

## WHALLEY PARISH COUNCIL



### Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 20 August 2020 at 7.30pm held at Whalley Old Grammar School, Station Road

**Present:** Councillor M Highton(Chairman)  
Councillor J Brown (Vice Chairman)  
Councillor C Ball  
Councillor D Sleight  
Councillor J Threlfall  
Councillor Patrick Brown

**In Attendance:** M Richardson – Clerk to Whalley Parish Council  
2 Members of the Public  
Borough Councillor Ged Mirfin  
Sergeant S Banks and PCSO S Barton.

#### 1623//20 to receive declaration of interests

None.

#### 1624/20 to approve as correct the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Meeting held on 16 July 2020

It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16 July 2020 be approved as a correct record.

#### 1625/20 to receive minutes of other Committees

Minutes of the Parish Council Planning Committee held on the 16 July 2020 were received.

#### 1626/20 to adjourn Meeting for a Period of Public Discussion

3 Members of Public present, PCSO S Barton, Sergeant S Banks and Borough Councillor Ged Mirfin.

Clare Davis resident at Calder Vale attended the meeting to raise concerns about the growing problems of anti-social behavior near her home. On 24 and 25 July 2020 she reported two instance of young people congregating on the river bank to smoke cannabis. She and her husband asked the Group to move on and tried ringing 101 but failed to get through. Her concerns about the lack of intervention by the Police and growing tension means she has recently had her home valued and is considering moving out the area.

Councillor June Brown added she had received further complaints from residents of the Sands as groups of young people were congregating in Whalley Abbey to smoke cannabis. She said drug dealing was happening in broad daylight and she acknowledged an increased Police presence to deal with some problems.

Sergeant S Banks introduced himself and PCSO S Barton. He acknowledged that recent problems and said this could not be solved overnight. However, priority will be given to the problem and more Police Officers will be allocated to the problem. He stated that he was aware of the gang and the core group lived in Whalley and in the age range 16-17 years old so it was difficult to engage with them. The Police are restricted in that they must take all necessary steps had been to rehabilitate young people to change their behavior before they can use criminal enforcement. This was a lengthy and frustrating process for residents.

He recommended that residents continue to keep reporting and acknowledged problems with the 101 number. He suggested that it would be better if people reported online if they failed to get through on the 101 number. He said that he needed more input from Whalley Abbey to try and manage the problem at the Sands.

Cliff Ball reported that the Abbey had taken steps to cut down shrubs so individuals were more visible. The Parish Council had taken the bench away as it was a congregation point. Cliff Ball suggested that as access to the Abbey was being obtained via the Catholic Church, they needed to be involved in the problem solving. As the Abbey is due to be closed to the public staffing of the property no longer takes place on a 24-hour basis. The Abbey was mindful that no criminal damage had been committed by the young people so it was important to manage the situation sensitively. CCTV is low cost option for monitoring the situation but there would be restrictions due to the building being listed.

Martin Highton reminded those present that the Parish Council had hosted a multi agency meeting in May 2019. The outcome of that meeting was to create an action plan, to be drawn up by the Police and Ribble Valley Borough Council. This was never produced. Borough Councillor Ged Mirfin stated that he had raised it at the Community Safety Partnership but to no avail. Martin Highton stated that when Parish Councillors had been willing to work more closely with the CSP, the Borough Council Officers shut the Parish Council out.

Clare Davies, in the professional role in further education stated that more work needs to undertake in partnership with the further educational establishments to help address the problem. She added there was a Safeguarding Teams that could work with individuals involved in this type of behavior.

Ged Mirfin reported that the CCTV cameras in Whalley will be upgraded in October/November 2020. The group discussed using AMPR technology to track and trace dealers coming into the area from Burnley, Accrington and Blackburn.

Ged Mirfin also updated the Parish Council on the Local Government Review stating a White Paper was due on the 7 September. Lancashire County Council had opted to put Ribble Valley in with Lancaster/Wyre and Fylde as the preferred option if LCC is abolished and a combined Authority is created.

Paul White reported that the CCTV cameras at the Railway Station are now working. Criminal damage had been carried by young people in the shelters and to the fencing. The young people have now moved into the subway out of view of the cameras. Fly tipping of a food parcel had taken place at the Railway Station. September planting will be undertaken soon.

### **1627/20 Reports from Councillors (Information Only)**

Councillor Cliff Ball reported that the Adam Cottam Almshouses are due their Quinquennial Inspection this year; Architect Ivan Wilson will undertake the inspection on the 21 August 2020. As previously recorded, the roof of the Almshouses is in need of complete replacement. The Quinquennial report will confirm this and provide outline proposals for the repair including basic estimates from approved roofing contractors. No response had been received from Borough Councillors regarding request to assist in funding some of this work.

Cliff reported that the disbanded allotments owned by Whalley Abbey are very overgrown. He had spoken to Christine at the Abbey regarding the allotments. She is going to try to get them tidied.

He added that the Parish Council should feel very disappointed that the Diocese has had to take the action to close the Abbey but it has not been paying its way for some time and the future is uncertain.

Councillor Ball reported that he had received an e-mail about progress on the request to rename Vale Gardens as a memorial to Michelle Kiss. The Parish Clerk reported that she had written to the family and stated that the Grounds and Garden Committee had declined the request but suggested a Memorial Bench be placed in Vale Gardens. She had spoken direct to Mr. Kiss prior to the meeting and given him an application form to apply.

Councillor Dave Sleight reported that the number of people attending a burial at the Cemetery is at present restricted to no more than 10. However, in one instance, the numbers at a burial were seen to be scores of people which resulted in damage to the ground of surrounding grave sites. This is clearly disrespectful to those particular families. The gullies and drains have been cleared of tree roots and jetted. Hopefully this will prevent future flooding of the Cemetery.

A large pile of tree branches and a huge tree stump have been removed. These were the leftovers from when the Memorial Garden was formed. It was reported that a pub-restaurant in Barrow is flaunting the Covid rules as large numbers of people are assembling there with no regard to social distancing.

Councillor Patrick Brown said he had noticed an increasing trend for non-Hackney Licensed taxis lingering on the main routeways into Whalley. He stated that the Heritage Lottery Funding for the Layman's Dormitory Project was going out tender. This would be to carry out emergency repairs and waterproof the site, with the intention of submitting a further bid for approximately £10 million.

Councillor June Brown reported that persisting speeding of agricultural vehicles, and cars. Anti-Social Behaviour was reported to her by residents of the Sands and she had taken steps to ensure the Public Toilets are not left open late into the evening as this attracts ASB. She praised the Traders, Whalley in Bloom and Abbey Gardening Services for working together and making Whalley look beautiful and keeping the local economy going.

Councillor John Threlfall had nothing to report at this stage as it was picked up as a formal agenda item later in the meeting.

Councillor Martin Highton reported that he had received a request from Dan Johnson Director of Crafty Vintage based in Whalley. The Company are producing 'Whalley Big Weekender' and

requested that the committee considers the future use of Vale Gardens for live performances. Although it could be argued this venture would benefit the community, as it was a commercial operation the Councillors felt on this occasion that they would have to decline the request.

Martin had been making further progress on the Bench Maintenance Programme. He had now received quotes to upgrade the Jessica Lofthouse benches at Wisewell and Read Bridge with plastic. The costs being £165 + VAT for 1.5 metres or ££275 + VAT for 2 metres. These costs would be submitted to Pendle Partnership for funding as agreed at the July meeting.

**1628/20 To approve the Rota and regular inspection regime for the public toilets on Whalley Bus Station**

John Threlfall had put together a draft Inspection Regime for comment. It was agreed to adopt the Inspection Regime and that all Parish Councillors would carry out the monthly inspections on Rota basis.

**1629/20 To consider the proposal for the purchase of an additional litter bin for the Queen Elizabeth Playing Fields**

It was agreed not to purchase a new bin. Two quotes for a new litter bin at the Queen Elizabeth Playing Fields had been circulated prior to the meeting. Instead, the Council agreed that a spare bin from Whalley Bowling Club would be utilized. Dave Sleight to speak directly to Jordan Szabo to arrange.

**1630/20 Financial Support for Whalley and Billington Flood Action Group**

At the last meeting brief discussion took place about Whalley and Billington Flood Action Group requiring a new set of Emergency walkie talkies. The Group was seeking financial help to do this. The Lions would fund the majority of the purchases but Whalley Parish Council agreed to support the Group with a donation of £225 + VAT to purchase one walkie talkie.

**1631/20 Anti-Social Behaviour**

This item had been fully discussed at the Public Discussion.

**1632/20 Anti Speeding**

John Threlfall reported that the problems persist and unless enforcement takes place the preventative steps such as SPIDS remain limited. The Parish Council felt another SPID would have little impact. It was agreed that greater enforcement is needed and that the Clerk and John Threlfall should write to the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable explaining the concerns and fears that a fatal accident would happen if enforcement action is not taken.

**1633/20 To discuss and determine the options for a Parish Christmas Tree and decorations in December 2020**

Martin Highton reported it was now time to begin considering arrangements for the Christmas Tree. In 2019/20 the cost of 25 ft Tree was £595 and this was due to increase to £1100 in 2020/21.

Following the Lengthsman initial suggestion, Martin had made enquiries to utilize the existing permanent tree on Vale Gardens as a more sustainable and cost-effective way of providing this annual event.

Martin Highton stated that each year it also cost the Parish Council £275 in labour to put up and remove the Christmas tree lights when it is replaced on an annual basis. Having a more permanent display would incur the following costs:

2 x 24v Transformers @ £45	£90
20 Metres - 5 sets Cherry Globes @£475	
with a 4 Year Warranty	£2375
Cherry Picker Platform to Install	£285
Labour	£285
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£3035 + VAT</b>

It was agreed that the Council should support the proposal to invest and save on future costs. It was agreed that the undergrowth/shrubs would need to be removed in preparation for the work.

Martin Highton reminded Councillors that the Christmas Street Lighting Decorations would also require invest. The Chamber of Trade owned the lights but the Council has traditionally paid for refurbishment and maintenance.

1634/20 **Authorisation of Accounts. Payments and Receipts and Balances for August 2020**

**Payments**

DD	Easyweb	Web Site Maintenance	(27.60)
3507	M. Richardson	Salary	(792.42)
3508	M. Richardson	Home office	(43.33)
3508	M. Richardson	Internet	(10.00)
3509	M. Richardson	mileage 42 miles @ 0.45p	(18.90)
3508	M. Richardson	Mobile rental	(5.00)
	EON	Electricity	0.00
3511	Lenghtsman Payment 2019/20 (Abbey Gdn Service Ltd)	Invoice 2940 Lenghtsman 2019/20	(3,058.13)

**Receipt**

LCC Grant	Local Delivery Scheme	500.00
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**Movement in Month** **(3,455.38)**

**Balances:** Nat West Current: £63,467.12 QE2 Nat West £0 Skipton £21869.12

1635/20 **Clerks Report for August 2020**

Circulated prior to the meeting Whalley Parish Council approved the Clerks Report July 2020.

The Clerk reported that Easy Web had now completed the first draft of the Whalley Parish Council website in order to meet the forthcoming new accessibility standard.

Mandy reported that she had received comments from Dave Sleight already but encouraged all Councillors to take a good look and make comments no later than **Thursday 27 August 2020**.

Suggestions at the meeting included better signposting – how to report a crime, request for allotments and LCC Highways – Report It.

Giant Hogweed had infested the grounds of the Queen Elizabeth Playing Fields and this matter had been passed on by the Clerk to the Trustee Board.

1636/20 **The Council Approved the date of the next meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on **Thursday 17 September 2020**. It was held at Whalley Old Grammar School, Station Road. Whalley.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

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