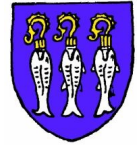


WHALLEY PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 17 October 2019 at 7.30pm in the Old Grammar School, Whalley.

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

In Attendance: M Richardson – Clerk to Whalley Parish Council
Members of the public (6) Including Borough Councillors G Mirfin

Apologies: Councillor D Sleight

1545/19 to receive declaration of interests

None

1546/19 to approve as correct the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Meeting held on 19 September 2019

It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19 September 2019 be approved as a correct record.

1547/19 receive minutes of other Committees

The minutes were received of the:

- Planning Committee meeting held on 19 September 2019
- Grounds and Garden Committee 30 July 2019

1548/19 to adjourn the meeting for a period of public discussion

Borough Councillor Ged Mirfin reported back on the meeting of the Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership held on the 17 October 2019. No progress had been made on road safety in relation to speeding problems in Whalley as regards input from Lancashire County Council. The Government had allocated extra resources to Police funding that will result in 3 additional Police Constables and 2 additional PCSOs for the whole of the Ribble Valley. The recent Crime Statistics confirm Whalley has the worst record in the whole of the Ribble Valley in terms of Violent Crime and Anti-Social behaviour in youth and adults. The Parish Council concurred that this has been a growing trend for at least 12-18 months.

A new Sergeant had been appointed Kevin Dyer but his details had not yet been uploaded to the website. He comes from Greater Manchester Police and his specialism is community policing. Despite several attempts to contact Inspector Winter and no reply it was suggested by the

Chairman the Clerk may approach Sergeant Dyer when his details become available and request that he attends a future meeting to discuss ongoing concerns regarding ASB and violent crime in young people and adults in Whalley.

A Ribble Valley Drugs Forum will be established and is due to meet in November/December 2019. It was not clear how the Forum would be constituted and how representatives are appointed. A Rural Crime Network Summit event is proposed in November. Posters highlighting prevention of shoplifting and lone working were also circulated and this will be displayed in the Parish Council noticeboard.

Paul White reported that the new ticket machine at Whalley Train Station was still not operational. The map had been repaired. Vandalism to the station was an ongoing concern but with Northern Rail facing possible bankruptcy the possibility of obtaining funding for CCTV seemed remote.

The Parish Clerk reported she had received a complaint from Whalley resident with a physical disability that was struggled to use Railway Station. The Parish Clerk spoke to P Eastham of Ribble Valley Rail and he reported as follows. All local stations are leased by Northern Railways from the owners Network Rail. Network Rail manage the station infrastructure including improvements such as improved access for disabled passengers, but these particular improvements are funded by the Department for Transport under a funded programme begun, in 2010.

The programme is progressing steadily and is intended to produce accessibility at all stations eventually. Local stations to have benefited recently from the funding are Salford Crescent, Hebden Bridge and Todmorden where new lifts have been or are being installed. Unfortunately, it seems that it is the busiest stations that are being tackled first, so Whalley will not be high priority at present. Any pressure and support from local authorities as well as from disabled passengers themselves to the Department for Transport (DOT) /Network Rail can only help prioritise their stations within the programme. The Parish Councillors agreed that a letter lobbying the DOT and Network Rail to improve accessibility should be written.

Tony Brown reported that the hedge had been cut back on Mitton Road and this was a positive result. He reported that there had been an increase in A board particularly around the Back of King Street. The Clerk undertook to contact Andy Glover at Ribble Valley Borough Council as they are the enforcing body.

Eric Ronan raised concerns about the forthcoming sale of NHS Calderstones, now NHS Mersey Care. He stated that trees and the Chapel on the site are of historical interest and that the Parish Council should look to protect them. Parish Councillor Patrick Brown undertook to contact Historic England and investigate the matter.

Finally, Borough Councillor Ged Mirfin was asked about the progress on the Mitton Road Whalley Remembrance Site. He stated that Planning at the Borough Council had sought further legal advice and that all heavy plant on the site had been removed. He would reported back but this was a watching brief at present.

1549/19 **Councillor Update**

As Chairman of the Adam Cottam Almshouses Trust Cliff reported the commencement of the refurbishment of No. 30 Station Road was now programmed for January 2020. Thankfully the

Borough Council had agreed to offer the resident temporary accommodation in Clitheroe whilst the work is being carried out. Work is expected to last around 4 months. In the meantime, the contractor has been requested to undertake the temporary 'make and mend' repairs to the roof; this will commence when there is a fair weather 'window'. Abbey Gardening Services will be requested to commence cutting back the 'undergrowth' surrounding the car park in preparation for the work.

The Churchyard Committee had not met and there is an outstanding action to look at those headstones which could be restored/repaired. This will include the crucifix headstone recently damaged. Councillor Ball requested that the Clerk should proceed to organise a meeting.

Councillor Martin Highton stated at the last Parish Council Liaison Meeting a presentation was given on the difficulties of recruiting GPS to East Lancashire. The Committee discussed the proposal to remove the payphone boxes and he stated that Councillors had advocated where possible WI-FI hotspots should be put in place as a sensible alternative to ensuring access. Sadly, minor vandalism had taken place on the 17 October 2019 at Vale Gardens Public Toilets. Finally, despite assurances from senior staff at the Borough Council, he confirmed the CCTV cameras are not working in Whalley but these are due to be upgraded as part of the Capital Works Program of the Borough Council.

Councillor June Brown reported that the replacement memorial bench and plaque had been ordered and would be collected by the Lengthsman and installed over the next two weeks. Repair work to the coping stones on the wall on Woodlands Drive had now been completed. The Parish Council was conscious that further protection was needed to ensure that stone was not stolen and had agreed that CCTV signs and Smart Water would be used to try and deter further thefts.

Councillor Cliff Ball is Chairman of the Adam Cottam Almshouses reported that the Loan Application has now been delivered to the Almshouses Association for their Approval. The Trust had received a list of Almshouses in Lancashire to find alternative accommodation for our resident who would have to be relocated whilst the planned refurbishment took place. The proposed timetable was still on track with a start date planned in early 2020.

June Brown congratulated and reported that Martin Highton was elected Chairman of the Parish Council Liaison Meeting. At the last meeting she noted there was discussion about using the Merseycare NHS site not for residential development but to accommodate the growing demand for GP services in Whalley. A Grounds and Garden Committee Meeting was held on the 15 October 2019 and the results of Bench Audit was presented by the Clerk with a view to producing a Policy and future maintenance programme. Allocation of money had been given for soil conditioner for Vale Gardens. Councillors discussed and agreed the tendering process for the felling of the 8 Lombardi Poplars at Vale Gardens following the approval of Ribble Valley Borough Council to carry out the works due to safety reasons. Discussions had taken place with the Police to see if SMART water could be used to protect the recently replaced coping stones on Vale Gardens. In the proposed December 2019 Parish Council Newsletter she requested that an article by the GP Surgery about a new service to obtain online test results is included.

John Threlfall reported his ongoing work with Lancashire County Council about the sunken reinstatement on Mitton Road. This has now been escalated at County Hall and the footway was starting to sink. The County Council has the power to carry out the work and/or get the utility company to come back and undertake the work to an acceptable level. He had undertaken Chairmanship Training at the Lancashire Association of Local Authorities.

Patrick Brown reported that he proposed cleaning the War Memorial in preparation for Remembrance Sunday.

1550/19 Update on Multi Agency Meeting – Anti Social Behaviour and Young People

Martin Highton expressed his frustration at the lack of action by the Police and Borough Council following the Multi Agency Meeting held on the 22 May 2019. He suggested that the Parish Council write to Chief Executive and Chief Constable to request a private meeting to ascertain why there has been no progress given the crime statistics. Ideally, he would like to see a solution focused second Multi Agency meeting take place in January 2020.

1551/19 Update on Anti Speeding Initiative

John Threlfall had reported the 2 Speeding Signs on Mitton Road that are owned by Lancashire County Council but there seems to be no maintenance budget to keep them operational. He will continue to progress.

He agreed to make investigations about why the enforcement van was no longer suitable to monitor on Mitton Road and agreed to contact Gary Makin at the Police. The Parish Council agreed that some action must be taken to address this growing problem.

1552/19 To consider the plan of Whalley Chamber of Trade to Upgrade the Christmas Lights and consider whether the Parish Council makes a financial contribution

It was reported that 7 Units of the Christmas Lights had been refurbished by the Chamber of Trade at a cost of approximately £1100 plus VAT. Ten units required further upgrading. The Chamber of Trade expressed ability to meet the recent upgrade costs and a contribution was not necessary. The Clerk reported she had received an email from Ribble Valley Borough Council about a funding pot available for such things as Christmas light refurbishment. The deadline for submission was 31 October 2019.

1553/19 To consider and approve a request for New Councillor Training with Lancashire Association of Local Authorities

The Clerk submitted a request for Councillor Patrick Brown to attend the above course at a cost of £63. This was unanimously agreed.

1554/19 Authorisation of Accounts, Payments and Receipts and Balances for October 2019

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

Payments

Web Maintenance	(24.00)
Clerks Salary - new hours	(718.71)
Home office	(43.33)
Internet	(10.00)
mileage 76 miles @ 0.65	(49.40)
Mobile rental	(5.00)
Stamps	(4.20)
2743 Aug 19 Vale Gds	(273.00)

2744 Aug 19 Church	(291.00)
2751 Sept 19 Vale Gds	(273.00)
2752 Sept 19 Church	(291.00)
Vale Gds Electricity	(24.91)
Bin Removal - Church	(48.00)
JM1489 Sept Room Hire	(15.00)
Councillor Training - Mod 1&2	(63.00)
	<u>£2587.10</u>

Receipts

Concurrent Grant 18/19 **£1687**

Ribble Valley Borough Council

Balances : Nat West Current: **£24,977.54** Nat West QE2: **£0**

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

1555/19 Clerks Report

The Clerks Report for October 2019 was accepted.

1556/19 To determine plans for Remembrance Sunday

Martin Highton stated that in the past it was a shared responsibility of the Royal British Legion and Police. The latter no longer were involved and it fell to the Legion and the local Churches. A definitive start time was needed and Cliff agreed to let the Clerk know. Councillor Patrick Brown agreed to produce signs. Councillor June Brown was attending the NHS Mersey Care Service on the 2 November 2019 and requested a wreath. The Clerk agreed to contact Janet Bargh to arrange a second wreath for the 2nd November 2019.

1557/19 To approve the date of the next meeting of the Parish Council as 7.30pm Thursday 21 November 2019 & Precept Thursday 7 November 2019 at 7.30pm

It was resolved to hold the next meeting of the Parish Council on **Thursday 21 November 2019 and the Precept Meeting on Thursday 7 November 2019.**

The meeting closed at 9.07 pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____