

WHALLEY PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21 September 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 – 3

11460/17 to receive declaration of interests

No declarations of interest were received.

1161/17 to approve as correct the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th August 2017

It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th August 2017 be approved as a correct record of the meeting.

1162/17 to adjourn the meeting for a period of public discussion (information only)

Tony Brown welcomed the new Parish Clerk. He stated that it was only fitting for the Council to acknowledge the tremendous work that retired Clerk Fred Holland had done over the past ten years. He stated that he had been the longest serving Clerk and the best; developing the role of Clerk way beyond what he took when he was first appointed.

Tony Brown went onto express his thanks for the work of Stephen Barker on Whalley Parish Council, serving as an excellent Parish Councillor for 20 years. The village of Whalley had benefitted tremendously from his work.

Tony Brown highlighted the recent 'Outstanding' rating received for Calderstones Hospital by the Quality Care Commission. He felt that this positive news had not received the public attention that it merited. He requested that a letter be sent to Calderstones on behalf of the Council to recognise the achievement.

Finally Tony Brown stated there had been a complete lack of communication with residents and businesses regarding recent work on King Street. He stated that despite attempts to find out the timetable for the work; which included writing to the local MP, the County Councillor and local Borough Councillors no information had been forthcoming. Residents and businesses felt let down and expressed sadness that Lancashire County Council and Ribble Valley Council did not effectively engage with persons directly affected by the work.

1163/17 to receive minutes of other Committees

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of the 17th August 2017 were presented to the meeting.

1164/17 to receive reports of Councillors from other committees (information only)

Councillor Highton reported that he had received a resignation notice from Councillor Stephen Barker. He went on to thank Stephen for 20 years of public service to village of Whalley. This work included his role as Chairman of the Planning Committee and a significant amount of work to oppose the unprecedented house building in Whalley over the past 5 years. He requested the Council begin the process of finding a replacement. The Parish Clerk to notify Ribbles Valley Council and check the procedure for filling the vacancy.

Councillor Fallon reported that Whalley Cricket Club had a great season winning The Ramsbottom Cup and being the Runners Up in the League. He suggested that a letter be sent to the Cricket Club on behalf of the Parish Council in recognition of this achievement.

Councillor Ball reported that the newest resident of the Almshouses Derrick Rutherford had passed away on the 26 August 2017. The Trust met on the 13 September to discuss actions necessary to prepare the vacant property for future occupation. This included landscaping by Abbey Gardening Services to the front and rear of the properties and the provision of new front doors to the other almshouses. He went on to circulate a report of the Church Yard Committee that met on the 3 July 2017. This included 33 stone memorials in the Churchyard being repaired, gates and locks being brought back into working order. He stated that two new saplings require planting (a yew and laburnum). Abbey Gardening Services had been requested to carry out this work.

Despite the visit by Inspector Winter at the August meeting customers of Breda Murphy were still parking on the footway. Evidence had been sent to the Police and was circulated at the meeting. Unless enforcement action is forthcoming Councillor Ball suggested that only remedy would be to reinstate the partition wall (which was dispensed with during the recent expansion works). With regard to parking generally in the village the Council still had the option of placing advisory illegal/inconsiderate warning letters on the windscreens of parked cars. Councillors felt this would have negligible effect and that it would be prudent to await Lancashire County Council remarking of parking road markings so that legal enforcement could take place.

The wooden crosses at the steps to the War Memorial were made by the late George Hardman and placed by him there. Councillor Ball requested that the Parish Council should purchase these crosses through the Royal British Legion and place them at the Memorial for November 2017. In the past children of the local schools had been encouraged to place the crosses but this had had mixed success. He questioned whether this should be attempted again or whether someone else should place the crosses. Councillor Ball outlined how 2018 will mark the Centenary of the end of the Great War; Whalley and surrounding villages lost many boys and young men and it should be commemorated by the community. Discussions had taken place with St Mary's Parochial Church Council and the British Legion. Cllr Ball will draft a letter and send to as many local organisations as possible in the hope of getting them involved in the planning of celebrations. He went on to suggest that a small Committee be set up to plan the event and welcomed the support of the Parish Council.

An update on the blocked drains/gullies on Mitton Road resulted in Lancashire County Council flushing them out. Unfortunately the drains/gullies have significant blockages that will require more intrusive work and this was expected to take place over the next few weeks.

Councillor Brown stated that she attended the Ribble Valley Parish Council Liaison Committee with Councillor Highton. Lancashire County Council have appointed a new Parish Champion and that a fund of £10k was available for local Parish projects. It was suggested that depending on the criteria, the Parish Council could look to apply for Armistice Day 2018 Celebration funding. Councillor Brown referred and brought a full copy of the Quality Care Commission's report on Calderstones hospital for circulation.

Councillor Elson reported he attended his first meeting of the Adam Cottam Almshouses Trust and was very impressed with their work and leadership. He stated a number of residents at the Sands had approached him complaining about the increasing number of youths hanging around Abbey area. Many of the residents felt that a significant number of youths came from outside the village. He suggested the Parish Council should consider trying to engage with the young people and give them a place to go. With the population of the village set to increase over the next few years he felt that this problem would not go away.

Councillor Rimmer concurred with the reports of young people hanging around littering and drinking alcohol under age. Reports has been received that two motorbikes from outside the village had been seen dealing in drugs. The Old Grammar School had held a celebration party to mark the end of the refurbishment work and this was attended by Councillors Rimmer and Brown. Despite further attempts to get Lancashire County Council engaged in cutting back the hedges on Mitton Road no work had taken place to date.

Councillor Sleight stated the Burial Committee met on the 8 September to discuss the recent Ribble Valley Council Memorial Safety Inspection. A further 73 memorials were in need of attention; 9 required immediate action. The Registrar would write to the families that could be traced, otherwise the Committee would have to meet the cost of repairs. Work had started in clearing the vegetation for the beams/memorial garden at the Clitheroe Road end of the Cemetery.

1165/17 to authorise the accounts for payments, receipts and balances for September 2017

It was resolved to accept the accounts for payments and receipts for September 2017. It was resolved to accept the recently received invoice from M Richardson for the purchase of a mobile phone and printer. It was noted that the process had begun to change signatories to the Bank Accounts and that this was taking time. Once this had been completed there needed to be a transfer of monies from the Skipton to the Nat West and invoices should be paid.

1166/17 to discuss the circulation of electronic or paper documentation for future Parish Council meetings

Councillor Highton outlined the option to receive electronic information for future Council meetings as opposed to the current system of hard/paper copies being sent out prior to meetings. Councillors Highton, Ball, Elson and Sleight, requested electronic copies. Councillors Fallon, Brown and Rimmer requested that paper copies continue to be delivered.

1167/17 to receive an Update on SpID signs

Councillor Highton stated the SpID sign being offered by Waddington Parish Council had been allocated to another parish. Councillors debated the possibility of purchasing a SpID for Whalley. The cost would be £2500, a list of locations had to be identified, then assessed and approved by Lancashire County Council. The fixing of the metal plates to hold the sign would be carried out by LCC at a nominal cost of £50. The Parish Council would have to have a nominated person undertake training and have the correct Personal Protective Equipment to move the sign. It was suggested that this additional work would have to be undertaken by the Lengthsman and at this stage Councillors decided it was too onerous to pursue further.

However the Council resolved to put together a list of suggested places and ask Lancashire County Council to consider locating one of their signs at these locations

1168/17 QE2 - Goal Posts

Following the drainage work on the QE2 playing fields the Parish Council was approached by the Football Club to purchase new goal posts. A joint grant application between the Football Club and Parish Council has now been submitted to the Football Foundation to fund the initiative. The outcome of the submission is still pending.

It was resolved that providing the grant application is successful and paid direct to the Parish Council, and that the invoice is also sent direct to the Council we would go ahead with purchase of the goal posts

1169/17 to consider the location and purchase of a replacement Parish Council Notice Board

At the last meeting it was resolved to purchase a new Parish Council Noticeboard. Councillors discussed repositioning the new notice board to avoid rising damp that was affecting the current noticeboard at Vale Gardens. Councillors agreed that a new noticeboard should be located on the bend of the entrance to the garden. A decision about the style of the noticeboard would be deferred to the next meeting.

Councillor Ball had been approached by the Minister of the Methodist Church with a request to be able to hold an open air service at Vale Gardens. The Councillors supported the requested but asked that details are shared with the Council beforehand.

1170/17 to receive the Clerks Report (enclosed)

It was resolved that Councillor Highton and Fred Holland be nominated to carry out the radio interview with Ribble Valley FM on the role of Parish Councils.

1172/17 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 19th October 2017 at 7.30pm at the Old Grammar School.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____