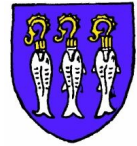


WHALLEY PARISH COUNCIL



Draft Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 16 November 2017 at 7.30pm in the Old Grammar School, Whalley.

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

Apologies: Councillor M Reid

In Attendance: M Richardson – Clerk to Whalley Parish Council
Members of the public – 2
Borough Councillor T Hill

1187/17 to receive declaration of interests

No declarations of interest were received.

1188/17 to approve as correct the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19th October 2017

It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19th October 2017 be approved as a correct record of the meeting.

1189/17 to approve as correct the Minutes of the Whalley Parish Council Precept Meeting held on the 2nd November 2017.

It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council Precept Meeting held on the 2nd November 2017 be approved as a correct record of the meeting.

1190/17 to adjourn the meeting for a period of public discussion (information only)

Tony Brown highlighted a number of road grates that are blocked with the onset of Autumn and Winter. This was particularly bad around the junction of Riddings Lane. He added that this highlights the ongoing need for public investment in drainage maintenance.

Tony Brown went onto express his sadness that a business on King Street – Fusspots - was due to close. He felt the poor trading figures for all small businesses on King Street had not been helped with Highway work that was carried out over the Summer months. This made it difficult for customers, residents and businesses to plan for the disruption it caused. A heated discussion took place between the Parish Councillors and Borough Councillor T Hill about the consistently poor communication from Lancashire County Council, Ribble Valley Council and United Utilities. The poor project planning had created a detrimental impact on the village centre. Councillor June Brown felt particularly let down by the Borough Councillors who did not fully engage with

those affected by the work. Borough Councillor Hill reiterated that he had tried to make efforts to keep constituents in the loop but acknowledged the level of frustration this had caused. He had advised businesses to seek advice from the Lancashire County Council about whether they to make a claim for loss of business.

The next phase of work would take place in February 2018 whereby the lay-bys would be installed and lamp posts moved. Councillor Hill stated he had not received any specific start dates.

Councillor Martin Highton reiterated the need to avoid the mistakes that took place over Summer and requested that key information needed to be circulated well in advance of the works taking place: this should include; proposed start date, proposed finish date, ensure that the Lancashire County Council or the sub contractor carrying out the work provides progress up dates and ensure that residents and businesses are informed about any possible delays.

1191/17 to receive minutes of other Committees

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of the 19th October 2017 were presented to the meeting.

1192/17 to discuss the budget set for 2018/19

Martin Highton reported that budget had now been set for 2018/19. The Parish Councillors had set the Precept for 2018/19 at £35,845. This included extra provision for 2018 Armistice Celebrations.

1193/17 Parish Council Vacancy – Co-option

An initial application had been received but withdrawn by John Threlfall. Councillor June Brown expressed her disappointment but requested that a letter be sent to the individual wishing them well in their other voluntary work that they were undertaking. Martin Highton stated the vacancy remained unfilled. Notices advertising the vacant post have been placed on the website and noticeboard.

1194/17 receive reports of Councillors from other committees (information only)

Councillor Highton reported that he had attended the Remembrance Service. He stated that Whalley Educational Foundation had written to officially thank Whalley Parish Council for the financial support to replace the central heating system at the Old Grammar School. A grant of £883 has been offered by the Football Foundation towards the purchase of new goals for the QEII however this still left a balance of 66% of the cost to be funded by the football club.

A LEADER grant of £63,812 has been offered to the QEII trust which covers 80% of the cost of completing the MUGA by installing goals, fencing and lighting and also creating a Green Gym. The Christmas lighting was due to installed and switched on week commencing 20 November 2017.

Councillor Fallon read in the Clitheroe Advertiser Read still held PACT meetings. He asked the Clerk find out if this was unique to Read? He questioned how should issues now got fed into the Neighbourhood Policing given the ongoing discussions about young people hanging around Whalley Abbey. This was creating problems for some residents.

Parking on the pavement near the bridge was forcing people to walk in the road and was unsatisfactory.

Finally, he noted that the pavement outside the De Lacy Arms entrance was defective and required reporting to Lancashire County Council highways.

Councillor Ball reported that estimates to re-roof and refurbish the Almshouses had now been collated and submitted to the Trust. Subject to confirmation of funding, a provisional start date of the 1 December 2017 has been set to start the works. Abbey Gardening would also carry out landscaping to the front of the houses.

He stated that he had received information from the (Vicar of Brierfield) ? that a poster had been displayed in Nelson library stating ‘ If you want somewhere quiet to go – visit Whalley Abbey.’ This was concerning given the problems that had been encountered in previous months around the Sands between residents and youths. Councillor Ball said that security around the ground of the Abbey was not adequate to deter young people from entering at the side or back of the premises.

He reported that attendance at the Remembrance Sunday was good. Three local churches had celebrated together and this had proved successful.

He updated progress on the 2018 Armistice plans stating the Chief Executive of MerseyCare had written to him and offered room hire at no charge to use in planning the event. Whalley Abbey had made the same gesture of goodwill. Cliff suggested that in the 2018 celebrations it would be appropriate for no sport to take place on the planned day. This would reflect the importance of the occasion.

Finally Councillor Ball questioned how does the Whalley community see area in 25 years? He referred to the increasing number of wine bars that seemed to be opening at the expense of standard local services such as post offices, florists etc.

Councillor Brown stated that a unanimous decision had been taken by the Trustees of the Old Grammar School to welcome the creation of a memorial bench for George Hardman but declined the request for it to be sited in the Remembrance square. Trustees felt that this could compromise safety of pre school children and would be difficult to monitor from a safeguarding perspective.

Councillors Brown held a site meeting with the Clerk and Lengthsman about preferred site for the installation of a new notice board. The dimensions of the proposed Oak noticeboard were too big for the preferred location on the bend into the entrance of Vale Gardens. Consequently it was agreed that the best way forward was to site the proposed new notice board at the existing site.

Councillor Brown reported Whalley in Bloom had been very successful winning 3 awards including a Gold for best Small Town. She had also attended the Remembrance Sunday Service and felt that it was a good service.

Councillor Brown circulated 3 identical letters that had been posted in centre of Whalley on the noticeboard outside the newsagents and at bus stops. The notices were similar to those posted previously on the village noticeboard and were critical of Freemasonry. It was requested that the Clerk pass the notices onto the Police for further investigation.

Councillor Elson stated he had also attended the Remembrance Service. The numbers attending this year had been very positive but suggested that PA system was of poor quality. He suggested that 2018 celebrations which are likely to attract bigger numbers required a better sound system.

Councillor Rimmer reported that overgrown hedge reported in May 2017 still needed attention and no update had been provided by LCC although she had requested it. She highlighted the problems of one elderly resident who was a carer for her disabled daughter. Outreach services were struggling to find the address to deliver critical care.. Signage does exist for Green Bank but it is easily obscured by parked cars because of its location. the easiest way to access the property was turning onto the back street of Jewellers Sarah Layton. Martin Highton suggested that the care providers needed alerting to this problem prior to all visits.

Councillor Sleight reported that work of the Joint Wiswell, Whalley and Barrow Burial Committee was progressing with beams installed and land being cleared near the brook. The intention is to create a memorial garden.

1195/17 to authorise the accounts for payments, receipts and balances for September 2017

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

1196/17 Clerks Report

The Clerk circulated a report of the correspondence, emails and circulation of reading material for information. The Council agreed to renew their annual membership to the Campaign to Protect Rural England. Steps are being taken to archive some of the Parish records at Lancashire Records Office to allow disposal of the filing cabinet stored in the office of the Old Grammar School.

1197/17 Request from Whalley in Bloom to site a waterbutt at the bus station

Whalley in Bloom had sent a written request to Whalley Parish Council in September 2017 to site a water butt at the bus station. This will assist with watering displays in the village. Whalley Parish Council was willing to support the request on the condition that Ribble Valley Borough Council are willing to allow the surface water to drain into the water butt. Councillor T Hill said he would chase up the formal response from the Borough Council.

1198/17 Noticeboard

An options paper was circulate prior to the meeting comparing the pro and cons of either an Oak or Aluminium anodised Notice Board. The Council agreed that the Aluminium anodised notice board was the preferred option in blue. There was preference for a notice board with legs but this would be dependent on the capacity of the existing site.

1199/17 Memorial Bench – George Hardman

Following feedback from Whalley Educational Foundation the Councillors agreed that a new hardwood bench should be purchased and located on Mitton Road. Councillor Ball requested that a letter be drafted and sent to Ida Hardman to see if she supported the plans.

1200/17 Borough Councillors' Report

In attendance was Borough Councillor T Hill who reported that he attended the November 2017 Parish Council Liaison Committee meeting. He noted that Ribble Valley has an ageing population. Despite people living longer this did not necessarily meant they are healthier. At the meeting Ribble Valley Dementia Action Alliance attended to raise awareness of about people affected by the illness and the support services available. A leaflet was circulated for distribution 'Living well with dementia in Ribble Valley.'

He went on to update the Parish Council on developments with Bellway Homes and stated that a site meeting had taken place with the Planning Department. Efforts were being made to encourage Bellway Homes to submit a formal planning application to propose a solution to the problem of surface water drainage from the area of the site nearest to the Sidings.

Bloor Homes have pulled out of the option to develop the rest of the Lawsonsteads site but CEG are optimistic a replacement developer will be found. Failure to build the attenuation ponds had resulted in Ribble Valley Council taking Redrow to the Magistrates court but this will only result in a nominal fine. Should another developer not be appointed Councillor Hill warned that the

proposed Boulevard Road would not be built. This would have the consequence of the link road to eastern bypass not being completed. It is understood that Lancashire County Council are still implementing a 50mph speed limit on the A671.

The growing night time economy of Whalley was causing tension for some residents and there was little redress. Police regarded this as a minor social issue and the Licensing Laws are biased in favour of the Applicants. This means it is very difficult for Councils to control developments or rescind Licences.

He stated that work on the Whalley Arms conversion to a Co-op continued and the plan was for the car park to be open by Christmas 2017.

Whalley Library is likely to open before Christmas 2017 and volunteers were being sought by Lancashire Council to help run it.

Councillor Hill reported that the Borough Council was in the process of revamping the Lengthsman Scheme. The aim was to simplify the process of re-claiming monies and increasing the scope of work that could be carried out by Parish Councils.

1201/17 to consider and approve the date of the next meeting of the Parish Council as Thursday 21st September 2017

It was resolved to hold the next meeting of the Parish Council on Thursday 18th January 2018 at 7.30pm at the Old Grammar School.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____