

WHALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 15 October 2020 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

Apologies: Councillor Patrick Brown; Sergeant Kevin Day,
PCSO S Barton and K Ferguson

In Attendance: M Richardson – Clerk to Whalley Parish Council
2 Members of the Public including
Borough Councillor Ged Mirfin & Gill Smith

1648//20 to receive declaration of interests

None.

1649/20 to approve as correct the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Meeting held on 17 September 2020

It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17 September 2020 be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman

1650/20 to receive minutes of other Committees

Minutes of the Parish Council Planning Committee held on the 20 August 2020 were received.

Minutes of the Grounds and Garden Committee held on 17 March 2020 were received.

1651/20 to adjourn Meeting for a Period of Public Discussion

Gill Smith stated that she wished to speak with regard to her submitted application to become a Parish Councillor at Item 13 on the Agenda. She outlined her experience and commitment to civic duties and stated that she looked forward to working on the local issues. As a resident of the Parish she had found the previous Planning Committee meeting interesting.

Borough Councillor Ged Mirfin stated the proposals for central Government to proceed with Local Government Reorganisation had been delayed and the White Paper would be produced in March/April 2021. He reported that Ribble Valley had been placed in Tier Level Three under

the new Government Guidance and infection cases and deaths from COVID are rising steadily. Discussions were taking place with the Borough Council and Central Government to ensure that the hospitality businesses are supported under the new rules. He reported that some Licensed establishment in Whalley had been reported for failing to adhere to the 10pm closing time and these had been reported to the Police. The new Benny's Bar that had recently opened (formerly known as the H2O bar had been written to by Licensing Authority to stop putting street furniture outside the premises. The establishment would have to apply for a pavement license to do this. The Dog Inn had closed for a deep clean following one member of staff testing positive for COVID 19. Following a recent walk about he also reported that there was a significant number of potholes particularly in the Nethertown ward and encouraged all Parish Councillors to assist in reporting. He suggested perhaps lobbying Councillor Iddon.

He urged Whalley Parish Council to look at the recent Planning White Paper that was out for consultation.

1652/20 Reports from Councillors (Information Only)

Councillor Cliff Ball reported that the Adam Cottam Almshouses, awaited the Architects quinquennial report. Discussions had taken place with the Borough Councillor to seek funding to carry out the re-roofing.

Councillor Dave Sleight reported that the Memorial Safety Inspections and corresponding work continues.

Councillor June Brown reported that the Grounds and Garden Committee met on the 29 September. Unfortunately, the Gill Taylor bench has been vandalised again but is repairable. Once it has been repaired it will be moved so it is more visible to the general public and will be located under the end noticeboard opposite Whalley Wine Shop. The Bench Refurbishment Schedule was on track and within budget with 8 benches being upgraded in year 1. Arrangements had been put in place for the Christmas Tree and new lights and she thanked Martin Highton for his work in making this happen. The Committee approved a new planning Scheme for Vale Gardens that will now take place over the winter costing in the region of £3000. This will greatly improve the appearance and increase usage, although it was already well used.

Councillor John Threlfall awaited response regarding the letters sent to the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable regarding speeding traffic on Mitton Road and the lack of enforcement. He carried out the first inspection with Councillor June Brown of the public toilets and attended the Joint Burial Committee Meeting on the 28 August 2020.

Councillor Martin Highton reported that himself and Councillor June Brown had undertaken the monthly inspection of toilets. There was still a problem with locking mechanism of the door in the female toilets, signage and a pane of glass in the ladies but this had been reported to John Heap at the Borough Council. Martin said the toilets are now in a much better state of repair compared to last year and praised the cleaner for hard work and level of cleanliness. He requested that the Lengthsman should clean the bus shelters over the winter months. He

requested that the Clerk now proceeds to get the remaining wall repairs at Vale Gardens completed following the removal of the Lombardi Poplars.

Councillor John Threlfall reported that United Utilities had installed some temporary traffic lights on Mitton Road at the entrance of Pendle Drive that was causing significant disruption. It was not clear why the lights had been installed at this busy junction. Councillor Threlfall persisted in trying to find out what work was being undertaken but failed to get details of United Utilities, the lights eventually being removed. He assumed that the organisation had placed the traffic lights in the wrong location.

1653/20 To receive and approve S3 External Auditor Report 2019/20 and note the conclusion of the Intermediate Review

The Council noted the External Auditor Report and thanked the Parish Clerk in conjunction with Chairman for the work that resulted in clean bill of health for the External Audit Intermediate Review of 2019/20.

1654/20 To receive and approve the Notice of Conclusion of Audit for year ended 31 March 2020

The Council noted in accordance with Statutory Guidance, the publication of the Notice of Conclusion of Audit posted on the 8 October 2020 for a period of 1 month.

1655/20 To discuss and provide feedback on the location of CCTV cameras for Whalley as part of the Ribble Valley Borough Council Capital Program Spend for 2020/21

Councillors identified the following locations as suitable spots for additional CCTV cameras as result of the high levels of Anti-Social behavior both from young people and adults that use the Licensed premises. The existing cameras are located: Opposite Vale Gardens, Outside the Health Centre on King Street, At the Corner of the Dog.

It was suggested that further cameras could be installed at : On Accrington Road to look down Queen Street, The Sands and Whalley Abbey, Proctors Field at the end of George Street, Queen Elizabeth II Playing Fields, Whalley Weir and Calder Vale.

The Clerk and Chairman would write to John Heap with this information. This would be circulated to all Councillors.

1656/20 To consider and respond to the Lancashire County Council, King Street Highway Improvement Consultation 2020.

Prior to the meeting the Clerk sent out 3 plans on proposed improvements to King Street; the Council welcomed the proposals but noted enforcement was necessary to implement the not waiting times on King Street that are often flouted by taxis and that they requested the Clerk see details from LCC on the specification of the proposed material to be used for paving as the improvements are in a Conservation Area.

1657/20 To receive updates on a) Anti-Social Behaviour and b) to note responses from the Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner regarding speeding concerns.

- a) Anti Social Behavior continued and the Police presence was highly visible on Friday 9 October 2020. Young people had started using the The Stables, Back of King Street to congregate and at the bottom of Woodfield Avenue. Concerns were expressed at the entry of drugs into the area from outside.
- b) John Threlfall has received responses from the Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner circulated prior to the meeting. The information will now be presented by to the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership in the hope that the speed enforcement camera will be reinstalled on Mitton Road.

1658/20 To consider a request to support a Pumpkin Trail Event

The Clerk had received an email from the The Swan Hotel requesting support from the Parish Council to help organize a Pumpkin Tail for young children to celebrate Halloween. Upon further investigation it was clear that they did not require financial support but perhaps publicity. The Parish Council was invited to produce a pumpkin.

1659/20 To consider the appointment of a Casual Vacancy to Whalley Abbey Seat

The Parish Council had been requested to consider an application by Gill Smith for her appointment to the vacant seat in Whalley Abbey. Details had been circulated prior to the meeting and she had addressed Councillors in the Public Discussion. The Council unanimously appointed Gill Smith. The Clerk stated that the Acceptance of Office and Declaration of Interests would need to be completed and returned to the Principal Authority prior to the next meeting.

1660/20 To determine detail of the Proposed Remembrance Sunday under COVID 19 restrictions.

The Council resolved that no Remembrance Sunday Parade would take place on Sunday the 8 November 2020 due to COVID restrictions in Tier 3. A church service would take place a St Mary's and All Saints Church but this was limited to numbers to observe social distancing. It was agreed that two wreaths would be ordered and placed on the War Memorial at Whalley Old Grammar School and Calderstones NHS Hospital. This would be undertaken in a non-formal way. The Parish Council agreed that that the occasion should commemorated by encouraging residents to observe 2 minutes silence at 11 am on Sunday 8 November 2020 within their own homes. It was agreed a press release should be produced to inform the public that the Parade would not take place.

1661/20 To authorise Accounts, Payments, Receipts and Balances for October 2020

<u>Income</u>		<u>Payments</u>	
website maintenance	(27.60)		
Salary	(792.42)		

Home office	(43.33)		
Internet	(10.00)		
mobile rental	(5.00)		
mileage 42 miles @ 0.45p	(18.90)		
Reimbursement Stamps	(4.56)		
Quarter 2	(25.23)		
Web Accessibility work01-328-2	(360.00)		
Room Hire JM1739	(25.00)		
Invoice No 0822 light refurb	(1,920.00)		
invoice No 0821 Christmas Tree	(3,642.00)		
External Audit Invoice SB20201114	(360.00)		
Skipton Bank Interest			182.86
	(7,234.04)	0.00	182.86

Balances: Nat West Current: £59056.47 QE2 Nat West £0 Skipton £22294.54

1662/20 **Clerks Report for October 2020**

The Parish Council resolved to accept the Clerks report and noted the request by Lancashire County Council to extend the closure of public footpath 29 for a further 12 months. It was noted that the Clerk will seek advice to object to the requested extension.

1663/20 **The Council Approved the date of the next meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on **Thursday 19 November 2020** . It will be decided nearer the time whether it will be held remotely or at Whalley Old Grammar School. The Whalley Parish Council Precept Meeting will be held at 7.30pm on 5 November 2020.

The meeting closed at 8.43pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____