

WHALLEY PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19 October 2017 at 7.30pm in the Old Grammar School, Whalley.

Present: Councillor M Highton (Chair)
Councillor J Brown
Councillor M Fallon
Councillor C Ball
Councillor L Rimmer

Apologies: Councillor M Reid, Councillor D Sleight, Councillor P Elson, Tony Brown, Ribble Valley Borough Councillors' Joyce Holgate and Terry Hill.

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

1173/17 to receive declaration of interests

No declaration of interests were received.

1174/17 to approve as correct the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21 September 2017.

It was resolved that the minutes of Whalley Parish Council Meeting held on 21 September 2017 be approved as a correct record of the meeting.

1175/17 to adjourn the meeting for a period of public discussion (information only)

Eric Ronan stated a significant number of leaves have fallen in the Village Centre and that it was important for these to be cleared as they can become hazardous for people with mobility problems especially when they become wet because they make the pavements slippery. As a Trustee of the Grammar School he also asked that the Parish Council take steps to move several items that have been stored in the office on a temporary basis. Martin Highton acknowledged the request and stated that a site visit would take place week commencing 23 October 2017. Finally Eric stated that the Village Hall Committee was being kept up to date on the conversion progress of the Whalley Arms Pub to a Co-operative store. The opening of the store was scheduled to take place in March 2018. Work will begin at the end of November 2017, when the car park will be closed. Councillor Brown requested that the Parish Council be kept informed of progress by the Co-operative. The Parish Clerk to make enquiries with the Whalley Village Hall Committee to see if we can be put on a mailing list.

Andrew Ronnan from Whalley and Billington Flood Action Group (W&B FLAG) gave an update on the work being undertaken. He spoke about the positive public drop-in meeting held on the 12 October 2017 at the Methodist Hall aimed at raising awareness with residents and

businesses about the significant amount of work being undertaken to improve flood defences in Whalley. An outline budget of £5m was proposed for an ambitious Calder Review Flood Scheme 2020 that will cover Padiham and Whalley. There is also a smaller scale scheme in the Calder Vale area called the String of Walls which is strengthening existing walls near the river bank and would use temporary flood barriers at the turning head of Calder Vale. Councillor Rimmer questioned whether there was sufficient stock of temporary barriers as these are a shared North West asset of the Environment Agency. In the event of future flooding this could pose a problem if more than one area in the North West is flooded at the same time. Andrew advised that W& B FLAG would make enquiries with the EA about their view on temporary barrier resources and copy CLLR Rimmer in on the correspondence.

He spoke about the failure of Redrow to discharge the Planning Condition to build attenuation ponds to assist its Surface Water Drainage at Lawson Rise. Ribble Valley Borough Council's only remedy in law was to seek prosecution in the Magistrates court. This would not necessarily ensure the ponds are built. Bloor Homes who had an option to buy the remaining land at the Lawsonsteads development from its owners had apparently now walked away from the proposed deal.

Bellway homes were being pressed by Ribble Valley Council to address the problem of surface drainage. The current system is not adequate by the boundary with The Sidings Business Park embankment and Bellway wish to adjoin to a newly discovered field drain to take the excess water. This field drain has not been surveyed and may run under The Sidings Business Park, the railway lines, Whalley Cricket Club and the QE11 playing fields. Mike Fallon expressed concerns because this year the cricket pitch and bowling green had struggled with flooding. He questioned whether this development would exacerbate the problem.

The proposed Oakmere Development on Accrington Road has not moved forward. Andrew had heard that this is unlikely to take place until completion of the River Calder Flood Review together with improved and constructed flood defences by the EA unless Oakmere were successful with any planning appeals that may make.

King Street /Culvert - Lifting Manhole Cover is still being investigated by United Utilities and Lancashire County Council. This takes water from Wiswell Moor catchment area whereas the Calder catchment area is on the moors above Colne, east side of Pendle Hill, Worsthorne Moors above Burnley, Hapton and Oswaldtwistle Moors. Mill Race sluice gate has recently been repaired and set to flow steadily to avoid silt build up and therefore reduce the flood risk.

Councillors expressed their thanks to the immense amount of hard work by FLAG and It was resolved that a web link to Whalley and Billington Flood Action Group should be included on the Whalley Parish Council website to help raise awareness and understanding.

Councillors expressed their thanks to the immense amount of hard work by FLAG. It was resolved that a web link to Whalley and Billington Flood Action Group should be included on the Whalley Parish Council website to help raise awareness and understanding.

Geoff Chadwick from the Whalley and District Lions attended the meeting. He stated that through the work of the Whalley in Bloom Group efforts had been taken to make the benches within the Village Centre more presentable. However, more work needed to be undertaken and he was willing to volunteer his time to do this work but would require monies for stains and other materials . Councillors welcomed this contribution and suggested that monies

could be donated by Whalley Parish Council through the Small Grants Programme that would begin in January 2018. Details of the Scheme and application forms are available on the Whalley Parish Council website - www.whalleyparishcouncil.org.uk

1176/17 to receive minutes of other Committees: Planning Committee Meeting held on 21 September 2017 and the Grounds and Gardens Committee Meeting held on 1 August 2017.

It was resolved that the following minutes be received:

- a) Whalley Parish Council Planning Meeting held on the 21 September 2017.
- b) The Grounds and Gardens Committee Meeting held on 1 August 2017.

1177/17 to receive reports of Councillors' from other committees (information only)

Councillor M Highton reported that he had attended the Grounds and Garden Committee meeting and that he had been busy helping to source a Christmas Tree for 2017.

Councillor Mike Fallon reported that overgrown bushes on the bridge had been cut back following a further request by C Ball. Feedback had been positive – one young mum with a pram reporting she had been able to access the pavement. Surface water flooding, and an uneven paved footpath were creating problems on the public right of way leading from Church Walk down to Abbey Mews. The Clerk reported that the LCC website states for action to be taken an obstruction would be necessary. The Clerk would report the issue to see if action would be taken. If this does not meet the criteria the Lengthsman would be asked to assess the site.

Councillor C Ball reported that the Churchyard Committee met on 3rd July. Abbey Gardening Services have now planted yew sapling and laburnum sapling in the Churchyard. Illegal parking and lack of enforcement continued to be a problem and photos of cars parked on the pavement adjacent to Breda Murphy's had been sent to Inspector Winter. The Inspector has stated he will arrange another visit to discuss options with them. Councillor Ball suggested that it might be helpful if other Councillors recorded any obstructions outside Breda's to give more weight to this reoccurring problem.

The Remembrance Service at the War Memorial will take place in November 2017. As recorded at the last Parish Council meeting, the wooden crosses at the steps to the War Memorial were made by the late George Hardman. Contingency plans were put in place and Councillor Ball undertook to ask Cllr Joyce Holgate to order the crosses from the British Legion. This has been done. However, Councillor Ball has now been advised by George's widow that the family is making the crosses and there was unanimous support for Councillor Ball's suggestion that these are used this year in memory of George. Perhaps the crosses ordered by Cllr Holgate may be used at some time in the future.

Councillor Ball outlined his progress on planning a 100 year **Celebration of Peace & Armistice for November 2018**. Councillor Ball had drafted a letter on the Armistice 2018 celebrations and this has been printed in last week's Clitheroe Advertiser. Responses had been received from Whalley Historical Society, Whalley in Bloom and Whalley Freemasons - all of whom who want to be involved. Whalley Abbey has offered the use of the Abbey free of charge.

It is in the very early days of planning and there is an intention to visit the schools with a view to them setting up projects for the children. However, Councillor Ball stated that he cannot do this work alone and sought help from interested parties who can join in the planning of this major event.

Councillor Ball stated that the recently refurbished Adam Cottam Almshouse has now been occupied by the resident from the middle dwelling. The Trust has resolved to refurbish the now empty middle dwelling to the same standard as the end one. Discussions have started with the contractor to work up estimates for the work and timescales. It is planned to start work in early December and finish by March 2018. The Trust has also resolved to renew the entire roof and work on this should start after completion of the refurbishment. Work is yet to start on landscaping the garden to the front and rear of the end Almshouse. The new front doors are finish, painted and fitted to two of the three properties. The third door will be stored until the dwelling refurbishment is completed.

Councillor Brown welcomed the report on the Almshouses and thanked Cliff and Cath Ball for their tremendous amount of work. This included not only the physical improvements to the properties but the ongoing care and support provided to the residents that occupy the houses.

At the Grounds and Garden Committee meeting held on the 3 October 2017 a number of actions were decided. Mike Wedgeworth has been given permission to commission a small plaque in memory of Michelle Kiss. A new litter bin had been ordered and installed by Ribble Valley Council for Vale Gardens. Discussions with Jordan Szabo had taken place and he had agreed to take part in the Remembrance Service in November 2017 and planned attending the Britain in Bloom Presentation Day at Southport. The dilapidated bench on Mitton Road had been removed. Councillor Brown noted the hedges at the sides of Vale Gardens needed trimming. Reports were still being received about flytipping at the Burial Ground and Farm Entrance. It was resolved the Clerk write to Ribble Valley Borough Council to see if any further work could be carried out to monitor or deter further illegal tipping.

Councillor Lois Rimmer had attended the Multi Agency Whalley and Billington Flood Action Group (Flag), Environment Agency (EA) and Lancashire County Council Open meeting for residents and businesses on 12 October 2017. The EA showcased the latest scientific river modelling for the Calder and initial proposals to improve flood defences.

At this meeting officers of Lancashire County Council were seeking views of Whalley residents on other matters. Councillor Rimmer spoke to Dwaine Lowe about the lack of progress regarding the overgrown hedges at 45 Abbeyfields and was going to the Whalley LCC Depot to obtain an update on progress.

Councillor Rimmer attended a recent Joint Burial Committee meeting and reported that work had begun on redrafting the Rules and Regulations of the Burial Ground. Judith Peleager had voluntarily redrafted the document that was now much more user friendly. This was being consulted upon. Areas that required improvement included being more prescriptive on the size of future monuments and the use of marble as a monument material. Marble was not suited to the British climate and degenerated quickly.

1178/17 Casual Vacancy Arising on Whalley Parish Council

Following the resignation of Councillor Stephen Barker a vacancy has arisen. A notice of the vacancy was advertised in the Parish Council Notice Board King Street, following the Parish Council meeting on 21 September 2017. The Notice has been displayed for 14 working days from Friday 29 September 2017 to Wednesday 18 October 2017. Ribbles Valley Borough Council has confirmed that NO notice has been received from electors of the Parish requesting an election. Whalley Parish Council are now entitled to fill the vacancy by co-option and this will be considered at the next meeting.

1179/17 Authorising of Accounts, Payments, Receipts and Balances for September 2017
It was resolved to accept the accounts for payments and receipts for October 2017. It was resolved that a VAT reclaim should be made for monies paid out and a further transfer of monies be undertaken once an up to date statement is received from Nat West. If necessary, a transfer of monies should be made from the Skipton to the Nat West current account.

1180/17 Clerks Report October 2017

Information had been circulated from Catherine Jenkins at Lancashire County Council (LCC) on the proposed opening times of Whalley Library: 34 Hours per week: Monday (9am-1pm), Tuesday (9am-7pm), Wednesday (9am-5pm), Thursday closed, Friday (9am-5pm), Saturday (9am-1pm). It will be staffed by LCC. An opening ceremony will take place with a date to be decided. It was resolved that all Parish Councillors wished to attend the opening ceremony.

1181/17 The External Auditors Report by BDO 2017 was presented. It was resolved that: Whalley Parish Council accept the BDO report including issues raised.

1182/17 The Clerk presented quotes from 2 companies to supply a replacement Oak Notice Board with 2 Windows and supporting legs. It was resolved that the lowest quote should be used. The location will be on the bend/curved wall to the right hand side of Vale Gardens entrance. The Clerk to liaise with the Lengthsman over optimum siting.

1183/17 Discussed at the Grounds and Gardens Committee a new supplier has been sourced. It will cost £470 for a 20 foot tree. The supplier is certified to carry out electrical installation of the lights. These have been inspected and will be installed and removed at a cost £275. The displays for the Lamp posts have also been tested and will be repaired at a cost of £233.75, which will be met by Whalley Chamber of Trade. Whalley Parish Council will continue to fund the installation and removal of the displays. The supplier will dismantle the tree and lighting which will be stored in the correct way for the following year.

1184/17 Councillors resolved to purchase a wooden bench in memory of George Hardman. The preferred location would be on paved area of the Old Grammar School where the Remembrance Service takes place. This would require the approval of the Grammar School Trustees. If this was not possible, the alternative location would be on Mitton Road approximately 75 yards from his home.

1185/17 Borough Councillors submitted a written report from T Hill as follows:

Firstly, the project on King St has nothing to do with Ribble Valley Borough Council who have no jurisdiction over it at all and indeed was out of Lancashire County Council hands once they had handed it over to United Utilities (UU). Nevertheless, both Joyce and I chased Albert Atkinson (Lancashire County Councillor) who did chase County officers. I also followed up with my Grandson who works for United Utilities. I also kept several businesses informed as well.

The latest information is that the lampposts on King Street will be moved within the next six weeks which should not be very disruptive and then the work on the lay-bys is planned for February 2018. No doubt this will cause further disruption as any such project inevitably will.

Re Bellway Homes, Ribble Valley Borough Council are insisting that they submit a Planning Application to cover the outstanding field drain issue but they might refuse as they are not strictly bound to do this. Work continues with Andrew Ronnan to maintain the pressure.

Re Lawsonsteads. Ribble Valley Borough Council have instigated a prosecution of Redrow in the Magistrates Court for failure to comply with conditions re the Ponds. This is all Ribble Valley Council can officially do. Lancashire County Council and United Utilities are working on further improvement plans for Wiswell Brook and the King St under road tank. Very constructive talks were held at the Flood Event on 12 October 2017 with all bodies represented.

1186/17 to consider and approve the date of the next meeting of the Parish Council as Thursday 16 November 2017 at 7.30pm at the Old Grammar School.

The meeting closed at 9.37pm

Signed.....

Date.....