

STALMINE-WITH-STAYNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 20 August 2012 at 7pm at the Village Hall, Stalmine

Present: Cllrs W McCann (Chairman), D Anderson, J Jackson, K Jenkinson, A McCann

In Attendance: Jan Finch, Clerk to the Council, Mr M Tucker (member of the public), Les Needham and Brian Hutchinson for Item 3 and Pauline Andrews and Rick Gilbert (Stalmine Residents' Association) for Item 5.

73(2012-13) Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

74(2012-13) Declaration of Interests

None

75(2012-13) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2012 be agreed as a true record.

76(2012-13) Welcome to Les Needham and Brian Hutchinson, Parish Lengthsmen

The Chairman welcomed the Parish Lengthsmen and thanked them on behalf of the Council for all their work in the village. He stressed the valuable role they play and indicated that the Council would welcome any suggestions they had for improving the village. As a result of the Council's wish to have two planting features on the entrances to the village, Brian Hutchinson was aware of old carts for sale and councillors asked him to price them. Councillors also discussed obtaining an old dinghy to place at the Preesall entrance to the village. Les Needham reported an increase in fly tipping particularly on Moss House Lane.

77(2012-13) Public Participation (Including Police Report and a Presentation by Pauline Andrews on behalf of Stalmine-with-Staynall Residents' Association)

Councillors **resolved** to adjourn the meeting to allow Pauline Andrews to provide information on the proposed Residents' Association and which had been circulated to councillors. She hoped that, when it was up and running, the Association and the Council would work closely together for the benefit of residents and councillors agreed that, when it was formally established, a councillor would be nominated to the Association. The next meeting will be held on 4 September at 7pm at the Seven Stars.

Mr Tucker reported that, following the discussion at the last meeting, he had written to United Utilities to inform them that there had been no incidents of emissions from manholes during periods of heavy rain. Councillors noted that the proposed extension to the project by United Utilities would raise the cost of the works from £900,000 to £2 million. A decision has been promised by United Utilities at the next meeting on 13 September. Cllr Jackson reported that LCC were carrying out ground investigations in relation to the flooding problem at Carr End Lane/Linwood Avenue and will also look at the hidden manhole. There being no Police representative present councillors **resolved** to reconvene the meeting on the conclusion of Mr Tucker's briefing.

In the absence of a Police representative the Clerk gave a short update provided by PCSO Natalie Johnstone which indicated that there had been no reported crimes in July and only 3 reports of anti-social behaviour, two of which related to noise nuisance and one to cold calling.

78(2012-13) Website

Following discussion at the last meeting and the provision of a number of reference sites by Easy Websites, councillors **resolved** to appoint Easy Websites to develop the Council's website in line with the quotation provided at the July meeting.

79(2012-13) Quality Council Action Plan

Councillors considered a report which showed the position of the Council against the criteria. In relation to the Communication and Community Engagement test which require the Council to meet 9 of the 17 discretionary criteria, councillors noted that 9 were currently met but **resolved** that the Parish Plan be updated.

80(2012-13) Authorisation to Transfer Funds Between Bank Accounts

Royal Bank of Scotland has agreed that the Clerk will be permitted to transfer funds between the Parish Council's accounts by telephone subject to receipt of a letter of authorisation. Councillors

Resolved: to so authorise the Clerk and to sign a letter to that effect.

81(2012-13) Employment Policies

Resolved: that the draft Disciplinary Procedure, Equal Opportunities Policy, Grievance Procedure, Health and Safety Policy and Sickness Policy and Procedure be approved

82(2012-13) Lancashire and Merseyside County Training Partnership

Councillors noted that the Partnership is running workshops on Risk Assessment (3 October), Employment (10 October) and Community Engagement (24 October), the fee for each workshop being £25 and the New Councillors and Clerks course on 13 and 27 October for which the fee is £30 for each module. Councillor Anderson indicated that she would like to attend the Risk Management workshop if she was available and councillors **resolved** that the workshop fee be paid by the Council if she did attend.

83(2012-13) LALC – 68th Annual General Meeting

Councillors noted that the AGM will be held on Saturday 10 November at 1.45pm. The Council is invited to send 1 voting representative and may send additional non-voting representatives. The Council is also invited to submit resolutions for discussion and decision by delegates to nominate anyone for the appointment of President, Vice-President and Honorary Treasurer. Councillors noted that the Clerk will already be attending on behalf of Preesall Town Council.

Resolved: that Cllr Jackson attends as the Council's voting representative

84(2012-13) New Flower Bed

Cllr Anderson proposed that a flower bed be made at the crossroads of New Road and Highgate Lane/Staynall Lane. She reported that villagers are happy to plant and maintain the bed. Councillors agreed to look at the site before the next meeting in order to make an informed decision then and the Clerk will check the position with LCC Highways.

85(2012-13) Cleansing of Wardley's Lane

Cllr Anderson reported that Wardley's Lane is becoming difficult to use as a result of mud building up and the hedges being overgrown. The matter has been discussed regularly at the Wyre Road Safety Committee and LCC cannot clean it or cut the hedges as it is too narrow for their equipment. A width restriction is being considered by LCC in order to prevent larger vehicles using it. Cllr Anderson proposed that the Council pays for a one off clean and councillors agreed in principle. Cllr Anderson agreed to make enquiries with local farmers to find someone who has the appropriate equipment and obtain a price for the work.

86(2012-13) Parish Councillor Vacancy

Councillors noted that the vacancy has been advertised but the date by which a request for an election to be held has now passed and the Council is now required to co-opt a person to fill the vacancy as soon as possible. Articles advertising the vacancy have been sent to the Parish News and the Over Wyre Focus.

87(2012-13) Fracking

At the last meeting of the Wyre Area Committee of LALC Mike Hill gave a presentation on fracking and asked those present to write to local MP's calling for better regulation of fracking in the UK. Councillors agreed that it would be useful to have more information on the subject and therefore **resolved** to convene a joint meeting of Over Wyre Parish Councils (Stalmine-with-Staynall, Hambleton, Pilling and Preesall) and ask Mike Hill to give a presentation to councillors

88(2012-13) Preesall Underground Gas Storage Proposal

Councillors noted that, on 18 July the Planning Inspectorate issued a set of Further Written Questions arising from responses from the first round of questions. On 27 July the Planning Inspectorate wrote to interested parties to advise that the timetable had been varied by removing the second issue specific hearing from the timetable (now likely to be held later in the examination).

89(2012-13) Planning Applications**12/00478/FUL**

Proposal: Provision of dropped kerb

Location: White Acre, Mill Lane, Stalmine-with-Staynall

It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council has no objections to the proposal.

12/00484/FUL

Proposal: Single storey side extension

Location: West Dene, 3 Carr End Lane, Stalmine-with-Staynall

It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council has no objections to the proposal.

90(2012-13) Finance**Payments approved:**

Staff costs	£575.18
Staff expenditure on behalf of the Council	£ 58.46
Fleetwood High School	£ 4.37
Preesall Town Council	£ 12.67

91(2012-13) Reports from Outside Bodies (information only)**Wyre Road Safety Committee**

Cllr Anderson reported that the agenda for the next meeting in September has been published. The minutes of the last meeting reflect the fact that dropped kerbs outside the school should have been completed by the end of June but it is not clear whether the work has been done. The Clerk will check with LCC. Much of the work previously flagged up has now been completed and any further requirements should be sent to Cllr Anderson prior to the meeting. Cllr Anderson had had complaints of an overhanging hedge and the end of Carr End Lane which is obscuring visibility on the road. The Clerk will write to the householders.

Councillors noted that the Burrows Lane road sign has been broken by people sitting on it. In response to a question from councillors resolved that a little used bench would be moved to Staynall village.

92(2012-13) Clerk's Report (for information)

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service – Performance Report and Action Plan 2012 Consultation - the document outlines last year's performance, provides a summary in respect of important Service projects and proposes changes to staffing arrangements at some stations. The closing date for comments is 21 October.

Walney Extension Offshore Wind Farm - The second series of community consultation events will take place in September at a number of venues. The nearest events are Middleton Parish Hall, Low Road, Heysham LA3 3JT on 3 September – 1pm to 7pm and The Winter Gardens, Blackpool – 13 September – 11am to 5pm.

Lancashire County Council - Parish and Town Council Conference - The Conference will be held on the morning of Saturday 10 November at County Hall, Preston. Further details and booking arrangements will be available at a later date.

Wyre Together Information Event – An event to provide a briefing on the replacement of Primary Care Trusts by Clinical Commissioning Groups and the election of a Police and Crime Commissioner in November 2012 will be held at Thornton Methodist Church on Thursday 23 August from 1 - 4pm.

Council Tax Benefit Reform - Wyre Council is consulting on its proposed localised Council Tax Support scheme when Council Tax Benefit is abolished on 31 March 2013.

Agricultural Wages Board – Revised Pay Rates

Agreement has been reached on the revised rates which will apply from 1 October. In respect of Grade 3 (Lengthsman) the rate will increase to £7.66 per hour.

93(2012-13) Items for Next Agenda

Councillors were asked to raise matters to be included on the agenda for the next meeting of the Parish Council either at this meeting or by notifying the Clerk at least 10 days prior to the next meeting. A summary of the reason for raising the matter should be provided.

94(2012-13) Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 17 September at 7pm

95(2012-13) Exclusion of the Press and Public

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, councillors **resolved** to exclude the press and public to discuss an item relating to the employment of staff.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50pm