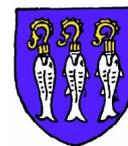


## WHALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21 October 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  
Councillor C Allen

Apologies: None

8 Member of the public including P White, T Brown, S Paramore, Borough Councillors G Mirfin, D Berryman and M Hindle

#### 1783/21 to receive declaration of interests

None.

#### 1784/21 Martin Highton proposed that Agenda Item Number 10 be moved to the end of the Meeting and the public excluded due to the confidential nature of the discussion.

#### 1785/21 to approve as correct the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16 September 2021

It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16 September 2021 be approved as a correct record.

#### 1786/21 to approve the minutes of the AGM Parishioners' Meeting held on the 7 October 2021

#### 1787/21 to receive the minutes of Whalley Parish Council Planning Committee held on the 16 September 2021

#### 1788/21 to adjourn the meeting for a period of public discussion

Sue Paramore stated she represented the Whalley Neighbourhood Action Group. She stated that a meeting had recently been attended at which the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, Police and 4 Parish Councillors attended to discuss the antisocial behaviour resulting from the late-night economy.

She made an emotional plea to the Parish and Borough Councillors present following the serious assault that took place on King Street in the early hours of the morning at the weekend to act and proactively manage the serious ASB that blighted the resident's lives. She reiterated under the duty of the Principal Authority to ensure residents have a right to peace and quiet that is simply being ignored.

She reiterated her hope for the introduction of a Late-Night Levy and the need to increase CCTV to help manage the situation. She stated Whalley is seen as an attractive place to come due to the late-night opening and people often arrived 'pre-loaded.' Police Sergeant Kevin Day has categorically stated there will be no extra Police provision and the use of the S34 Dispersal Order is a rare, expensive, and draconian measure that cannot be used on a routine basis.

She called for the Early Morning Restriction Order to be introduced to manage the situation. Borough Councillor Ged Mirfin stated that there was no appetite for the use of this tool to manage the situation at Ribblesdale Borough Council. Borough Councillors M Hindle and G Mirfin had recently not been allowed to attend a meeting of the Whalley Licensed Victuallers.

Tony Brown reiterated that for 3 years the Parish Council had been trying to avoid the problem getting any worse and he stated that it was the Licensing Authority that needed to look at Late Night Licensing in conjunction with a more effective Police presence at key times.

Martin Highton stated the Licensing Law also required long term change as the current procedure is weighted in favour of the Licensee holder. The Cumulative Impact Policy change had yet to be used effectively.

There was an underlying feeling that after 3 years of lobbying the problem did not sit solely with the Licensing Authority in terms of elected members. The problem also resided in the Licensing Officers at Ribble Valley Borough Council simply ignoring the reality of what is going on. The Borough Councillors agreed to take this back to the Authority. Buy in at the top of the organisation in terms of Chief Executive needed to happen if any progress was going to be made. Failure to address this systemic problem many felt will result in a fatality sooner rather than later.

1789/21 **Reports from Councillors** (information only)

Councillor Sleight reported that the Registrar of the Cemetery was on sick leave and that matters would be discussed when the public have been excluded.

Gill Smith stated she had met with Caroline, Mandy, and June to discuss the newsletter and provided information for inclusion. She had an update on the Burial Committee but resigned because of concerns about the inappropriate use of public funds and leadership. This would be discussed later without the public present.

John Threlfall stated update on the Burial Committee would be discussed later without the public present. He stated that the interactive speed camera on Mitton Road had been funded under S278 monies as part of a development. He had spoken to the Clerk and provided information about the Lancashire County Council Bus consultation.

Tracey Whistlecraft had nothing to report but noted that recent friends visiting from outside the area noted the beauty of Whalley. She highlighted the mess left outside of Benny's Bar regarding the large number of cigarette butts.

Cliff Ball noted the high quality of work by LCC in terms of the pavement improvements. The paving outside the Forum, although it had been reported was still dangerous. The Almshouses Trust met with Councillor Ged Mirfin to discuss the possibility of funding for a new roof. He estimated it could cost £100,000 and it is likely this would come from several sources including a contribution by Whalley Parish Council. A funding plan would need to be created and he would look at other sources including the Lancaster Foundation. He raised a concern that money would not be raised in time and that the tenants would need rehousing as it was creating damp. The Church Yard Committee had not met. He had spoken to the Vicar about the Remembrance Service and there was a debate about whether there would be a procession from the Church to the Memorial.

Caroline Allen had been assisting in the putting together the newsletter.

June Brown had attended the Almshouses meeting and shared Cliff's concerns regarding the state of the roof. She had attended the Whalley Educational Foundation Meeting and stated it was gradually recovering its finances following the pandemic. Terry Hill had been reappointed as Chairman. Tree works had had been carried out. She had also attended the meeting that Sue Paramore spoke about in the public discussion. She had also attended a Consumer Group at Whalley Medical Centre and was pleased to announce a pharmacist had been appointed that could prescribe and answer in depth queries about medication. This would take the pressure off GPS and positive feedback had been received.

Martin Highton reported his thanks to Graham Vernon for attending the Annual Parishioners' Meeting. He stated that he had been approached by resident wishing to be considered for the Co-option to the

vacancy. He hoped this would be considered at the November meeting. He stated significant time had been taken up with the Burial Committee. This would be discussed later.

**1790/21 To receive and approve S3 External Auditor Report 2020/21 and note the conclusion of the 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 of 2020/21.

**1791//21 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 13 October 2021 for a period of 1 month.

**1792/21 To receive an update on seeking a Licensing Review Hearing regarding Benny’s Bar on Accrington Road.**

Martin Highton stated that Application for a Review of a Premises Licence for Benny’s Bar was currently on hold until time can be allocated to the reservice of the papers. The Clerk informed the Council that this was likely to be in December 2021. Parish Councillor Caroline Allen agreed to collate the information with the Clerk in December.

**1793/21 To accept the resignation of the Parish Clerk and agree to a new recruitment timetable**

Martin Highton informed the Council that the existing Clerk had for personal reasons handed in her notice due to a full-time offer of employment. He read out the resignation letter thanking Councillors past and present. The Parish Council thanked the Clerk for her work over the past 4 years. It was agreed that the Parish Council should go out to advert to fill the vacancy. The termination of the current Clerks contract was approved as the 31 December 2021. It was agreed that Parish Councill Gill Smith should look at the current contract and update due to her Human Resources background. The advert for the vacancy will be posted on LALC/Ribble Valley Borough Council website and Indeed. The vacancy will also be advertised in the proposed newsletter.

**1794/21 Authorisation of Accounts. Payments and Receipts and Balances for October 2021**

	NW Curr	NW QE2	Skipton	Total
	£	£	£	£
Webmaintenance	(27.60)			(27.60)
Salary	(737.90)			(737.90)
Home office	(43.33)			(43.33)
Internet	(10.00)			(10.00)
mileage28 x 0.45	(12.60)			(12.60)
Mobile rental	(5.00)			(5.00)
External Audit Fee	(360.00)			(360.00)
2 Stainless Steel Bench Plaques	(135.00)			(135.00)
Room Hire JM1785	(25.00)			(25.00)

Vale Gardens	(17.41)		(17.41)
Employee tax £30.60 +EmpNICS £21.75))	(52.35)		(52.35)
Wall Repairs Vale Gds 3295	(1,995.00)		(1,995.00)
Vale Gardens Aug 3271	(273.00)		(273.00)
Vale Gardens Sept 3293	(273.00)		(273.00)
Church Aug 3272	(291.00)		(291.00)
Church Sept 3294	(291.00)		(291.00)
Vale Gardens July 3247	(273.00)		(273.00)
Church July 3246	(291.00)		(291.00)
	<b>(5,113.19)</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
			<b>(5,113.19)</b>

**Receipts/ Income: Concurrent Grant Ribble Valley Council: £1071.0**

**Balances:** Nat West Current: £77282.92 QE2 Nat West £0 Skipton £24006.74

**1795/21 Clerks Report for October 2021**

Circulated prior to the meeting Whalley Parish Council received the Clerks Report for October 2021 for information.

**1796/21 To approve the content and process for the Whalley Parish Council Newsletter**

The Clerk circulated a draft of the proposed newsletter, and it was resolved that the final draft will be emailed to Councillors on Monday 25 October 2021 with final comments due no later than noon on Wednesday 27 October 2021. Members of the public left at 9.10pm

**1797/21 To consider and approve the short term and long-term measures for Whalley Wiswell and Barrow Joint Burial Committee (Exclusion of the Public)**

- a) The Council resolved that Whalley, Wiswell and Barrow Joint Burial Committee has terminated and is no longer a legal entity

The Constitution for the Committee states:

The Committee shall terminate and cease to have any powers as provided by this constitution or delegated powers of the Parish Councils;

- (i) If less than 3 (three) Members are currently appointed to the Committee.

(b) The Council resolved to accept the resignation of Councillor Dave Sleight from Whalley Parish Council and Chair of Whalley Wiswell and Barrow Joint Burial Committee. On behalf of the Council the Chairman thanked Dave for his dedicated service to the Council and to the Joint Burial Committee.

(c) The Council resolved that short term interim arrangements would need to be put in place and this would be delegated to Martin Highton as Chairman to discuss with the Chairmen of Wiswell and Barrow Parish Councils' and the Principal Authority.

(d) The Council resolved that to put in place short term arrangements to try and maintain service disruption access would be required to the files that are kept by the Registrar and ex Chairman Dave Sleight

(e) The Council resolved that the long-term future of the service would include looking at a variety of options including the possibility of relinquishing the service to the control of Principal Authority and for this reason was not currently willing to reappointment to the Joint Burial Committee.

1798/21 **The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Thursday 18 November 2021 and the Precept meeting would take place on the 25 November 2021 at 7pm**

The meeting closed at 10.00pm

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