

WHALLEY PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 18 January 2018 at 7.30pm
in the Old Grammar School, Whalley.

Present: Councillor M Highton (Chairman)
Councillor J Brown
Councillor M Fallon
Councillor C Ball
Councillor D Sleight
Councillor P Elson
Councillor M Reid

Apologies: Councillor L Rimmer

In Attendance: M Richardson – Clerk to Whalley Parish Council
Members of the public – 3
Borough Councillor J Holgate
PCSO Katie Ferguson (Whalley, Billington & Barrow)

1202/18 to receive declaration of interests

Declarations of interest were received J Brown in respect of Planning Application 85 King Street.

1203/18 to approve as correct the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16 November 2017

It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16 November 2017 be approved as a correct record of the meeting with the following correction at 1194/17. **It was a member of staff at Whalley Abbey that noticed the flyer in Nelson Library regarding Whalley Abbey as a quiet place to go.**

1204/18 to adjourn the meeting for a period of public discussion (information only)

PCSO Katie Ferguson attended the meeting to discuss ongoing problems with young people and children entering Whalley Abbey following feedback from residents and Parish Councillors. Katie has been working in Whalley, Barrow and Billington for the past 18 months. She tends to work shifts from 8.30am-10.00pm Monday- Friday. She works one weekend out of four but also has to cover the other areas of the Ribble Valley during this weekend shift. Gangs of young people have been hanging around the Sands and Whalley Abbey causing a nuisance. This had created tensions for some local residents; past incidents have included youths throwing bench into the river, a broken window and climbing on the Abbey ruins. Katie described how these problems peaked in the Summer months compared to winter. She has spoken to Whalley Abbey staff about young people entering the grounds and they did not mind as long as no criminal activity took place. The Abbey used to pay a private security company to patrol the grounds but this no longer occurs. Two gangs of young people gathered in Whalley. One of the gangs included older young people 16 years plus and many of these seemed to come from outside Whalley from the towns of Clitheroe and Great Harwood. The other gang is made up of young people age 14 -15 years old. Police intelligence suggests that the older youths had been participating in low level drug use.

This corroborated reports from some local residents. Intelligence gathering was ongoing and she asked for any residents to report back directly to her on mobile number **07976 307223** with any information as to the description of individuals and registration numbers of motorbikes to help build a profile up.

In the majority of cases young people were not participating in criminal activity and therefore the Police powers were limited. Moving the gangs of young people meant often creating the same problem elsewhere. The Park was for young children. The QE2 Playing fields was another possibility but this did not have lighting at the moment.

PCSO Ferguson explained that it was important to try and engage with the young people as this was a more effective strategy than condemnation. Regular patrols of Whalley at key locations helps the Police engage with young people and deter them from low level anti-social behaviour.

Tony Brown explained that in the past two months an incident had taken place on King Street near the Methodist Church. Young people were seen throwing traffic cones into the pathways of moving cars. This was extremely dangerous and one young person was very drunk. The Police had to be called. Councillors expressed concerns particularly regarding the activities of the older youths. Young people are part of the community but when the behaviour is illegal and causing distress to other residents this should not be tolerated but it was difficult to come up with an effective solution.

1205/18 to receive minutes of other Committees

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of the 16 November 2017 were presented to the meeting.

1206/18 Parish Council Vacancy – Co-option

An application had been received by John Threlfall and was accepted unanimously. Councillor June Brown welcomed the new Parish Councillor and stated that he would bring a great deal of transport expertise and knowledge to Council that would benefit the community. **The Clerk to inform the applicant and request he signs the Declaration and Register of Interests.**

1207/18 Donation of new central heating system to Whalley Educational Foundation

The Council agreed to donate the new central heating system to Whalley Educational Foundation.

1208/18 To receive reports of Councillors' from other committees (information only)

Councillor Highton reported that he had received the papers for the forthcoming Parish Councils' Liaison Committee meeting on 25 January 2018. This included a report by Ribble Valley Borough Council about changes that will take effect in the Parish following elections in 2019. The changes have occurred as a result of the 2017 Local Government Boundary Commission Review which has resulted in the Whalley Parish Council area being divided into 4 distinct geographical areas as follows: Lamb Roe (1 parish councillor), Whalley Abbey (5 parish councillors) Whalley East (1 parish councillor) Whalley Nethertown (2 parish councillors). **The Parish Clerk was asked to obtain a Parish Map from the Ribble Valley Borough Council so that they are able identify the specific areas.** The number of Ribble Valley Borough Council Councillors has increased for Whalley ; two wards have been created Whalley and Painter Wood (2 Borough Councillors) and Whalley Nethertown (1 Borough Councillor). This is an overall increase from two to three Borough Councillors.

Councillor Fallon asked PCSO about the ongoing problem of cars parked on the pavement near the bridge. She was aware of this problem and would monitor. This means pedestrians are pushed to work the road and is dangerous. He noted that the pavement outside the Delacy was defective

and required reporting to Lancashire County Council highways. **Clerk to report defect to the Highway Authority.**

Councillor Ball reported that the Almshouses Trust had made a grant of £10,000 to carry out refurbishment works. A loan of £22, 000 over 10 years had also been granted by the Trust to carry out the refurbishment work and landscaping to the front of the Almshouses. This will be completed by end of March 2018. He reported an ongoing problem with customers of Bread Murphy still parking on the pavement. PCSO Katie Ferguson said that she had been liaising the business to resolve the matter. A possible solution is to locate a planter on the boundary line to deter people. Efforts are also being made the business owner to obtain additional suitable parking nearby.

Councillors Brown had attended a Whalley Educational Foundation Trustee meeting and she reported that good progress had been made with Old Grammar School in terms of now being in a more financial sound position. Work priorities for the forthcoming year would be the development of a website, efforts to continue to increase usage and ongoing building and maintenance.

Councillor Brown reported she had chaired a meeting of the Grounds and Gardens Committee on the 16 January and issues discussed included: the Lengthsman's priorities of the next 3 months and need for a formal written Protocol if Vale Gardens is to be used for future community events. A draft was circulated at the meeting and it was agreed this should not be put on the website. All future requests are required to follow this process. It was important because it also establishes clearer liability in terms of users obtaining their own insurance and possibly recouping restoration costs the any damages done the garden area. Councillor Brown attended the Carol Service at Calderstones Hospital.

Philip Elson questioned whether there were enough disabled parking spaces on King Street in Whalley. The problem was compounded by the lack of enforcement. He had received complaints from a disabled resident who was unable to find a car park space on King Street. He went onto report that overgrown hedge reported in May 2017 by Lois Rimmer to LCC was still ongoing. The full address to be fed back to the Clerk.

Dave Sleight reported that the Burial Committee held a meeting on the 8 December 2017 and the following was decided or discussed:

To obtain a quote for installing a water tap at the far end of the Cemetery, since grave plots were now moving in that direction. The Precept for each Parish Council for 2017/18 is remain same (Whalley £640). Two horse chestnut trees outside the Cemetery have been drenched as advised by the Tree report and the ash trees overhanging the Burial Ground have been cut back. The Committee are still working on updating the Rules of the Cemetery and will produce a Memorial Safety Inspection Policy and Complaints Policy. The consequences of the Memorial Safety Inspections of 2016 and 2017 are still ongoing and time consuming. The next meeting will take place in early February 2018.

1209/18 to authorise the accounts for payments, receipts and balances for December 2017 & January 2018

It was resolved to accept the accounts for payments and receipts for December 2017 and January 2018.

1210/18 Clerks Report

The Clerk circulated a report of the correspondence, emails and circulation of reading material for information. The Concurrent Grant application has been submitted to Ribble Valley Borough Council in December 2017. Ribble Valley Borough Council had written to the Parish Clerks to

seek advice on the location of flowers and a book of condolence in the event of a death of a Senior National figure. The Borough Council will have the final say on the chosen location. The Whalley Old Grammar School had been highlighted as a possible for the book of condolence because it was accessible throughout the day and into the evening. Councillor's also suggested the Methodist Church as an alternative but they were unsure what hours it was open to the public.

The Clerk requested that Committee considers financing a Certificate in Local Administration that is the only formal qualification that Parish Clerks can undertake. This course begins in April 2018 and costs £150. The training is delivered by Lancashire & Merseyside County Training Partnership. Councillors' agreed to the Clerk undertaking this training and that this cost will be paid by the Whalley Parish Council.

1211/18 Armistice Celebration 2018

Cliff Ball had arranged a planning meeting to take place on Tuesday 6 February 2018 at 7pm at Whalley Church of England Primary School. A flyer had been made with a logo 'Whalley Remembers 1918-2018'. A total of 1000 would need to be printed and delivered throughout the area. He requested volunteers to help him do this task. He had written to local organisations and schools and was due to go on Ribble Valley FM to publicise the meeting. Those that can't attend but want to be kept informed can email clerk@whalleyparishcouncil.org.uk He was planning to look at what other areas doing. It would be a one day celebration on the 11 November 2018. Whalley Parish Council has allocated additional funding for residents of Whalley to join the celebrations. Belgian Refugees used Calderstones hospital. The event would require a road closure but there is an associated cost for the Police time to carry this out. He was keen to get Billington Parish Council to engage in our celebrations.

1212/18 Grant Applications 2017/18.

The Councillors had received in advance grant applications requests for 2017/18. In total 7 organisations applied for grants. It was agreed that the following applications met the criteria and shall be granted in 2017/18.

- Whalley Cricket Club - £750
- Whalley Table Tennis Club - £500
- Ribble Valley FM - £402
- Little Green Bus - £150
- Whalley in Bloom - £1000
- Whalley Pre School - £241

Whalley Local History Group requested £399 for an laptop to document and help stage the Armistice Day Celebration. Under Section 4 1(b) (Records) Act 1962 the Parish Council will fund the full cost of the computer.

1213/18 Borough Councillors' Report

In attendance was Borough Councillor Joyce Holgate who reported that a significant number of complaints had been received from residents or relatives of those buried at the proposed Whalley

Garden of Remembrance and Crematorium site. This matter had been reported to the Parish Council and the concerns passed onto Ribble Valley Borough Council who had powers to intervene. The allegations of damage to existing graves by the developer was the remit of Environmental Health. Heather Barton was due to visit the site and Councillor Holgate had requested that the Parish Council be kept informed of the outcome.

She was aware of the parking problems at Breda Murphy but the owner was trying to negotiate additional parking at Whalley Tennis Club. She reported that an exhibition at Clitheroe Castle was taking place over the weekend 20-21 January 2018 about Calderstones and Brockhall.

1214/18 **to consider and approve the date of the next meeting of the Parish Council as Thursday 15 February 2018**

It was resolved to hold the next meeting of the Parish Council on Thursday 15 February 2018.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____