

## WHALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 16 September 2021 at 7.30pm

Whalley Old Grammar School



**Present:** Councillor M Highton(Chairman) (Chaired the meeting from 8pm)  
Councillor J Brown (Vice Chairman (Chaired the meeting to 8pm)  
Councillor C Ball  
Councillor G Smith  
Councillor D Sleight  
Councillor J Threlfall  
Councillor T Whistlecraft  
Councillor C Allen

**Apologies:** Borough Councillors' D Berryman and M Hindle

**In Attendance:** M Richardson – Clerk to Whalley Parish Council  
4 Member of the Public including P White, T Brown, S Paramore, M Reid,  
Councillor G Mirfin

1770/21 to receive declaration of interests

None.

1771/21 to approve as correct the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19 August 2021

It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19 August 2021 approved as a correct record.

1772/21 to receive the minutes of Whalley Parish Council Planning Committee held on the 19 August 2021

1773/21 to adjourn the meeting for a period of public discussion

Sergeant Kevin Day updated the Parish Council on recent Police activity in relation to Anti-Social Behaviour relating to young people and the nighttime economy. June Brown said that many meetings became unfocussed as both issues were often discussed together and the solutions to the problems are very different.

In relation to young people and ASB Kevin Day outlined the S34 Notice that was invoked by the Police over the August Bank Holiday weekend. He stated this is considered a draconian measure and had to be authorised by the Police Inspector. It was a costly exercise as it involved drafting in Police from neighbouring areas/payments of overtime and planning. The Notice allows the police over a 48-hour period to tell individuals to leave the area if they suspect the intention is to cause ASB. Ten tickets were issued in the first 12 hours to send out a strong message that ASB behaviour amongst young people will not be tolerated. Members of the public at the meeting stated that it did have a positive impact; Whalley was more peaceful. Sergeant Day said this was not a solution to problem but more of sticking plaster.

During that weekend the Police made visits to Licensed Premises. Sue Paramore (resident) stated that although she recognized reporting of crime was important, she highlighted problems with the current Police systems. The 101 number was engaged. Online reporting was long winded and when an incident is happening in the early hours of the morning it was very frustrating. She asked if Sergeant Day received ASB reports for Whalley directly. He stated that he did not. However, on each shift he would get a list of activity in the past 48 hours and would prioritise accordingly.

Kevin Day reported Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner had formally tasked the Community Safety Partnership to lead and prioritize work on ASB in Whalley. This means that Ribble Valley Borough Council officer time will be allocated to this work and Whalley.

He went on to state that a variety of options exist going forward in terms of future Policing in the Ribble Valley. The Police and Crime Commissioner has recently abolished the hybrid police model adopted in Rossendale. Ribble Valley work on the hybrid model and he intimated there may be a possibility that this will change. In abolishing the hybrid Policing model, this would mean a return to the more traditional Neighbourhood Policing.

Mike Reid stated that as regards the ASB from the nighttime economy responsibility must be taken more seriously by the Licensee. Some failed to help manage the situation by serving people that were already very drunk. These businesses should refuse to serve heavily intoxicated individuals.

The Parish Council and Police concurred that the current Licensing Act is in desperate need of reform. Borough Councillor Ged Mirfin stated that Community Safety Partnership as the lead organisation seek to come up with more creative ways of tackling the problems relating to the ASB and night time economy.

Tony Brown criticized the elected members that sit on the Licensing Committee for being brow beaten by Licensing Solicitors that represented Licensees. He also raised the continuing problem of electronic scooters stating that he feared an accident was imminent because the riders use the pavement.

Sergeant Day stated the Police and Crime Commissioner had reopened Clitheroe Police Station Enquiry desk. It will be open to the public from 9am-1pm each day. It was unclear yet whether the front desk will be staffed by a uniformed officer or not.

Mike Reid raised problems with the overgrown bushes running alongside the footpath on Accrington Road. Martin Highton stated it was the responsibility of the landowner but was concerned about safety. If the landowner does not progress, the Parish Council may ask the Lengthsman to intervene.

County Councillor Ged Mirfin stated that Lancashire County Council are undertaking a public consultation on the public bus service. Martin Highton stated the Parish Council will respond. Parish Councillor John Threlfall and the Clerk to draft a response.

He updated the Parish Council on the recent complaints about noise at the LCC Depot. The Director of the Service went to personally speak to the residents that have complained. Areas that will be addressed are changing working practices, behaviour of staff and look at the feasibility of relocating the operation along the A59 and creating a super depot. This could mean the land is then developed for housing.

Finally, he stated that Ribble Valley Borough Council had changed the criteria for Concurrent Grant that Parish Councils can claim. Under the new rules expenditure to allow Parish Councils to claim 25% of capital costs relating to CCTV cameras will be allowed. Martin Highton stated this was helpful but that any future spend on CCTV for Whalley would need to link into the RVBC system and NOT standalone cameras. This was on the recommendation of the Police.

He stated the Borough was reviewing the current Cumulative Impact Assessment. The policy was introduced in 2019 as a result of the growing ASB problems associated with the nighttime economy. It reiterated the importance of residents and businesses replying to the consultation.

Footpath 29 has been closed for nearly two years and the Clerk was asked to contact LCC Public Right of Way Team to get an update on when it will reopen. The Lancashire County Council SPID (speed monitoring device) that was located on Mitton Road has been moved. John Threlfall had contacted LCC on this issue but had no feedback. Given the speeding problems the Parish Council asked G Mirfin to investigate.

Paul White said the PA system on Whalley Railway Station had not been working for 2 months. Night time works will take place on the Viaduct from 20-24 September 2021. Hedge cutting on Mitton Road will take place and a structural engineer from LCC will visit to check the wall structure.

Councillor Sleight reported that the Registrar of the Cemetery has put forward a claim for the back payment of holiday pay and a cumulative error in her salary scale.

Gill Smith had nothing to report.

John Threlfall had nothing to report.

Tracey Whistlecraft had nothing to report.

Caroline Allen stated the refurbished playground equipment was being well used. She noted the shopping trolley that had been thrown in the River Calder.

Cliff Ball stated Councillor Ged Mirfin had arranged a meeting with Borough Council and Adam Cottam Almshouses Trust to discuss possible grant funding to help replace the roof on the houses in Whalley. The Trust's contractor has been requested to provide a detailed build cost. This has been delayed due to the continued rising cost of construction materials.

The Churchyard Committee will meet in October and Safety Inspection Memorial Report will be considered.

Platinum Jubilee – Platinum Whalley a flyer has been drafted and distributed to local voluntary groups and businesses. He had received replies from Clitheroe and Whalley Lions.

He attended the ASB meeting on the 1 September 2021. An action plan is be drafted and costed from the meeting. He attended a resident meeting at Whalley Abbey on Friday 3 September. A subcommittee meeting is planned for 17 September 2021 and will be chaired by Rev Michael Wedgeworth.

June Brown had attended the ASB meeting on the 1 September 2021 and thanked Ged Mirfin for making it happen. She reiterated that the Parish Council is seeking solutions to two distinct problems this was not easy. The Parish Council continued to push forward in trying to find pragmatic solutions.

Martin Highton reported that some of the Christmas lights had rusted but the contractor had managed to get the supplier to replace the faulty goods. Lancashire County Council had given the Parish Council a quote to undertake safety testing of the lamp columns, but he had not heard anything back and would chase up. He had attended the meetings on ASB on 1 September 2021. He agreed to look at guidance on how to obtain Listed Building Consent for St Luke's Church at the MerseyCare site.

#### **1775/21 Whalley Parish Council Vacancy**

The Clerk reported that the position could now be filled by co-option. Details of the vacancy had been posted on the noticeboard and website. No applications had been received to date.

#### **1776/21 To consider and approve a proposal to purchase 2 pairs of cast iron bench ends to continue the Bench Refurbishment Program**

As part of the ongoing Bench Refurbishment Work Schedule the Parish Council has sourced two pairs of cast iron bench ends to keep consistency 'of look.' Suppliers can charge from £500-£150 per cast iron bench end. It was agreed to purchase 4 bench ends at a cost of is £149 per bench end + delivery cost.

#### **1777/21 To receive an update on seeking a Licensing Review Hearing regarding Benny's Bar on Accrington Road.**

The Clerk informed the Council that the application was being put together. This was a legal process and governed by the Licensing Act. It was time consuming and detailed.

#### **1778/21 Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebration**

Cliff Ball stated he wanted the Parish Council to support events around the forthcoming Platinum Jubilee. It would hopefully involve other nearby Parishes including Billington, Barrow and Wiswell. The Parish Council has already to committed to planting an Oak Tree in Vale Gardens. The Clerk was asked to contact Abbey Gardening Services and plan for Autumn planting

Cliff envisaged a series of events over the Bank Holiday weekend. The 4 Day event could have a theme for each day relating to the decade of the Queens reign – 1950s, 60s, 70s, etc.

Accrington Lions was co-ordinating a Whalley Heritage Day. After this event Cliff planned on trying to establish a Working Group that would be open to interested volunteers and groups. It was anticipated Ribble Valley Borough Council would contribute financially to the event. It was agreed that Cliff would report back.

**1779/21 Anti-Social Behaviour – Young People & the Late-Night Economy**

A meeting was held on the 1 September 2021 with Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner. Twelve people attended, including 4 Parish Councillors. The Police were unable to attend due to leave commitments. A further meeting is planned when Sergeant Kevin Day can attend. Discussions covered anti-social behaviour in relation to young people and the late-night economy. Resident Sean Ronnan has agreed to host a meeting in his ‘Boardroom’ to discuss options for public contributions to fund CCTV to help with future enforcement in relation to the crime.

**1780/21 Authorisation of Accounts. Payments and Receipts and Balances for September 2021**

	NW	Curr		Total
	£	£	£	£
<i>Website Maintenance</i>	(27.60)			(27.60)
Salary	(737.90)			(737.90)
Home office	(43.33)			(43.33)
Internet	(10.00)			(10.00)
mileage 28 x 0.45	(12.60)			(12.60)
Mobile rental	(5.00)			(5.00)
Vale Gardens June 2021 Inv 3219	(273.00)			(273.00)
Whalley Parish Church Jun 21 Inv 3220	(291.00)			(291.00)
Employee Income tax period 6 (£30.6) + Employer NICS (£21.75)	(52.35)			(52.35)
	<b>(1,452.78)</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>(1,452.78)</b>

**Receipts/ Income: VAT Reclaim £1433.60 HMRC**

**Balances:** Nat West Current: £77664.70 QE2 Nat West £0 Skipton £24006.74

**1781/21 Clerks Report for September 2021**

Circulated prior to the meeting Whalley Parish Council approved two Clerks Report for September 2021.

**1782/21 The Council Approved the date of the next meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council would take place on **Thursday 21 October 2021** at Whalley Old Grammar School.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

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

1774/21 Amended by resolution at Parish Council Meeting 20th January 2022