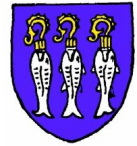


WHALLEY PARISH COUNCIL



Draft Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 16 August 2018 at 7.30pm in the Old Grammar School, Whalley.

Present: Councillor M Highton (Chairman)
Councillor J Brown (Vice Chairman)
Councillor M Fallon
Councillor C Ball
Councillor D Sleight
Councillor L Rimmer
Councillor J Threlfall

Apologies received: PCSO Katie Ferguson, Councillor P Elson, Councillor M Reid

In Attendance: M Richardson – Clerk to Whalley Parish Council
Members of the public – 4

1296/18 to receive declaration of interests

None.

1297/18 to approve as correct the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19 July 2018

It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19 July 2018 be approved as a correct record of the meeting with the amendment suggested re the hedge on Mitton Road.

1298/18 to adjourn the meeting for a period of public discussion (information only)

Mr Aspden was present at the meeting representing the Friends of Calderstones Cemetery and raised ongoing concerns about the ongoing development. It was agreed that this would be discussed later. Eric Ronan had recently visited Kosovo and submitted a letter on behalf of Whalley Parish Council. He thanked the Chairman for agreeing to take this as a separate item after Councillor reports. Paul White questioned whether a decision had yet been made by Ribbles Valley Council (John Heap) about where to place the removed litter bin from Station Road. The public bins are often overflowing in Whalley and taking another one out of service just made the problem worse. Clerk reported no feedback had been received from John Heap.

1299/18 to receive minutes of other Committees

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 19 July 2018 were received.

1230/18 To receive reports of Councillors' from other committees (information only)

Councillor Cliff Ball stated new uPVC windows have been fitted to the front elevation of 32 and 36 Station Road. This completes the current plans for work on the Almshouses. The Churchyard Committee was waiting for outline drawings of the proposed handrails to the East Gate. Planning permission will be sought once these are available. The churchyard drains have been

inspected, rodded and jetted. Perimeter drains are clear but main drain to the highway remains blocked. Proposals are being developed to create a new drain which will take excess surface water into the foul drain. Invoices for this work will be submitted accordingly.

Armistice/Remembrance 2018 the Whalley Remembers Group has been successful in gaining a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. It has also been successful in the award of a grant from the Armed Forces Covenant Fund for 10 silhouettes; the Parish will now have 20 silhouettes to distribute throughout the village and churches. A Whalley Remembers banner has been erected in the Abbey grounds.

Cliff raised concerns about dog fouling on the Queen Elizabeth 2 Playing Fields and questioned whether this ongoing issue warranted a complete ban. Debate took place between the Parish Councillors about getting the balance right between responsible dog ownership and risk to public health in an area for organised sport. Enforcement was a tool that could more effectively be used to raise the profile of the problem. It was agreed that the Clerk should speak to the Dog warden at Ribbles Valley Borough Council to discuss solutions.

Councillor John Threlfall had successfully secured confirmation from Lancashire County Council that they are responsible for the maintenance of the hedge on Mitton Road. Until 2016 this had been in the cyclical maintenance programme. There are no plans to put this back into the cyclical maintenance program and it will now be down to the Parish Council/and or residents to report in when they feel it is necessary to cut back. He reported his attendance on Module 2 of the LALC Councillor Training that covered the topics of the budget, precept and planning and said this was useful. He had also applied to attend a Community Engagement Workshop on the 6th September 2018. He advised that Bus Service 14 and 15 from Clitheroe via Whalley to Accrington Service is being reduced to School Times only because this service is underused.

Councillor Rimmer reported that litter starting to accumulate in the Whalley Sub Station (Church Walk) and youths were behaving disgracefully by cycling on the pavements. The Clerk agreed to report the latter complaint to PCSO Katie Ferguson.

Councillor Martin Highton reported that the Parish Council was no longer required to provide a bridging loan for the LEADER funding of the work carried out on the Queen Elizabeth Playing Fields to complete the Muggier. The Trustee was able to ensure finances were in place. A subsequent request had been received and this would be considered as a separate item on the agenda. He reported that the Whalley Sports Club Trust intended to take steps to revitalize future Trustee Meetings and the ongoing development of the community facilities. Martin Highton thanked June Brown for representing the Parish Council at the Whalley in Bloom National Judging Day.

June Brown had been requested to attend Whalley in Bloom National Judging Day hosted at Whalley Abbey. She reported that judges were on a tight schedule. Part of the judging process included speaking to the adult volunteers and children and this took place at Whalley Abbey. The Scouts who attended to talk to the judges were particularly inspirational. Councillor Brown concluded that Whalley in Bloom and all supporting partners had worked very hard and done tremendously well to impress the judges. She was very hopeful of the outcome.

Dave Sleight as Chair of the Whalley, Wiswell and Barrow Joint Burial Committee stated that information would be uploaded to the Whalley Parish Council website for prospective customers. The Annual Memorial Safety Check is scheduled to take place at the end of August 2018. Following information from the last Parish Council meeting he had now established that a Faculty was not necessary from the Church to undertake a Safety Inspection and this resulted in a saving.

Some of the woodland area adjacent to Clitheroe Road has been cleared in order to develop a Memorial Garden. The next stage for this project is to drain and level the land. Following this a water tap will be installed at the far end of the Cemetery.

Following the 2017 Tree Report a contractor had installed a new steel cable to the large horse chestnut. The tree check report carried out in June 2018 identified that the smaller horse chestnut has responded to the treatment applied and the bacterial bleeding canker has been halted. The Black Cherry in the middle of the turning circle had suffered some outer canopy die back and will be monitored. Ash die back disease has reached the Cemetery but is not a hazard at the moment, although it is anticipated that over the next 5-10 years many trees will die and will need to be removed. There is no cure for this disease. The Committee has decided to reinstate a three-month cycle of meetings with the provision of calling a meeting in the interim if necessary.

Eric Ronan, previously served as Chairman of Whalley Parish Council, nearly twenty years ago during the Kosovo Crisis in Europe. This resulted in 350 Kosovo Refugees being displaced and offered refuge at Calderstones Hospital in Whalley. Many of the families were traumatized and during this difficult time the Parish Council established links helping provide clothing and friendship. Five families settled in the North West permanently. Eric had established a long-term friendship with one family that settled in Preston. His links with this family resulted in an invitation to go back to Kosovo on a short visit. During day one of his visit he met with some of the families that decided to return from the UK to Kosovo. He stated that resentment and suspicion still existed between Kosovo people and the Serbian authorities. The letter from Whalley Parish Council and Whalley Calendar was presented on day three of the visit to the Serbian controlled Council. In return, and in accordance with tradition, he was presented with two books on the area. These books were circulated to the Committee and it was agreed that they should be placed with the Whalley History Society at the Old Grammar School along with a folder of press cuttings collected during their time of displacement at Calderstones Hospital. On 24 May 2019 it will be the twentieth anniversary of the Kosovo people seeking refuge at Calderstones. Many of the resettled families in Kosovo expressed a desire to return and celebrate but the cost and a continuing fear of Serbian reprisals made this unlikely. For the families that did choose to stay in the UK this had resulted in a better quality of life, especially for the children, who have taken advantage of the educational opportunities.

1231/18 Christmas Tree 2018

Discussion focussed on the ordering of the Christmas Tree for December 2018. The Parish Council resolved to order a 25-foot tree at a cost of £595 and that Stately Lighting be used as the contractor to carry out the installation and removal work.

An ongoing issue has arisen following the replacement of the lanterns on King Street following the completion of the S278 works. Fittings to hold the Christmas lights had been removed and not replaced. The Clerk had been chasing up Lancashire County Council and the Sub Contractors to ensure that these are replaced but this had not yet been resolved. The Clerk will continue to progress the matter until it is resolved.

1232/18 QE2 Green Gym – Phase 2 – Bridging Loan Request from Whalley Sports Club Trust

Councillor Martin Highton reported that the Parish Council had been requested by Whalley Sports Club Trust to provide a bridging loan of £11,000 for Phase 2 to cover the installation and equipment costs of the Green Gym on Queen Elizabeth II Playing Fields. The LEADER funding regime means that invoices must be paid in advance after which grant funding can be drawn down.

In 2015 the Parish Council had received a £500 from the Lancashire County Council Parish Champion Fund as contribution towards the Green Gym.

Whalley Parish Council resolved to provide a bridging loan of £11,000 to Whalley Sports Club Trust for Phase 2 works on the Green Gym on Queen Elizabeth II Playing fields until the LEADER Grant Funding can be drawn down and the Council reimbursed. The £500 Parish Champion Grant received in 2015 should to be paid by the Council following the successful completion of the Green Gym project.

1234 to authorise the accounts for payments, receipts and balances for August 2018

It was resolved to accept the accounts for payments and receipts for August 2018.

1235/18 Clerks Report

The Clerks Report for August 2018 was accepted. The monthly Crime Statistics was circulated for July 2017 and PCSO Katie Ferguson had provided a written report on the key issues in the area.

1236/18 Armistice Commemoration 2018

Councillor Ball stated that he was trying to plan for the closing of King Street on Remembrance Sunday. He was advised by John Heap at the Borough Council to fill in an Event Management Application Form and this had been submitted. A private company Kays had quoted £500 for the cost of undertaking a survey and production of a Traffic Management Plan for Remembrance Sunday 2018. An application by Whalley Remembers had been submitted to the Lancashire County Council Parish Champion. The cups for local school children are in the process of being made. He was happy to report that Wiswell Parish Council had attended a recent invitation to a Whalley Remembers Meeting. Although Wiswell Parish Council are planning their own celebrations, he viewed it as a positive step to work collaboratively and share ideas together.

1237/18 Borough Councillors Report

Borough Councillor Terry Hill was in attendance and reported that the Council had received 200 responses on the Stage One consultation of the Cumulative Impact Assessment relating to licensed premises in Whalley. The Council Officers will put together a Report analyzing the feedback and this will be considered by the Licensing Committee. June Brown reiterated that for many residents' in the Centre of Whalley the anti-social behavior blighted their lives. She hoped the Borough Council would give significant weight to the responses from residents and reiterated that the Borough Council had 'A Duty of Care and Candour to the residents of Whalley.'

He reported that the Attenuation Ponds at Lawsonsteads were due to be completed by September/October 2018. The Developer would now look to proceed with Phase 2 and 3 of the Planning Consent. This will include the proposal to build a link road up to the A671 from the development.

Land on the Lawsonstead Development had been allocated to build a single form entry Primary School with a Nursery and this land will be retained. However, with budget restrictions at Lancashire County Council the only viable option of a School being built at this stage would be the development of a Free School. The existing state schools of Whalley, Barrow and Saint

Leonards will all be expanded to try and accommodate for future projected demand as a result of the residential developments.

He reported that the new Traffic Management System seemed to be working well on King Street. He was advised at this point that residents of Woodlands Avenue, a side street off King Street, had made complaints to the Parish Council that all day parking problems had now been pushed onto their streets. This was particularly annoying if motorists blocked driveways or double parked.

Finally, he reported that complaints had been received about fly tipping on the backstreet of Princess Street and was this being investigated.

1238/18 to consider and approve the date of the next meeting of the Parish Council as 7.30pm Thursday 20 September 2018

It was resolved to hold the next meeting of the Parish Council on Thursday 20 September 2018 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____