoken to the architect who designed the handrails to the Church Office. This same design will be used for the new handrails to the East Gate and he will provide a drawing for planning purposes.

Other actions arising from the June meeting include clearing ivy from memorial stones and removing the litter bin from the West path – put on hold until after the Britain in Bloom visit. No action yet re: drainage to West path but this was imminent.

A meeting had been held of the Whalley Remembers on Tuesday 17 2018. More banners have been erected at the Old Grammar School, NHS MerseyCare and the 'Pig House on Clitheroe Road. Whalley Remembers stickers have been circulated with the Council newsletter covering some 2000 dwellings and businesses. The newsletter has been circulated to the Parish Clerks of adjoining Parishes – Mitton/Barrow/Bollington and WI swell inviting them to participate but no response received yet. Orders for enamel badges and printed mugs are still in the pipeline. Whalley Remembers was represented at the Great Mitton Hall Garden Open Day.

Finally, he highlighted concerns about vehicles parked on Mitton Road just before the access to Monk's Cross. These vehicles reduce sighting along Mitton Road and represent a hazard. This part of Mitton Road should have double yellow lines. John Threlfall reported that with the center White Line it was illegal to park in this location. The Clerk to report to PCSO Katie Ferguson.

Councillor Martin Highton reported that the Parish Council was no longer required to provide a bridging loan for the LEADER funding of the work carried out on the Queen Elizabeth Playing Fields. The Trustee was able to ensure finances were in place.

Mike Reid stated that as a member of the Village Hall Committee a new series of productions was scheduled to take place in September 2018.

June Brown had attended a Whalley Educational Foundation meeting and the continued community use of the Old Grammar School means that the organisation is now able to look at offering grants for schools for aspirations outside the national curriculum. The Calder Room used for Whalley Parish Council Meetings will be redecorated. A new volunteer had joined the organisation and will be able to help with the building maintenance tasks. The Trust will seek a Queens Award for Voluntary Service.

At the recent Grounds and Garden Committee meeting of particular positive note was a Thank you card received by the Council from George Hardman's family; of particular note was the memorial bench on Mitton Road. A thank you letter was also written to G Chadwick of Whalley Lions who stepped in at the last minute to mow the grass verges on George Street/Green Park just before the Whalley in Bloom Regional Judging Competition. Abbey Gardening had to be commended for doing a tremendous job with weeding, watering, planting and picking up litter to keep the area in tip top condition prior to the regional judging

1289/18 to authorise the accounts for payments, receipts and balances for June 2018

It was resolved to accept the accounts for payments and receipts for July 2018.

1290/18 Ribble Valley Council Informal Consultation Cumulative Impact Assessment

In April 2018 Ribble Valley Borough Council Licensing Committee agreed to assess whether there is sufficient evidence to support a Cumulative Impact Policy for the Whalley Ward. At the beginning of July 2018, the Council undertook an informal consultation exercise to answer this question. A series of eight questions are being asked of residents, businesses and consultees. This is available on the Borough Council website or can be printed off and filled in. Should there be sufficient evidence this will warrant a further consultation/study to change the policy. A further study would need to have evidence such as; local crime and disorder statistics, statistics on anti-social behavior offences, environmental health complaints; particularly litter or noise, resident and Councillor views to allow the Borough Council to make a change in Licensing Policy for Whalley ward.

June Brown felt that since the function had been moved from the Magistrates Court Service to the Local Authority the Licensing system had not been effective. The Magistrates tended to have a more holistic approach and would revoke licenses. The delicensing laws also mean that drinking now carries on into the early hours of the morning. The Parish Council acknowledged that the Borough Council had to follow prescriptive guidance but hoped that the opportunity would be taken to bring about a future change in Policy to vary or grant new licenses in Whalley.

1291/18 to consider a written request for A Donation from the Royal British Legion

A written request had been received for a donation. It was agreed that on this occasion the donation request be declined but that the Clerk writes back and suggests they apply for funding in the next round of grant funding that takes place in January 2019. Funds raised from Whalley Remembers will be donated to the British Legion. Cliff Ball to contact the local Legion Branch to discuss.

1292/18 **Clerks Report**

The Clerks Report for July 2018 was accepted. Criminal Damage was reported to the Police to one of the birch trees on King Street. It was agreed as part of the Clerks monthly report the publicly available Crime Statistics be provided.

1293/18 **Armistice Commemoration 2018**

Councillor Ball stated that thought needed to be given to the closing of King Street on Remembrance Sunday. With an increase in numbers attending this could be significant operation. He stated that he would discuss with John Heap.

He thanked Mandy Richardson for helping to source the printed mugs which will be given to each child in our Primary School, Barrow Primary School and Oakhill Juniors. The first mug was sent to the Duchy of Lancaster following his donation.

Whalley Remembers stickers had been sent out in nearly 2000 Parish Council newsletter. The planned Whalley Abbey event will be limited to a maximum of 250 people. Tickets would be available at a cost of £5 each and sold in the Post Office, Library and Schools. This would include a hot pot supper. Should there be a greater demand then an excess number of 150 could be accommodated by using Whalley Church of England Primary School and the use of outside caterers.

The £10,000 from Merseycare Trust was now running out. The £2000 donation from Whalley Parish Council was still in reserve. Ribble Valley Borough Council and the Co-operative had declined to make a donation to Whalley Remembers. The outcome of the Heritage Lottery Bid will be known at the end of July 2018.

Cliff reported that he had approached Thomas Rock in Clitheroe about obtaining a price to create permanent monument for the centenary. This would depend on the price of stone from a local quarry. How to fund payment for the monument was undecided with a possible suggestion that it could be via public subscription which was the way the original memorial was funded in 1919. The monument would have the Whalley Crest, Whalley Remembers Logo and a dedication to George Hardman.

Silent Soldiers will be placed around Whalley and it was agreed that where possible children from the schools should be involved. A book is being written to mark the occasion and 500 copies will be produced. Oakhill School are having a tea party to commemorate the occasion. Cliff requested that Whalley Remembers Facebook page link to be posted onto the Whalley Parish Council website.

1294/18 **Borough Councillors Report**

No Borough Councillors attended the meeting. Debate took place as to whether this should remain a standing item. Previously, this had been added as an agenda item out of courtesy but some Councillor felt the lack of attendance perhaps warranted the removal. This will be monitored.

1295/18 to consider and approve the date of the next meeting of the Parish Council as 7.30pm Thursday 16 August 2018

It was resolved to hold the next meeting of the Parish Council on Thursday 16 August 2018 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____