

**WHALLEY PARISH COUNCIL**



**Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19 August 2021 at 7.30pm**

**Whalley Old Grammar School**

**Present:** Councillor M Highton(Chairman)  
Councillor J Brown (Vice Chairman)  
Councillor C Ball  
Councillor G Smith  
Councillor D Sleight  
Councillor J Threlfall  
Councillor T Whistlecraft

**Apologies:** Parish Councillor Caroline Allen and Borough Councillors' D Berryman and M Hindle

**In Attendance:** M Richardson – Clerk to Whalley Parish Council  
4 Member of the Public including P White, T Brown, County Councillor G Mirfin, E Ronnan.

**1760/21 to receive declaration of interests**

None.

**1761/21 to approve as correct the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15 July 2021**

It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15 July be approved as a correct record.

**1762/21 to receive the minutes of Whalley Parish Council Planning Committee held on the 15 July 2021**

**1763/21 to adjourn the meeting for a period of public discussion**

Eric Ronnan expressed his gratitude for the appoint of three new Parish Councillors increasing the diversity in terms of age and gender.

Paul White stated that ticket machine at Whalley Station has a computer virus and had been out of operation. There had also been an attempted theft of the ticket machine. The steps of the Railway station seemed to be popular with young people on BMX bikes using it as track following the recent Olympic success of a British competitor. He had concerns that this was dangerous.

Tony Brown stated that the number of illegal electronic scooters being used on pavements was increasing. This has been reported to the PCSO twice. He stated that it was only a matter of time before an accident happened on the pavement as they reached speeds of up to 30 mph. He felt disappointed that this was not a priority in terms of Police action.

He went onto express the lack of enforcement of private taxi's (often from other areas Hyndburn and Blackburn) being parked along King Street waiting for business. This was illegal and the Parish Council resolved that the Clerk should write to the Taxi Licensing Officer to request enforcement.

County Councillor Ged Mirfin stated that a provisional date of the 4<sup>th</sup> of September 2021 (time to be confirmed yet) has now been set aside for Andy Pratt the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner to visit Whalley and discuss with a range of stakeholders the continuing problems of ASB. Ged asked that Martin Highton should chair the public meeting. He reported the Police resources in Whalley will increase in terms of targeting illegal use of drugs in licensed premises and on the streets.

He stated that he had received lots of requests for hedge cutting but due to the nesting season no action was being taken by LCC until the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in September 2021. Martin Highton and John Threlfall both felt that when sight lines are compromised on the highway this was not a reasonable excuse for doing nothing. John Threlfall stated many bus operators were struggling passing on the country roads due to the vegetation.

Ged Mirfin updated the Parish Council on the proposed timetable for the Review of Parliamentary Boundaries. The first consultation ended in early August 2021. The Commission will respond to the consultation in April 2021 and draw up second set of proposals. A second period of consultation will take place in September 2022 with a final decision being made at the end of 2023.

He stated that Ribble Valley Borough Council was in the process of devising criteria for the allocation of the new Government High Street Fund for local businesses affected by the pandemic. The next allocation of the Government Additional Restriction Grant will also be available to local businesses both small micro and home businesses and food outlets.

As a County Councillor he informed Whalley Parish Council that he has identified Station Road/Mitton Road as his main priority for road improvement monies. Complaints from residents about noise levels at the LCC depot continue. A site visit has been requested from the LCC cabinet member.

#### 1764/21 Reports from Councillors (information only)

Gill Smith reported that young people are regularly congregating near Whalley Library and smoking cannabis. This will be reported to the PCSO Sian Coffey. Eventually the abandoned car on Abbey Fields has now been removed by the Police. This has taken 10 weeks because the vehicle was taxed and insured.

Cliff Ball stated an AGM for the Almshouses Trust will be held via email. He was now able to meet with County Councillor G Mirfin to discuss funding for the roof replacement. An application has already been made to the Lancaster Foundation. It is estimated that the work will cost in the region on £60,000. The roof will be replaced with Broadstone tiles.

The Commonwealth Graves Commission has contacted Cliff Ball to ascertain what will be planned for Remembrance Sunday. Cliff to contact John Row Botham to ascertain if MerseyCare are to participate in the event. A Church Yard Committee was provisionally planned for the 3 September 2021.

He noted his disappointment regarding an ASB meeting that took place via Facebook and organized by Whalley Abbey. He noted the hedges on Station Road are so overgrown it is pushing pedestrians into the road.

He discussed possible ideas for Platinum Whalley & Districts and agreed to come back to the next meeting with a suggested plan. It was agreed the Parish Council will not lead on this, but they will support the initiative.

John Threlfall stated the missing speed camera reported to LCC was still ongoing. He agreed to escalate to Ged Mirfin to pursue. He will be attending the first Village Hall Committee meeting on the 6 September 2021. The Committee has not met in 12 months. He noted and concurred with observations about the danger of electric scooters and bikes frequently seen on the pavements.

June Brown gave a report on a meeting held with John Heap, Ged Mirfin, Martin Highton and Mandy Richardson to discuss future funding of additional CCTV coverage in Whalley. A meeting was also held separately with Inspector Andy Ainsworth, Kevin Day and Martin Highton. At this meeting the Police advised that further CCTV needed to be on the RVBC network and not standalone. The main reason for this was accessing the data for possible criminal prosecutions.

Funding sources to explore Lancashire Environment Fund and future Concurrent Grant Function, although it was not clear whether this would cover capital and revenue expenditure.

June expressed her gratitude for the tremendous amount of work the Lengthsman has done to help make the Whalley in Bloom entry exceptional. The Whalley Wine Shop had now opened the new bar and shop was a great improvement to the area.

Tracey Whistlecraft agreed with June Brown and stated friends recently visited from out the area and expressed how beautiful it was. She noted that on Accrington Road at the corner of Sydney Avenue white paint has been spilled and needed removal.

On behalf of Borough Councillor Mark Hindle, Tracey requested that the Council identify one or two community projects that would benefit from funding (excluding CCTV and Litter bins). It was agreed that this could be considered as an agenda item at the September 2021 meeting. Martin Highton requested that Mark email the Clerk and Councillors the criteria for assessment.

The unfinished build at the bottom of Accrington Road was an eyesore. It was agreed Mandy would email John Macholc RVBC Planning.

Martin Highton reported that the meeting with John Heap was helpful in bringing some clarity to the options available for increased CCTV coverage. He stated that Parish Council was seeking to increase coverage not with standalone cameras, but they should be linked to the existing RVBC network and there was capacity. He understood the housing of the control Centre, if increased in size, would probably need to be relocated. He concluded by stating the Parish Council should seek to lobby the District Council and a letter drafted outlining the reasons for the much-needed investment. Ged Mirfin stated that 40% of the calls from control center came from Whalley.

Councillor Dave Sleight reported that the Burial Committee had met on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> August. They approved the annual tree inspection and the memorial safety inspection. The latter will be a departure from the existing procedure in that category 1 memorials which are unsafe, will be laid flat rather than simply attaching tape which warns the public of the danger. This was to promote the idea that the memorial inspectors report was final and that memorials identified as category 1 needed to be repaired as soon as possible. There is to be no appeal as was the case in the past.

Roy Cattermole is to remove the nine or so mature trees bordering the cemetery boundary, which are suffering from ash-die-back. The farmer of the adjoining field is to allow access but has stipulated the ground must be firm when work starts.

The Registrar has scanned the paper work covering the 1000+ graves or ash burials at the cemetery, to the cloud as safe storage. Presently, this data is housed in a large filing cabinet. The Burial Committee recently met at the Cemetery to consider the further development of the Memorial Garden.

#### **1765/21 Whalley Parish Council Vacancy**

The Clerk reported that Patrick Brown had resigned following appointment to a new post. He felt that this could create a conflict of interest and resigned on the 26 July 2021. Notice has been posted dated the 9 August 2021. A period of 14 days from posting the notice must now elapse before co-option can be considered. The expiry date for ten electors to call an election is the 25 August 2021.

#### **1766/22. To receive an update on seeking a Licensing Review Hearing regarding Benny's Bar on Accrington Road.**

It was agreed that the Council lodge the request for a Review Hearing.

**1767/21 Authorisation of Accounts. Payments and Receipts and Balances for August 2021**

	NW Curr	NW QE2	Skipton	Total
	£	£	£	£
Memorial Bench VWN01			950.00	950.00
Website maintenance	(27.60)			(27.60)
Salary	(768.50)			(768.50)
Home office	(43.33)			(43.33)
Internet	(10.00)			(10.00)
mileage 28 Miles x 0.45	(12.60)			(12.60)
Mobile rental	(5.00)			(5.00)
Reimbursement Plaque VW	(29.00)			(29.00)
JM1757 July 21 Room Hire	(15.00)			(15.00)
2020-21 Costs Invoice 3218	(3,223.50)			(3,223.50)
Plants and Soil Vale Gardens Invoice 3218	(130.00)			(130.00)
Electricity Charges Vale Gds	(11.29)			(11.29)
	<b>(4,275.82)</b>		<b>950.00</b>	<b>(3,325.82)</b>

**Balances:** Nat West Current: £80496.92 QE2 Nat West £0 Skipton £23056.74

**1768/20 Clerks Report for August 2021**

Circulated prior to the meeting Whalley Parish Council approved two Clerks Report for August 2021.  
Noted was the Code of Conduct Training offered by Ribble Valley Council.

**1769/20 The Council Approved the date of the next meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council would take place on **Thursday 16 September 2021** held remotely.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_