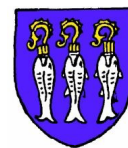


## WHALLEY PARISH COUNCIL



### Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 20 May 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 T Whistlecraft

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

**Remote Attendance:** Borough Councillors M Hindle and D Berryman, residents S Paramore, M Blane and P Robinson-Kerr.

Apologies: Parish Councilors' P Brown, C Allen

1737/21 **to receive declaration of interests**

None

1738/21 **to approve as correct the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Meeting held on 15 April 2021**

It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 15 April 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman. June Brown restated that the Parish Council was supportive of residents affected by the proliferation of licensed premises.

1739/21 **to receive minutes of other Committees**

Minutes of the Parish Council Planning Committee held on the 15 April 2021.

1740/21 **to adjourn Meeting for a Period of Public Discussion**

June Brown congratulated Borough Councillor Ged Mirfin for being successfully appointed s Lancashire County Councillor replacing Albert Atkinson.

Tony Brown member of the public requested that for the Platinum Jubilee, nationally there are plans to plant more trees. He requested that Whalley Parish Council plant a commemorative tree. It was agreed this would be formally considered at the next Grounds and Garden Meeting.

Paul White gave an update on the franchise that was held by Northern Rail. The franchise is managed by the Department of Transport and the new timetable has been released. There are no significant changes. Paul stated that the trains have been running on time but have been empty. The chartered train service will begin running on Saturday, Tuesday and Wednesday as lockdown eases. The Planting of the flower bed will take place over the next two weeks.

Borough Councillor David Berryman stated that there was a delay in installing new playground equipment at Calderstones Woodland Parks. The Planning Application on Queen Mary and Bridge Terrace on Mitton Road has been deferred until the 27 May 2021 for decision by Ribble Valley Borough Council Planning and Development Committee.

Three members of the Residents Action Group that attended the April 2021 meeting joined the meeting via zoom. They updated the Parish Council on developments since the last meeting in April 2021.

Sue Paramore stated that the Residents Action Group had held a meeting with the manager of the Aviary and answered a number of questions. She stated that the new manager had 19 years' experience in the licensing trade. She was aware of the problems when the establishment was called Brady's. The intention was to target a different clientele. There would be an age limit of 21 years old. All windows will be locked, shutters/curtains will be used to manage the noise. The entrance doors will remain closed, and customers will not access the building by the Fire door. The music system will be locked away and set at the appropriate level. A physical barrier will be placed at the front left to stop customers entering the back street area of Queen Street. Smokers will be encouraged to go to the end of Queens Street/Accrington Road to smoke.

The Resident Action Group plan to contact the Taxi Enforcement Officer Carl Rob at Ribble Valley Borough Council to manage the noise and nuisance that existed when Brady's was operational. The taxi pick up point that existed on Accrington Road did work and the residents would encourage this to be used again. The manager at the Aviary will have her phone linked to CCTV system to help monitor progress.

Melissa Blane stated that the owners of Rendezvous met representatives of the Residents Action Group on the 29 April 2021. Thirteen residents attended the meeting including the Enforcement Officer at Ribble Valley Licensing Jason Middleton. There will be a name change to the establishment 'Whalley Club' and during the week it will be open from 10am as a Sports Bar. The nightclub would operate Friday and Saturday; however, the age limit will be raised to 25 years old.

The beer garden is classed as Minor internal variation, but no music will be played, or alcohol served in this area. Melissa sent the Clerk photographs of outside area that she asked to be circulated to the Parish Councillors. Access to the outside seating area will only be allowed via a fire door once the customer has entered through the main doorway on Accrington Road.

The owner and residents agreed that the quality of the door security was important, and a new security group had been appointed. CCTV was operational both inside and outside the venue. The owner stated that if enough profit could be made during daytime hours, then it would not be necessary to have late nights during the week. Taxi noise and management of this was important. Jason Middleton at RVBC suggested arrangements should be reviewed after 3 months of being

operational. It was suggested that maybe the Pub Watch Scheme that existed in Whalley a number of years ago could be replicated if necessary.

Penelope Robinson-Kerr spoke about the progress in terms of using alleygating as a proactive tool to manage ASB. The Residents Group want to create an Alley Gating Working Group and seeks representation from the Police, RVBC, Whalley Parish Council and Residents. Martin Highton agreed to be the representative on the working group.

Jason Middleton was looking into the legal ownership of the land. Martin Highton stated that it is a Conservation Area and as such must comply with Planning Law. Mark Hindle has been appointed as the Chair of Ribble Valley Borough Council Health and Housing Committee. Mark reassured residents that he and all Borough Councillors looked to support and work with the Resident Action Group.

County Councillor Ged Mirfin thanked all voters that had supported him at the May election. In his role as a Borough Councillor, he reported that he recently attended a Community Safety Partnership Meeting. Theft of dogs has exploded over the past 2 years. He noted an incident at Whalley Abbey, and the Police attended. He hoped the new Police and Crime Commissioner A Snowden would attend the next CSP meeting. Unsurprisingly, domestic violence has risen nationally during COVIS 19. In Whalley there has been reported 28 incidents over 4 months. He asked that people be vigilant as many families were under extreme social-economic pressure.

As the newly appointed County Councillor he would be appointed to the following organisations: Lancashire Economic Partnership, Police and Crime Commissioners Panel and the Educational Committee.

1741/21      **Reports from Councillors (Information Only)**

Councillor Dave Sleight, Gill Smith,

Councillor John Threlfall reported that there had been Community Speed Survey on Mitton Road that was welcomed. He noted and reported a recent fly tipping incident. A Whalley, Wiswell and Barrow Joint Burial Committee meeting was scheduled for 21 May 2021.

Councillor Tracey Whisltecraft noted that a significant amount of tree work was taking place at Mersey Care NHS. Martin Highton stated that permission had been granted by Ribble Valley Borough Council. The Kosovo Commemorative Tree had not been removed. The Bark Park access road was being abused by a small number of residents in terms of parking.

Councillor Gill Smith reported back on the Councillor Training delivered by the Lancashire Association of Local Councils. As course attendees they felt that the content and delivery style was outdated. The video was specifically criticised for being inaudible and irrelevant due to it being very old. It was agreed that training is very important in encouraging new people and this should be fed back by the Clerk in a constructive manner.

Councillor Martin Highton stated that the electrics for the Christmas Tree had now been buried and that Abbey Gardening Services had been instructed to remove the bushes in the planting. A Freedom of Information Request had been received by the Parish Council regarding the land and usage on Helliicliffs. It was on behalf of a group of off-road cyclists. Martin had received a request by the Youth Hub at Whalley Abbey regarding the hosting of a Fun Day at the Queen Elizabeth Playing Fields in August.

He had been approached by Gillian Darbyshire regarding financial support for Ribble Valley Families. The Parish Council supported the organisation via S137 funding in 2019-20. No application had been submitted by the Group in 2020-21.

He reported a glass panel had been broken and required replacement. Anti-COVID vaccination stickers were continuing to be removed on the Bus Station. At the next Parish Council Liaison Meeting the new Lancashire Chief Constable will attend. He was still in the process of trying to gain cover for the June 2021 re clerking the meeting. He looked forward to the report that was due to go to the Housing and Health Committee regarding frequency of emptying the public litter bins.

Whalley in Bloom is due to celebrate its centenary and proposal had been received from the group to celebrate. This will be considered at the next Grounds and Garden Committee meeting.

Councillor Dave Sleight reported that the Registrar for the Whalley, Barrow & Wiswell Cemetery will almost certainly be leaving the area in the next few months. The decision of the Committee was to retain the services of the Registrar, who is doing an excellent job, and to review the situation during the next 6 months.

He also informed the Parish Council of an ongoing issue regarding Burial Grants. These allow the holders to bury their loved ones at the Cemetery. Problems can arise when the owner of a Burial Grant dies and the sole heir(s) to the Grant is unclear. The Will left by the deceased can make the transfer complicated. It is extremely important that the owner(s) of a Burial Grant is established in law.

Councillor Cliff Ball stated that as Chair of the Adam Cottam Almshouses due to the additional £15,000 grant funding received to refurbish number 36 Station Road, the annual income exceeded £25,000 and that this meant an Audit of the Accounts was required under the Charity Commission rules. He had received a cost for this work that was rather high £500 + VAT. He was seeking other quotes.

The Churchyard Committee had not yet met, but he had been asked by the Vicar about when the next Memorial Safety Inspection was due. The Clerk agreed to investigate. He noted that people had started to park on the pavement on Accrington Road pushing pedestrians into the road. He had received complaints from residents on George Street about youths misbehaving from the Abbey. This has been reported to the PCSO. Finally, he requested that the development of the Merseycare NHS site should include obtaining listed building status for the Chapel and Administrative building on the site.

Councillor June Brown congratulated Ged Mirfin for his recent election to the Lancashire County Councillor. She had been invited to a meeting on Saturday 22 May 2021 at Merserycare NHS Trust site on Mitton Road. A round table discussion was going to take place about the future use of the site. She agreed to report back to the next meeting.

1742/21      **To consider and approve the payment of Whalley Parish Council Insurance for 2021/22.**

The Parish Council agreed that the annual insurance for 2021/22 be renewed with BHIB at a cost £1032.44

1743//21 **To receive and approve the Internal Audit Report by AER Accountants for 2020- 21and note the Period for Exercise of Publish Rights and publication of Unaudited Annual Governance and Accountability Return**

The Parish Council approved the internal audit report by AER Accountants for 2020-21 and note that from Thursday 3 June 2021 – Wednesday 17 July 2021 Whalley Council will allow the Exercise of Public Rights and publication of Unaudited Annual Governance and Accountability Return.

has taken decisive action to try and bring about a change and improve enforcement in Whalley at

1744/21 **To receive, consider and approve S1 of Annual Government and Accountability Statement for 2021/22**

The Parish Council approved S1 of the Annual Government and Accountability Statement for 2020-21. This was signed and dated by the Chairman and Clerk at the meeting.

1745/21 **To receive, consider and approve S2 of Annual Government and Accountability Statement for 2021/22**

The Parish Council approved S2 of the Annual Government and Accountability Statement for 2020-21. The Accounting Statements for 2020-21 was signed and dated by the Chairman and Clerk at the meeting.

An Explanation of Variances and Bank Reconciliation Statement for 2020-21 was also circulated.

1746/21 **To authorise Accounts, Payments, Receipts and Balances for May 2021**

	NW Curr £	NW QE2 £	Skipton £	Total £
Website Maintenance	(27.60)			
Clerks Salary	(768.50)			
Home office	(43.33)			
Internet	(10.00)			
Mileage	(12.60)			
Mobile rental	(5.00)			
Insurance LCo00208-507850	(1,031.41)			(1,031.41)
Invoice 1050 WPC 2020-21	(250.00)			
Vale Gds Electricity	(8.65)			
Whalley Parish Church April 2021 Invoice 3181	(291.00)			
Church Yard Invoice 42OND felling chestnut	(2,040.00)			
Vale Gardens April 2021 Invoice 3180	(273.00)			
	<b>(4,761.09)</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>(1,031.41)</b>

**Balances:** Nat West Current: £ 93,215.35    QE2 Nat West £0                      Skipton £22977.40.

1747/21 **Clerks Report for May 2021**

The Parish Council resolved to accept the Clerks report.

1748/21 **The Council Approved the date of the next meeting Thursday 17 June 2021**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on **Thursday 17 June 2021.**

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

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