

WHALLEY PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 20 September 2018 at
7.30pm in the Old Grammar School, Whalley.

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

Apologies received: PCSO Katie Ferguson, Borough Councillor T Hill

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

1391/18 to receive declaration of interests

None.

1392/18 to approve as correct the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16 August 2018

It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 16 August 2018 be approved as a correct record.

1393/18 to adjourn the meeting for a period of public discussion (information only)

Tony Brown was present at the meeting and raised his sadness on the public announcement that Maureen Cookson was due to close. He went on to state that the business had over thirty years provided employment and helped foster economic growth in the Parish. Benedicts the brasserie was established and run by Hilary Cookson, Maureen's daughter. This business would be sold as going concern as Hilary Cookson had decided to retire. This was a significant contribution and he requested that the Parish Council acknowledge by writing a formal letter to the proprietors to thank them for contribution to Whalley.

Tony Brown asked whether Ribble Valley Borough Council had indicated a date when the public rubbish bin on Station Road outside the Almshouses would be returned. Councillors discussed that sometimes public litter bins around the Parish were abused by people disposing of their domestic or commercial waste. This had the knock-on effect of contributing to overflowing bins. Perhaps in the future closer monitoring/enforcement could be undertaken to deter the minority abusing this refuse collection system. Clerk reported no feedback had been received from John Heap on the timescale for placing the bin back on Station Road.

Finally, Tony Brown asked for clarification about whether Ribble Valley Borough Council had contributed to the Whalley Remembers Commemoration events planned for November 2018. Cliff Ball stated that they had been approached but declined and the Borough Councillors in February 2018 had expressed reservations at plans to commemorate the event. The residents of Whalley had expressed interest and support with over 50 people turning out for the initial meeting which has led onto the ambitious programme of events and funding from other sources including the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Eric Ronan stated that he would welcome a letter of appreciation for Hilary and Maureen Cookson. He stated that when Whalley Village Hall was being set up Hilary Cookson did a great deal of work as Secretary to the Committee. He noted the road signs coming into Whalley and said they looked good. He stated that grant to the Table Tennis Club had now been spent to purchase new tables and there are two teams in the Premier Division. The Club was seeking investment in coaching in the forthcoming year. Martin Highton stated that Parish Council welcomed the update and was always keen to support diversionary activities for young people through sport. Finally, Eric stated that he would like the Parish Council to think about undertaking some celebratory event on 24 May 2019 as this would mark the 20th Anniversary of the Kosovo people being moved to Calderstones Hospital in Whalley as a result of the Kosovo Crisis.

1394/18 to receive minutes of other Committees

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 16 August 2018 were received.

1395/18 To receive reports of Councillors' from other committees (information only)

Councillor Cliff Ball stated there was nothing to report on the Adam Cottam Almshouses Trust. The Churchyard Committee had not yet met and was still awaiting outline drawings of the proposed handrails to the East Gate. Work had now been completed to jet and rod the churchyard drains and so far, there had not been any further flooding of the path to the West door.

Armistice/Remembrance 2018 the Whalley Remembers Group had set up a Facebook Page and 2600 hits had occurred of family members searching the names of relatives that may have served in World War One. It was eight weeks away from Remembrance Sunday and a concerted effort was being made by the Group to raise media coverage online, in the press and via radio. Tickets for the Community Lunch and Concert that will be held at the Abbey in the afternoon of Remembrance Sunday will soon go on sale through local schools, churches and the post office. Concessions are available for children 10 years old and under and Pensioners. A total of 14 graves had been located at St Mary and All Saints churchyard of soldiers that had fought in World War One.

Cliff Ball raised concerns at the bottle neck and approach of speeding traffic at mini roundabout at the junction with Station Road, Clitheroe Road and King Street. The paint had worn off and although this will not stop drivers speeding it makes it harder for them to ignore. John Threlfall concurred that many drivers are impatient and simply ignore the Highway Code. He went onto add that the sight lines to the roundabout are not clear and with capacity at the junction being reached he suggested that a future solution would be the installation of traffic lights but this would incur significant cost for Lancashire County Council. It was agreed that the Clerk and John Threlfall write to Lancashire County Council to raise these problems.

Councillor Mike Reid reported that on Saturday 6 October 2018 Whalley Village Hall would be hosting Trovatori (Opera Singers). He was unable to attend the last meeting of the Joint Burial

Committee due to work commitments. He had raised concerns about the severe cutting back of the hedge on Broad Lane and the overflowing public rubbish bins.

Councillor John Threlfall reported his attendance and completion of the Community Engagement Workshop Course run by the LALC. He said this was informative and a brief report was circulated.

Councillor Rimmer reported that youths were behaving disgracefully on Green Park trying to damage play equipment and the gate. Several members of the public asked the young people to stop but to no avail. Lois phoned the Police and an armed response unit and six officers arrived and the young people ran off. Traffic was reported to be speeding up and down George Street and Green Park.

Councillor Martin Highton reported that the next Parish Council Liaison Committee was due to be held on Thursday 27 September 2018. County Councillor Keith Iddon and Phil Durnell from Lancashire Council Highways would attend and he and June would raise the issue of speeding traffic and capacity of the junction raised by several Parish Councillors. He reported, firstly, a very large A Board was causing an obstruction of the pavement outside 'The Forum' and requested that this is reported to the Council. Secondly, he noted the recent proliferation of lamppost advertising for the Oakhill Open Day on the 2 October 2018 and requested that this is also reported.

Councillor Mike Fallon noted the continuing problem of speeding traffic on Mitton Road and stated that the existing electronic speed signs did not seem to be working. He questioned whether the interactive speed signs would be a useful deterrent. He highlighted coverage in the Clitheroe Advertiser comments from Maureen Cookson on the negative impact the lack of parking had on retail trade. June Brown stated that increasing the parking would not necessarily result in greater retail trade. The nationwide trend towards internet shopping means that the whole retail sector was suffering and having to adapt. With the new limited waiting restrictions in place this had improved the availability of on street parking for shoppers. She went onto to add that Whalley was still attracting other businesses and stated that Poppies was to become a Travel Agents, a luxury travel agent was also to open above Greens Solicitors on King Street.

Councillor June Brown raised ongoing concerns about young people riding bikes on the pavement and doing wheelies on the road which was dangerous for everyone. This has been reported to the PCSO. Complaints about the toilets on the bus station; a damaged panel in the gents and odious smell. John Threlfall and Parish Clerk had contacted Ribble Valley Borough Council who have since replaced the new panel and ordered a new part for the gents toilets that should significantly reduce the odour. The toilets are inspected daily by Ribble Valley Council and cleaned if necessary. The maintenance of the inside of the toilets is the responsibility of Ribble Valley Council. Finally, discussion had been raised rumours of Whalley Pickwick Night being cancelled. No-one was able to substantiate the rumours but June Brown added the ethos of the event had changed over the years. The organisers had in essence become a victim of their own success. This began over 30 years ago as a small Dickensian Night for local retailers and residents. Unfortunately, this event has mushroomed and resulted in it being dominated by visitors from out of town, food stalls and local retailers no longer opening.

This led onto a debate about whether the skills of the Pickwick Committee members or other residents could be utilized to look at other localized events such as a Village Fete. Councillor Cliff Ball had floated this idea and it had received a mixed response. The last Fete was held in 2000 and this took significant organisation. A watching brief would be kept on this.

Dave Sleight as Chair of the Whalley, Wiswell and Barrow Joint Burial Committee stated that work continued on the development of the Memorial Garden and subsequent planned works; including the installation of a water tap.

Philip Elson reported that although the outside of the hedge on Mitton Road had been cut back one occupant wanted it cutting from inside her property. Lancashire County Council declined to do this for Health and Safety reasons so it was now the responsibility of the occupant to address privately. The hedge on Broad Land had been several cut back and Councillor Elson raised concerns about the impact on wildlife and whether any conditions are attached to the Planning Permission. Councillor Dave Sleight said he would investigate and report back.

1396/18 Draft Risk Assessment Plan 2018-19

The Clerk circulated a draft Risk Assessment Plan for 2018-19. This was highlighted by the Internal Auditor. The Draft Plan is broken down into three Categories: Financial, Management and Record Keeping.

The Clerk highlighted the need to have a comprehensive Land Management Plan for the Parish Council. It was agreed that Parish Councillors have time to digest the detail and it is brought back to the next Parish Council Meeting for approval.

1397/18 Authorisation of Accounts, Payments, Receipts and Balances for September 2018.

It was resolved to accept the Accounts, Payment, Receipts and Balances for September 2018 noting the recent VAT reclaim and reimbursement via S278 monies for the Planters on King Street.

1398/18 Clerks Report

The Clerks Report for September 2018 was accepted. The monthly Crime Statistics was circulated for August 2018 and PCSO Katie Ferguson had provided a written report on the key issues in the area for the month.

1399/18 Armistice Commemoration 2018

The first batch of silhouettes had arrived from 'There but Not There' there will be an event for children from the schools to place them in the churches and on benches throughout Whalley centre. The Silhouettes will also be made available to 'tour the schools.' The printed mugs will be delivered week commencing 24 September 2018 and enamel badges have been made. A beacon will be lit on Whalley Nab on the Saturday evening before Remembrance Sunday; Harrisons Engineering are providing the timber and taking it to the Nab. David Wilson Homes are making a donation toward the fireworks.

Work is progressing well for the WW1 concert in the Village Hall which will take place on Saturday; there will also be an exhibition of WW1 memorabilia at the Old Grammar School. In the absence of a police presence Kays Traffic Management will close King Street to allow for the Parades; their estimate is £872 + 50 + Application costs. The contractor will send the invoice direct to the Clerk and the monies allocated by Parish Council will be spent on this task.

The outline plan for Remembrance Sunday will be to start the Service of Thanksgiving in the Parish Church at 9.30am. After the Service parishioners' will walk form up in the The Square and parade up to the War Memorial in time for the Act of Remembrance at 11.00 am. At around 11.30am people will parade back to Whalley Abbey for the Community Lunch which

will be served at 12 Noon. There will then be a brass band concert at the Abbey from 2.00pm onwards.

1400/18 Borough Councillors Report

Borough Councillor Terry Hill was unable to attend but sent in a written report that was read out by the Clerk as follows:

The attenuation ponds at Lawsonsteads are completed except for some minor landscaping. The proposed second phase planning application for the Lawsonsteads site is expected soon.

Finally, the Cumulative Impact Report for Whalley was debated at Licensing Committee on Tuesday 18 September and Ribble Valley Borough Council proposed carrying out a Formal Consultation based on the evidence received in the first stage. This will involve a much more widespread examination of effects, particularly crime and disturbance evidence held by the Police. It was fully accepted that the current national Licensing Legislation is not beneficial for a place like Whalley, especially with the late-night closing time rules that often blight residents' lives. He suggested that the Parish Council write to the MP Nigel Evans to ask him to take it up with the relevant Government Minister.

1401/18 to consider and approve the date of the next meeting of the Parish Council as 7.30pm Thursday 18 October 2018

It was resolved to hold the next meeting of the Parish Council on Thursday 18 October 2018 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____