

WHALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21 January 2021 at 7.30pm held
remotely via zoom**



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

In Attendance: M Richardson – Clerk to Whalley Parish Council
Borough Councillors Ged Mirfin, David Berryman, Mark Hindle.

1675//21 **observation of one-minute silence**

In Remembrance of Maria Berryman that sadly passed away due to COVID19 – our thoughts are with David and his children.

1676/21 **to receive declaration of interests**

None.

1677/21 **to approve as correct the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Meeting held on 19 November 2020**

It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 19 November 2020 be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

1678/21 **to approve as correct the Minutes of the Parish Council Precept Meeting for 2021/22 held on 3 December 2020**

It was resolved that minutes of the Parish Council Precept Meeting for 2021/22 held on the 3 December 2020 be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

1679/21 **to receive minutes of other Committees**

Minutes of the Parish Council Planning Committee held on the 19 November 2020 were received.

1680/21 **to adjourn Meeting for a Period of Public Discussion**

Councillor Ged Mirfin stated that a meeting of the Community Services Committee had taken place on the 5 January 2021 at Ribble Valley Borough Council. A report was presented by the Director of Community Services relating to changes in the Capital Programme and the impact on the provision of CCTV cameras that had been requested for Whalley following the robust evidence of high levels of ASB in Whalley and the current 3 cameras not working. Ged Mirfin stated that the report did not provide clarity on two issues:

- A) The amount of funding to be made available for Parish Councils' to bid for CCTV resources from the Borough Council
- B) A further report was to be written but no timescale given as to when this would take place

The draft minutes of the meeting not being considered as correct record of the meeting - this was to raised directly with Martin Highton and John Heap.

Ged Mirfin stated that Covid cases had risen in Whalley 71 cases week commencing 11 January 2021 and 53 cases week commencing 18 January 2021.

The group discussed the recent Flood Alert due to Storm Cristoph. A temporary flood barrier had been erected at the end of Longworth Road. The change in the weather pattern meant Whalley narrowly missed being flooded again. Ged Mirfin stated that the response from the Environment Agency was woefully inadequate and that they held £53 billion pounds of public funds that should be being spent on more robust long-term solutions. Finally Ged stated that a number of residents had expressed interest in the Residents Parking Scheme (residents on Queens Street for example). There was formal process to go through via Lancashire County Council and some residents felt this would be a solution for the ever-increasing demand on residential parking.

Borough Councillor Mark Hindle stated that he had received a number of complaints about the overflowing litter bins in Whalley. This was highly visible over the Christmas period. Martin Highton stated that discussions had been ongoing with John Heap and that there was a capacity issue now as the area has grown significantly.

The debate about more bins not solving the problem and getting people to take home waste continues. Mark stated that a review of the whole topic was being prepared by John Heap but that no timescale had been given for the preparation of the report. In the meantime, Mark suggested that the community could help more proactively with the issue. At the end of the Broad Lane the existing dog bin was always overflowing. It had been suggested by the resident at the corner that a further bin was necessary and she would be happy to ensure it is put out for collection to help manage the problem.

Debate by the Councillors was divided as to how much the community should be responsible. Some Parish Councillors felt that public litter bins were service that was paid for as part of the Council Tax. As such, it should remain a primary concern of the Principal Authority. Clearly, needs and demands are changing but this is a service matter for the Borough Council to lead on.

Councillor Dave Sleight reported that a meeting was scheduled on the 22 January 2021 with Abbey Gardening Services and the Registrar to put together a Delivery Plan for the recently flood damaged paths.

Councillor June Brown noted Jordan Szabo had been working hard on the planters on King Street and the replanting of Vale Gardens. She expressed good wishes on behalf of the Parish Council for the safe arrival of his first child Saul over the Christmas holidays. She noted that many of the residents over 80 years old had been to Clitheroe Health Centre or Blackburn Cathedral for the COVID 19 vaccinations. Anti-vaccination material was being printed and put on noticeboards and public meeting places in the centre. Over Christmas, June had been approached by an unscrupulous taxi firm that put up illegal lamppost advertising on King Street. Lancashire County Council took action and the flyposting has now been removed. Finally, June stated that it was a very difficult time with the lockdown but that she had witnessed a great deal of community spirit. She noticed a rising number of residents struggling to cope with social isolation and this was worrying. The Clerk advised that Community Connectors offer low level social prescribing and she would obtain the contact details for all Councillors should they be approached by people who needed help.

Councillor Tracey Whistlecraft stated that as a dog walker she was particularly unhappy with the overflowing dog bins in the centre (particularly at the end of Broad Lane and on Mitton Road outside the Aims houses). She also mentioned the Duchy of Lancaster as potential funding pot for community groups.

Councillor Gill Smith stated she had noticed a great number of takeaway coffee cups in public litter and she expressed concerns and customers visiting these establishments not social distancing. There was a debate about whether this was the individual's responsibility and not the retailer. Gill suggested that the recent LCC report on Children and Wellbeing provided some useful feedback as to the growing need for youth interventions in the area and wondered whether this was something the Council could pursue?

Councillor Cliff Ball stated that no further progress had been made with the Almshouses Roof and the Church Yard Committee had not met due to personal commitments and COVID 19.

Councillor Patrick Brown requested that the Vale House Blue Plaque put up for Whalley Remembers be re-cast to correct the spelling error. He suggested that a letter is written to formally confirm that the ownership now rests with Whalley Parish Council and that the funds remaining in the Whalley Remembers account are transferred to the Parish Council and used to pay for a new plaque.

Councillor Martin Highton reported that in preparation for next year's Christmas Decorations the Parish Council would have to pay the Highway Authority (LCC) to assess the lamp standards. He stated that a lamp standard to at the bottom of Accrington Road would require immediate attention and fittings, He awaited costings from the Highway Authority. He reiterated his concerns about flyposting that took place over the Christmas. He had received a complaint about the unsightly mess of the wreaths on the war memorial. It was agreed that it

has always been custom and practice to remove the wreaths at the end of March. He had also received a complaint about the flooding to the entrance of the Burial Ground which is a Highways Authority issue. Martin stated he felt the issue of residents parking was a bad idea and that this would only push problems outwards. He concurred that the Parish Council should be doing more to lobby for better Flood Defence Schemes given the recent event.

Councillor John Threlfall reported that no further information had been received from the Lancashire Constabulary. He had spoken to a traffic officer monitoring speeding on Mitton Road.

Councillor Caroline Allen had received a complaint from a resident regarding litter at Hellicliffs near Spring Wood. This is not Parish Council land but she stated that since this complaint she had visited the area and it had not been littered.

1682/21 **To consider and determine requests for funding in 2020-21 Under S137 of the Local Government Act**

The Councillors had received grant applications requests from a total 6 organisations. It was agreed that the following applications met the criteria and shall be granted in 2020/21

- Whalley & District Lions Club- £521.35 – subject to agreement review siting of the proposed noticeboard
- Whalley Table Tennis Club - £500
- Ribble Valley Rail - £100
- Whalley in Bloom - £1000
- Whalley Scout and Guide Group - £825

Whalley Local History Group submitted a late application requesting £1000. The Council felt it was unclear what this funding would be used for and suggested that further work was needed on the bid. The Council was willing to look at this again following more work.

1683/21 **To receive and update on the CCTV Initiative**

Following the Public Discussion Martin suggested that no further discussion is required until he had met with John Heap.

1684/21 **To consider the frequency and emptying of public litter**

This was debated in the Public Discussion and it was agreed that further work is needed as the current regime was not working.

1685/12 **To consider the location of existing grit bins in Whalley**

Councillor Ged Mirfin stated that he had received requests for more grit bins in Whalley. With the growth in housing he felt the current number was inadequate. He stated that a standard term of S106 agreements on new sites was provision of grit bin. This no longer seemed to be happening. Martin Highton reminded the Council that gritting could only work under very specific conditions and sometimes Councils were unfairly criticized for not doing enough. He questioned whether a new Winter Bulletin had been issued since December 2020. Ged Mirfin had passed this information onto County Councillor Albert Atkinson.

1686/2 **To authorise Accounts, Payments, Receipts and Balances for December 2020**

DD	Easyweb	Webmaintenance	(27.60)
3527	M Richardson	Stamps Reimbursement	(4.56)
3528	M. Richardson	Salary	(753.35)
3529	M. Richardson	Home office	(43.33)
3529	M. Richardson	Internet	(10.00)
3529	M Richardson	Phone	(5.00)
3530	M. Richardson	mileage 56 x 0.45p	(25.20)
3532	HMRC	Quarter 3	(14.31)
3533	Ark Plastics Limited	Bench Refurbishment Yr1 0578	(768.00)
3534	Stately Lighting Limited	Install & Remove Xmas Lights 0833	(1,632.00)
3535	Abbey Gardening Services Ltd	Vale Gardens 3002 Sept 20	(273.00)
3536	Abbey Gardening Services Ltd	Whalley Church 3000 Sept 20	(291.00)
	Movement in Month		(3,847.35)

Balances: Nat West Current: £51115.19. QE2 Nat West £0 Skipton £22477.40.

1686721 **To authorise Accounts, Payments, Receipts and Balances for January 2021**

DD	Easyweb	Website Maintenance	(27.60)
3537	M. Richardson	Salary*	(479.44)
3538	M. Richardson	Home office	(53.33)

3538	M. Richardson	Internet	(10.00)
3539	M. Richardson	mileage 56 x 0.45	(25.20)
3538	M Richardson	mobile phone	(10.00)
3540	Ark Plastics Ltd	0581 Bench Refurb	(396.00)
3568	Ark Plastics Ltd	0584 Bench Refurb	(198.00)
3569	Zoom Annual Fees	Invoice 63077060 Reinburmt M Richardson	(143.88)
3570	Defrib Shop	Order1000063894	(92.40)
3571	Whalley Wisewell & Barrow JBC	Levy 2020	(640.00)
3572	Abbey Gardening Services LTd	Invoice 3026 October2020	(273.00)
3573	Abbey Gardening Services LTd	Invoice 3024 Oct2020Churc	(291.00)
3574	Banniseter Hall Nursery	Replanting Vale Gardens	(1,528.20)
	Whalley Chamber of Trade	Cheq £500 Christmas Lights	
	Movement in Month		(4,168.05)

Balances: Nat West Current: £47267.84. QE2 Nat West £0 Skipton £22477.40.

1688/21 Clerks Report for December 2019-January 2021

The Parish Council resolved to accept the Clerks report. It was noted that efforts were being made to remove the horse chestnut tree in the Parish Churchyard.

1689/21 The Council Approved the date of the next meeting Thursday 18 February 2021

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on **Thursday 18 February 2021.**

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____