

WHALLEY PARISH COUNCIL



**Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 17 September 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

Apologies: Councillor Patrick Brown

In Attendance: M Richardson – Clerk to Whalley Parish Council
8 Members of the Public including
Borough Councillor Ged Mirfin/David Berryman
Sergeant Kevin Day, PCSO S Barton and K Ferguson

1637//20 to receive declaration of interests

None.

1638/20 to approve as correct the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Meeting held on 20 August 2020

It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20 August(subject to changes agreed with Cllr Ball and M Richardson) 2020 be approved as a correct record.

1639/20 to receive minutes of other Committees

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

1640/20 to adjourn Meeting for a Period of Public Discussion

Michael Wedgeworth raised concerns about changes that have been taking place at 3 licensed premises ; Rendezvous Nightclub that is due to become a Sports Bar, George Street – Bjou Café that will be a licensed café and close at 6pm, Brady’s that is being converted into a Gin Bar called ‘The Aviary.’

Although the Cumulative Impact Policy will be considered in granting future variations or new licenses Councillor Ged Mirfin stated it would not necessarily ‘automatically stop’ new or variation licenses being granted. Mike Wedgeworth raised concerns to the Parish Council about the development and the potential ASB and crime that may result from the changes.

Councillor Martin Highton and June Brown both sympathized with the concerns and stated that the Parish Council was not a statutory consultee on Licensed Premises Applications but Planning

Applications only. The Parish Council had worked very hard in the past to get the Borough Council to change its Licensing Policy to include the “Cumulative Impact factor, and would be watching very carefully the impact of the new developments and called for Licensee’s to be responsible in conducting business.

Discussion moved onto how this could effectively be monitored and having an additional CCTV camera on Accrington Road maybe a solution to the problem. Currently the CCTV cameras are not working and Ribble Valley Council is looking to upgrade the equipment in the 2020/21 Capital Program. Given the rising problems with ASB the Parish Council felt that an additional camera at key places should be added to the upgrade.

Unfortunately there was no formal consultation by the Borough Council. Councillor Martin Highton expressed frustration at the lack of engagement by Ribble Valley Borough Council and suggested that problems had become so acute the Parish Council would have no alternative to raise the Precept next year to safeguard residents by installing additional CCTV that could be used for evidence and criminal prosecutions.

Sergeant Kevin Day stated that CCTV footage is an effective tool in trying to manage ASB so additional camera’s in key locations would be very helpful. Councillor Ged Mirfin agreed to speak to John Heap about the feasibility of an additional camera/s and report back to the next meeting.

Ged Mirfin highlighted to the Parish Council that the failure to tackle the ongoing ASB in Whalley they could consider using legislation under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 – Community Trigger. If residents (or others) have reported an incident 3 or more times within a six-month period you can activate the Community Trigger (also known as ASB Case Review) through your Local Authority. This has been designed to give residents, the victim, the right to demand that agencies deal with persistent anti-social behaviour. There will be a multi-agency case review which involves various agencies (e.g. local Police, Local Authority, Housing Association, NHS). This is different from a single-agency complaints process which looks at faults in the way an agency responded. The Community Trigger process is more of an attempt to ultimately fix the problem and stop the anti-social behaviour.

Sergeant Kevin Day updated the Parish Council on progress since attendance by Police at the August meeting. He reported that the Police are spending as much time as possible in Whalley to address problems of ASB and young people, particularly around Whalley Abbey and the Sands. He reminded people that the geographical area is the largest in East Lancashire to Police. He stated a meeting had been held with the Police, Whalley Abbey and residents on The Sands. Additional resources are being brought in from the Police Task Force to address the problem.

Whalley Abbey had agreed to put additional gates in place now that it was not staffed. However, due to the property being a listed building this would have to go through Planning and could take time. The Police had no control over this timescale. The Police had contacted the Youth Service to look at what input they could have to help address. He had also made contact with the Transport Police as some of the ASB problems was attributable to young people outside the area. PCSO Katie Ferguson stated they were still collecting Intelligence as to individuals and vehicles entering the Whalley to deal drugs.

The CCTV footage captured at Whalley Train Station will be used to investigate 2 incidents of criminal damage and ASB in August and September 2020 by the Transport Police.

The Police concluded that steps were being made and despite 'reporting fatigue of residents' he asked for them to continue reporting the problem. It was the responsibility of everyone, not just one agency.

Tony Brown reported no social distancing at the De Lacy Arms. The Police noted the complaint and also said it was an individual's responsibility to adhere to the guidance.

1641/20 Reports from Councillors (Information Only)

Cliff Ball reported that the Adam Cottam Almshouses, awaited the Architects quinquennial inspection. The report will include outline proposals for the repair including basic estimates from approved roofing contractors.

Still no response from Borough Councillors regarding a request for grant funding from the Borough Council. Commenced search for possible sources of grants including the Lancashire Environmental Fund. Ged Mirfin asked that Cliff look to seek funding from the Borough Council Voluntary Services Grant in in January/February 2021 and consider the possibility of co-opting a Borough Councillor onto the Trust to bring about closer links. To be discussed in a separate meeting.

Churchyard committee had not met and there was nothing to report. A meeting was held at Whalley Abbey on 24th August; (notes previously circulated via email). Residents made their concerns very clear and the Abbey is considering some proposals. However Cliff felt it was clear that the Police needed to take a more robust approach in preventing drugs from entering the village in the first place.

The overgrown allotments, owned by Whalley Abbey are now the responsibility of the primary school. The chair of the governing body has been asked to ensure that the allotments are tidied up either through the school or the diocese. Whalley in bloom nothing to report from previous meetings.

A walk around the village showed that either the litter bins are not emptied regularly enough or we need more bin capacity. Councillor Ged Mirfin stated that John Heap will be reporting to the Community Services Committee in the near future on this issue in a Boroughwide context. The footpath on station road (south side) is breaking up and this makes social distancing difficult and dangerous as it pushes people into the road.

Councillor Dave Sleight reported that after the Burial Committee meeting on Friday 28 August, they had agreed to allow a maximum of 30 mourners at the Cemetery with 10 mourners only around a grave plot. This would help mitigate the damage to other grave sites.

The Memorial Safety Inspection has been carried out by Ribble Valley Borough Council and around 25 memorials have been assessed as in need of repair as soon as possible (category 1). These memorials have been identified by the use of hazard tape, wrapped around them as a warning to the public.

Out-of-district burials can be £400 plus more expensive than in-district. Sometimes people move out of district, perhaps to a Nursing Home, for the remaining years of their life and it is

harsh if this group of people have to pay the full burial fee. This issue is always dealt sensitively by the Registrar.

The spare waste bin at the Bowling Club has now been moved on to the football side of the QE11 as agreed at the August 2020 Parish Council meeting.

Councillor June Brown reported that herself and John Threlfall has undertaken the first monthly inspection of the toilets at Vale Gardens and said the facility was well used by tourists, bus drivers, young people. Problems had occurred again with young people tampering with the self-locking mechanism that the Borough Council had to repair. Persisting speeding of agricultural vehicles remains a problem.

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 a community noticeboard had finally been installed in the Queen Elizabeth II playing field. The problems with Giant Hogweed have been treated effectively by Abbey Gardening Services Limited. Common Hogweed remained a problem. The Plaque from the Memorial Bench from Vale Gardens was with Abbey Gardening Services. The company contracted to undertaken bench repairs will take one bench from Vale Gardens and two spare ends to create two new refurbished seats. A cheque from the Twinning Committee for £425.42 had been received and will be banked in the Parish Council Skipton Savings Account.

1642/20 Consider initiation of a Community Trigger Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

This was discussed in the Public Discussion Section and is an option for future action. The Police seemed to be making positive steps to try and address some of the problems but it required a multi-agency approach. The Community Trigger is initiated by the Police and Crime Commissioner. Ged Mirfin stated that it often brought additional resources. It was agreed by Whalley Parish Council to invoke the Community Trigger and that the Clerk should write to the Police and Crime Commissioner. The Clerk to liaise with Borough Councillor Ged Mirfin.

1643/20 (a) Consider setting up a Working Group to Review Sport and Leisure Opportunities in Whalley and Surrounding Areas

Given the continuing problems with young people and ASB the Parish Council agreed that a baseline study should be undertaken via a working group to review Sport and Leisure opportunities in Whalley. This would help identify gaps in provision and inform any future diversionary activities in addition to being a useful directory for residents. It was agreed that Patrick Brown should lead the Working Group if he is happy to do so.

(b) Anti Speeding Initiative – Await response from Police & Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable.

1644/20 To discuss and determine options for the Refurbishment of the Whalley Christmas Decorations 2020

Martin Highton reported that Whalley Chamber of Trade normally paid for repairs to the Christmas Lights display but due to COVID 19 having a devastating effect on trading it was agreed that Whalley Parish Council will pay for the costs that were anticipated to be approximately £1000. If possible, the Chamber of Trade would try and make a donation of £500 but this was not guaranteed.

1645/20 To authorise Accounts, Payments, Receipts and Balances for September 2020

Payments

DD	Website	(27.60)
3512	Salary	(792.42)
3513	Home office	(43.33)
3513	Internet	(10.00)
3514	mileage 42 miles @ 0.45p	(18.90)
3513	Mobile rental	(5.00)
3515	2962 July Whalley Churchyard	(291.00)
3516	2976 Aug Whalley Churchyard	(291.00)
3517	2964 July Vale Gds	(273.00)
3518	2978 Aug Vale Gds	(273.00)
3520	Room Hire JM1725 Aug 20	(15.00)
3519	Donation FLAG	(330.00)
	Movement in month	(2,370.25)

Balances: Nat West Current: £57511.01.12 QE2 Nat West £0 Skipton £21869.12

1646/20 Clerks Report for September 2020

The Clerk highlighted that the Whalley Parish Council website was now compliant with the new Accessibility Standard that was due to come into effect on the 22 September 2020. The report was approved.

1647/20 The Council Approved the date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on **Thursday 15 October 2020**. It will be held at Whalley Old Grammar School, Station Road. Whalley.

The meeting closed at 9.43pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____