

STALMINE-WITH-STAYNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 18 November 2013 at 7pm at the Village Hall, Stalmine

Present: Cllrs D Anderson (Chairman), J Jackson, K Jenkinson and A Wallace

In Attendance: Jan Finch, Clerk to the Council, PC Gary Cross (Item 4) and one member of the public.

123(2013-14) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr S Carrington and the reason accepted.

124(2013-14) Declaration of Interests and Dispensations

Councillors noted that, at the November 2012 meeting the Council had resolved to grant to those councillors in office at the time a dispensation to enable them to take part in discussions and voting on the precept. Councillors considered dispensation requests from Cllrs Carrington and Wallace, both of whom have been co-opted since that meeting, for the same dispensation to be granted to them to allow them to participate in setting the budget and the precept. Councillors **resolved** to grant the requests.

125(2013-14) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2013 be agreed as a true record.

126(2013-14) Public Participation (Including Police Report)

Councillors **resolved** to adjourn the meeting to allow members of the public to bring matters relating to the agenda to the attention of the council. PC Gary Cross gave an update on structural changes that would limit the number of parish council meetings attended and the continuing low level of crime and antisocial behaviour in the parish. He encouraged all residents to report any non-emergency incidents using the 101 phone number which would ensure the Police were aware of and could respond to such incidents. On the conclusion of public participation councillors **resolved** to reconvene the meeting.

127(2013-14) Draft Budget for 2014/15

Councillors considered the draft budget for next year, noting that it could not be finalised until the council tax base for next year and the content of the local government financial settlement is known. Councillors noted that the parish council had used reserves this year to undertake some of the projects it had carried out and that it would need to rebuild an appropriate level of reserves in the coming year. Councillors **resolved** to consider the final budget at the first meeting after the local council tax base and the local government financial settlement are known.

128(2013-14) Older People Advice Day

Cllr Jackson noted that one of the survey forms returned suggested that residents would benefit from a greater level of welfare rights advice and had questioned whether the parish council could facilitate this through organising an advice day for older people and inviting representatives of various organisations to provide advice. Councillors considered that such a day would be very difficult to organise and **resolved**, instead, to ask Wyre Council if it would ensure that the various benefits and financial support available were appropriately advertised in the Over Wyre Focus.

129(2013-14) Grange Pool Water Course

Cllr Jackson reported that she had asked the Environment Agency at the end of October to clear a weed infestation on the Grange Pool Water Course and, early the next week, they had completed the work. Cllr Jackson felt that this was an excellent response and councillors **resolved** to write to the Environment Agency to express their thanks for such a prompt response.

130(2013-14) Planning Applications

13/00798/FUL

Proposal: Removal of existing agricultural building and replacement with one timber lodge for holiday purposes in conjunction with adjacent camp site

Location: 1 Moor End Cottage, Stricklands Lane, Stalmine

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

131(2013-14) Finance

a) Receipts this month

LCC Older People's Champion grant (bus shelter)	£200
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b) Payments to be approved:

Staff Costs	£939.80
Staff expenditure on behalf of the Council	£40.02
Autocross Euroshel Ltd	£1500.00
Preesall Town Council	£15.61
F H & M Daves & Son	£243.24
David Murphy	£721.20
Wyre Building Supplies	£111.93
Royal British Legion (S137)	£17.00

Payments by Standing Order for Noting:

Easy Websites (monthly hosting fee)	£36.00
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c) Statement of Accounts – October 2013

The statement of accounts for the month ending October 2013 shows:

Business Current Account	£254.07
Business High Interest Account	£13,817.81
Playing Field Account	£3335.57

Councillors **resolved** to approve the accounts for payment (including the sum of £17 using the powers conferred by S137 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and being satisfied that the expenditure satisfies the requirements of that section) and noted the receipts, the payment by standing order and the statement of accounts.

132(2013-14) Reports from Outside Bodies (for information)

None.

133(2013-14) Clerk's Report (for information)

Councillors noted the Clerk's report is respect of:

Walney Extension Offshore Wind Farm

A Community Briefing Pack has been received should any councillor wish to read it.

Groundwork Training Day

LALC and the Lancashire County Training Partnership have arranged a training day on 31 January 2014 at the Leyland Hotel which will be delivered by members of Groundwork, the environmental regeneration charity. The programme includes 4 workshops (Transform Your Patch, Green Fingers,

Involving Others and Sustainable Parish and Town Councils). There is no charge to delegates. If any councillors would like to know more or would like to attend please let the Clerk know.

Shale Gas Presentation

LCC recently arranged a briefing for councillors on shale gas operations in Lancashire. The presentations/briefing notes can be accessed on the Parish and Town Council website <http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/web/view.asp?siteid=4587&pageid=21799&e=e>. The Development Management web pages host more background information as well as the presentations and can be accessed on the link below <http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/web/view.asp?siteid=3063&pageid=40065&e=e>.

New Bus Shelter

The new bus shelter was installed on 4 November 2013.

Tree Preservation Order – Land South of Birch Grove

Wyre Council has now confirmed the draft order.

Free Training Courses with Lancashire Adult Learning

Lancashire Adult Learning can provide free training and courses to community groups and volunteers. Contact Helen Pass, External Liaison Officer on 01257 516325 (Mon & Fri), 01524 586420 (Tue, Wed & Thu), 07876844558 or www.lancashire.gov.uk/adultlearning

United Utilities – Avoiding Frozen Pipes

United Utilities has developed a poster advising home owners on simple steps to avoid frozen pipes this winter. A copy of the poster will be displayed on the notice board and on the website.

New Floral Feature – Junction of Staynall Lane/Highgate Lane

LCC Highways have advised that the new bed constitutes a highway obstruction as it is built of hard materials and, as such, must be illuminated. The Lengthsman has removed the sleepers which he will use to bank up the flower bed on Stricklands Lane and the Clerk will meet a representative of LCC Highways to identify how much soil they require removing. LCC has noted a request that the area be tarmac-ed but no commitment can be made as it is not a priority.

Policy on Gully Clearing on SSSIs

Natural England has confirmed that it currently has no policy prohibiting channel dredging and silt clearance and, where necessary for the protection of people and properties, actively work with the Environment Agency and landowners to develop long term solutions to address water management and flood risk issues within protected sites for benefit to both the environment and community. They have further confirmed that they would be happy to discuss this further with the parish council and the Environment Agency. In response to a request for site specific information Cllr Jackson has forwarded maps of the watercourses previously provided to the Environment Agency.

Parish Wood

Wyre Council's Tree and Woodland Officer has conducted his annual inspection of the wood and provided the Extra Lengthsman with a work programme for the winter.

134(2013-14) Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 16 December 2013 at 7pm.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.50pm.