

## WHALLEY PARISH COUNCIL



### Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 15 April 2021 at 7.30pm held remotely via zoom

**Present:**  
Councillor M Highton(Chairman)  
Councillor J Brown (Vice Chairman)  
Councillor J Threlfall  
Councillor D Sleight  
Councillor C Ball  
Councillor C Allen

Apologies: Whalley Parish Councillors' G Smith, T Whistlecraft, P Brown, Ribble Valley Borough Council Officer Colin Hirst, Sergeant Kevin Day and PCSO Sian Coffey.

**In Attendance:** M Richardson – Clerk to Whalley Parish Council  
Borough Councillors Ged Mirfin, David Berryman and 10 members of the public.

1719/21 **to receive declaration of interests**

None

1720/21 **to approve as correct the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Meeting held on 18 March 2021**

It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 18 March 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

1721/21 **to receive minutes of other Committees**

Minutes of the Parish Council Planning Committee held on the 18 March 2021 were received.

1722/21 **to adjourn Meeting for a Period of Public Discussion**

Martin Highton (Chairman) welcomed the participants to the meeting.

Michael Wedgeworth, resident, spoke (having circulated a copy of letter to Nigel Evans MP) about the uncontrolled expansion of drinking establishments and the impact on the residential community in terms of noise, criminal damage this has on the quiet enjoyment of life.

He expressed his disappointment at the limitations of the Cumulative Impact Assessment. He stated that Whalley felt like Blackpool rather than a rural village due to the late-night drinking. He appealed to the Parish and Borough Councilors to be supportive in looking at creative ways to help control the situation. This included changing the law, if necessary.

He noted that at Borough Council level, having 2 Councilors' sitting on the Licensing Committee does not work for the Whalley residents on this priority issue. Mark Hindle is not the Licensing Committee. He felt under current arrangements they have limited representation at a Borough level. He suggested better use of CCTV cameras/prosecution, Employment of Nighttime Wardens as examples of creative intervention to manage the situation.

Councillor Ged Mirfin stated that as Chair of Licensing he was unable to participate or comment on Licensing applications. The owners of Rendezvous are seeking to create an outdoor drinking area and the floor space has already been fenced off. This would need Planning Permission and a License Variation.

Sue Paramore, member of Queen Street Residents Association spoke about the positive impact of COVID 19 restrictions has had on residents living in close proximity to the drinking establishments.

Neighbours have been able sleep at night, and not had to clean up the detritus from weekend revellers . In a nutshell, residents have been able to enjoy peace and quiet. Residents had the choice of not living as victims of the growing night time economy. Having spoken to the new Managers of the Aviary and Rendezvous both stated they want to work with residents and that they have the genuine interests of the community at heart. She concluded by pleading for the Parish and Borough Councilors to support residents and be mindful that the Cumulative Impact Assessment is worthless unless it can deliver tangible outcomes.

Penelope Robinson-Kerr is a resident of Woodfield Avenue and spoke in more detail about the proposal to have an outside seating area at Rendezvous. A resident since 1984, she spoke in detail about the new proposals and how important the role the security staff play in drinking in managing customers behaviour when entering or leaving. She suggested that the new layout at Rendezvous may not be secure and a 1metre high fence was not sufficient enough to deter young people from using the area when the establishment was not open. Finally, she stated that other more creative ways must be looked at to manage the situation. Alleygating was suggested as one method of trying to protect the peace and quiet of residents immediately affected by the night time economy.

Melissa Blane spoke as resident of Accrington Road. Having grown up and lived in Whalley all her life she stated that she lived in dread of returning to the post lockdown nighttime drinking. As a carer of elderly parents, she asked the Parish Council to continue to actively support and put pressure on the Licensing Authority, Police and owners/landlords of the establishments to more effectively manage the situation.

Borough Councillor Mark Hindle praised the eloquent debate and points raised by the residents. He stated that he had empathy with residents and wanted to work with them to bring about a change. This change would be achieved by lobbying the decision makers. He suggested residents should make better use of the press and MP in trying to gain support.

Borough Councillor Ged Mirfin stated residents needed to work together to change the way Ribble Valley Borough Council managed the Licensing function. He identified several practical ways to do this:

- a) EMROS – Early Morning Restriction Orders
- b) Late Night Levy

c) Renewal of Community Impact Assessment

He stated that lobbying the MP and using the press and social media are effective ways of bringing about change. He suggested that seeking a Ministerial Visit to highlight the problem was certainly worth exploration.

Sue Passmore, resident, stated that she welcomed the suggestions, however, these are medium to long term goals. Residents required a short-term support. The Aviary would be admitting customers over 21 years old and NOT 25 years. Taxis contributed to many problems with pipping, talking, leaving engines running. Could taxi collections take place on the Co-op?

Parish Councillor John Threlfall stated that the Parish Council was very supportive of the residents. He reminded people that the Parish Council had attended Residents Meetings/ Licensing Committee Hearings for variations. The Parish Council had tried to bring agencies together in May 2018.

He attended and addressed the Licensing Committee when Brady's sought an extension of opening hours. He felt that the Principal Authority had little empathy with the plight of residents and suggested that this culture needed to change.

Parish Councillor Martin Highton reiterated the support for residents and pleaded for residents to continue reporting to Police all ASB. He welcomed the Borough Councillors' pledge to research the use of Alleygating and stated that it was very important to keep lines of communication open.

Tony Brown, resident stated that as an experienced Licensee it was important that establishment took responsibility and where appropriate enforcement action is taken when they fail to do so.

Graham Vernon, Burnley Boys and Girls Club presented to the Council. The organization is based in Burnley and has been in existence for 120 years. In 2019 he was invited to attend a meeting with residents of the Sands, the Police, Whalley Abbey Staff, Parish and Borough Councillors about addressing Anti Social Behaviour in and around the Abbey.

Burnley Boys and Girls Club is a charity and it has been funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Violence Reduction Programme and Home Office to assess the problems with young people causing ASB in Whalley. The charity is skilled in using detaching youth work to help manage communities. Work began in February 2021 and his findings so far are that young people congregate in Whalley from surrounding areas. The catchment of senior schools in Ribble Valley means young people from Clitheroe, Langho, Wilpshire, and Great Harwood often choose to meet in the village. Having excellent rail and bus links and being such a beautiful area, young people wanted to meet their friends in Whalley.

The Abbey will be open to young people from the Age of 8-18 years old and will be 'Hub' for young people. 43 young people had already registered with the hub.

Martin Highton thanked Graham Vernon for his presentation and reiterated the Parish Council's support for coming up with practical solutions to this problem. He welcomed the efforts and stated it was important that the dialogue is kept open between all

stakeholders. Cliff Ball asked if the young people engaged in the project would feedback to the Parish Council. Graham Vernon welcomed this invitation on behalf of the young people.

1733/21 **Reports from Councillors' (Information Only)**

Councillor Dave Sleight had nothing to report. John Threlfall stated that Community Speed Check was welcomed on Mitton Road. Caroline Allen stated that Vale Gardens looked great and was a beautiful place for people to sit. Cliff Ball stated that the Churchyard looked spectacular at the moment. He had taken a query from a resident at Vale Gardens regarding seating at the back of the Swan Pub.

Councillor Martin Highton stated that the Parish Council Liaison Committee had met and discussed the following topics: Local Plan (workshops planned in September 2021), A new Councillor Code of Conduct that the Borough Council hopes Parish Council's will adopt, an update of the BT phone boxes, Dog thefts (Mellor), and a presentation on Highway Safety.

Councillor June Brown reported that she had attended the Parish Council Liaison Meeting and a Church Service following the death of Prince Philip. June had received lots of resident queries about the outside drinking areas. She discussed her concerns with the Borough Solicitor who stated that the Borough Council will look at each Licence application case on an individual basis.

1734/21 **Update on CCTV Provision**

Martin Highton stated that the recent CCTV report from Ribble Valley Borough Council was not encouraging. The Parish Council resolved to undertake further research to look at the capital and revenue cost of purchasing CCTV equipment in response to the local need. This will be an item that will remain on the agenda as it is useful tool in helping to manage ASB in Whalley.

1735/21 **Update on Public Waste Bin Provision and More Frequent Collections**

Ribble Valley Borough Council Community Services Committee had pledged to review the capacity and problems that seemed to be arising in Whalley regarding overflowing public waste bins. A new Working Group has been established and this now means that it will report back its findings later than originally anticipated. This will report to the Housing

1736/21 **To authorise Accounts, Payments, Receipts and Balances for April 2021**

Precept 2021-22	60,823.00	60,823.00
		0.00
Website	(27.60)	(27.60)
Salary	(768.50)	(768.50)
Home office	(43.33)	(43.33)
Internet	(10.00)	(10.00)
28 miles @0.45p	(12.60)	(12.60)
Mobile rental	(5.00)	(5.00)
New MACBOOK Air Reimbursement	(979.00)	(979.00)
Tree Work 2020-21 Churchyard	(520.00)	(520.00)
Churchyard late invoice 3043 November 2021	(291.00)	(291.00)
Churchyard Invoice 3123 Feb 21	(291.00)	(291.00)
Churchyard Invoice 3140 Mar 21	(291.00)	(291.00)

Invoice 3106 Biannual Work ChurchyardJan21	(266.50)			(266.50)
Invoice 3135 Biannual work Churchyard Feb 21	(429.00)			(429.00)
Invoice 3122 Replanting Vale Gds	(720.00)			(720.00)
Invoice 3073 Vale Gardens Nov 20 Late Invoice	(273.00)			(273.00)
Invoice 3125 Vale Gds Feb 21	(273.00)			(273.00)
Invoice 3139 Vale Gds Marc 21	(273.00)			(273.00)
Vale Gds Electricity Charge March21	(7.28)			(7.28)
Invoice 2403 Migration from Mac to Air Book	(94.80)			(94.80)
				0.00
				0.00
	<b>55,247.39</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>55,247.39</b>

**Balances:** Nat West Current: £37931.96 QE2 Nat West £0 Skipton £22977.40.

**1736/21 Clerks Report for April 2021**

The Parish Council resolved to accept the Clerks April 2021 report.

**1737/21 The Council Approved the date of the next meeting Thursday 20 May 2021**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on **Thursday 20 May at 7.30pm at Whalley Old Grammar School (unless notified to the contrary). This is an Annual Meeting of the Whalley Parish Council.**

**The Annual Meeting of Whalley Parishoners is scheduled for Thursday the 6 May 7.00pm at Whalley Old Grammar School but a decision to whether this is held remotely or otherwise will depend on guidance.**

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

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