

WHALLEY PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21 February 2019 at 7.30pm in the Old Grammar School, Whalley.

Present: Councillor M Highton (Chairman)
Councillor Lois Rimmer
Councillor John Threlfall
Councillor M Fallon
Councillor D Sleight
Councillor C Ball

Apologies received: Parish Councillors June Brown, Mike Reid and Philip Elson

In Attendance: M Richardson – Clerk to Whalley Parish Council
Members of the public (3) –Eric Ronan, Patrick Brown, Paul White
Borough Councillor (1) Councillor Terry Hill

1443/19 to receive declaration of interests

None.

1444/19 to approve as correct the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17 January 2019

It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17 January 2019 be approved as a correct record.

1445/19 to adjourn the meeting for a period of public discussion (information only)

Parish Councillors were advised that the Archdeacon of Blackburn was not available for the Parishioners' Annual General Meeting in April 2019. The Clerk was requested to establish whether an alternative member of staff was available.

1446/19 to receive minutes of other Committees

The minutes were received of the:

- Planning Committee meeting held on 17 January 2019
- Grounds and Carden Committee 2nd October 2018
- Church Yard Committee 18 June 2018

1447/19 Councillor Update

Councillor Mike Fallon reported many complaints from residents about the speeding traffic on King Street, Station Road and Mitton Road. The lighting of the zebra crossing on King Street outside the Whalley Doctors surgery was particularly poor and requested that Lancashire County Council be contacted to assess the matter. Parking on the bridge was an ongoing enforcement battle. The Clerk to report these matters to the Police and Lancashire County Council.

Councillor Dave Sleight circulated a brief written report as Chair of the Whalley, Wiswell and Barrow Joint Burial Committee. A new memorial policy had been agreed that gives clear procedures on standards of the memorial inspections. This includes the requirement that all future work must be undertaken by a suitably qualified person. The Cemetery Grounds Maintenance Contract is due the option of a one- or two-year extension with the existing contractor. Public comments on the cemetery grounds maintenance are always favourable. Quotes for this extension have been asked for, from the contractor. Quotes for the maintenance of the fencing on Clitheroe Road, benches in the cemetery and main gates have all been advertised for tenders. The Committee are looking to replace the existing noticeboard.

Cliff Ball, Chairman of the Adam Cottam Almshouses reported an electrician had to be called out because of a power failure; possible rodent damage to wiring in the roof space. As Chairman of the Churchyard Committee a meeting was held on the 18 February. It was resolved at the meeting to seek pre-application Listed Building Consent Advice now that the drawings had been produced by Steve Burke. The drainage problems of pathways to the west of the churchyard will be monitored. Work undertaken to improve the situation had been successful to date. During the storms of week commencing the 4 February 2019 tree damage was observed. A further Tree Inspection is being sought. The Committee was within the budget allocation.

Whalley Remembers fundraising figures are being finalized and it is anticipated in excess of £9000 has been raised for the Royal British Legion. An event will be planned to hand over this donation. The dangerous archway on Whalley Train Station had been removed. He attended a dedicated ceremony for a new plaque about the former Military Hospital railway platform re-discovered in the Woodland at Fell View, Calderstones Park. Also present were Borough Councillors Hill and Holgate, Rev Jonathan Carmyllie, the plaque artist, the Head Teacher from Barrow Primary School with Head Boy and Head Girl and members of the Friends of the Woodlands Park. He went onto sadly there had been a burglary on Mitton Road that involved a large Police presence. He had also attended meeting with the MP and fellow Parish Councillors to discuss the nighttime economy.

Martin Highton along with June Brown had met up with Nigel Evans MP, Michael Broughton (Senior Researcher) Ged Mirfin, Chair of Ribble Valley Borough Council Councillor Sayers and other Parish Councillors (Philip Elson, Dave Sleight, June Brown, Cliff Ball) and the Clerk. A Planned Walk About had been suggested but at 9pm Parish Councillors felt this was too early to experience the negative aspects sometimes created by excessive alcohol. The Clerk to suggest a later 'walk about' meeting time. Parish Councillors welcomed the support of the MP. He and June Brown attended the Parish Council Liaison Committee Meeting and listened to the Police Commissioner explain the impact of the Austerity cuts on the service. Diane Rice, Ribble Valley Council Borough Solicitor gave an update on the new electoral wards following the change in electoral boundaries. Martin had concerns and reports about young people using drugs and drinking underage around the village. This information had been passed onto John Heap at Ribble Valley Council and the Police.

He reported on behalf of June Brown that Grounds and Garden Committee Meeting had met. Three contracts are being retendered. A request had been submitted to Ribble Valley Borough Council to put sufficient budget allocation for paving the toilets. The Committee was considered what is the best way to address to continuous theft of York Coping Stones at Vale Gardens.

Councillor Lois Rimmer reported her attendance at the Grounds and Garden Committee and Church Yard Committee meetings. She stated that a lot of cars are parking with their windows open playing loud music and chatting on the Spar Car Park. The Electric Substation was being fly tipped by a contractor working nearby. She asked the contractor to clear up the mess and they did.

1448/19 **Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA)**

Martin Highton reported that at Ribble Valley Borough Council Licensing Committee on 29 January 2019 a report was made stating a change of Licensing Policy is proposed for the Whalley area following recent problems with anti-social behaviour. This will take effect from April 2019. The Parish Council welcomed the change but warned this will not apply to existing Licence holders. Residents would need to continue to report to the Police and Environmental Health. The Clerk had sought clarification from the Borough Council on whether the Licence conditions of Bradys had been breached. This included a request to access the Council's CCTV footage following the Police incidents on New Year's Eve.

To progress this further Andy Glover was seeking 'to provide as much detail as possible on:

The activities on that night which cause the Parish Council concern;

Any information on time, location and perpetrators which may assist our investigation: and

Any thoughts on which of the new licence conditions may have been breached (an electronic link was stated to help)

A further incident on the 4 February 2019 regarding a threat to kill. The Council had spoken to the Police and they confirmed no further action and the Council considered the matter closed.

John Threlfall stated that the best people positioned to do this are the residents on Queen Street and not the Parish Council that gets reports that could be classed as hearsay. The Clerk to liaise with the residents and seek further detail that the Borough Council is requesting.

The Clerk circulated a draft letter that sought to update the residents on progress with the above problems. This was approved by the Council. Borough Councillor Terry Hill requested a copy of the letter.

1449/19 **To consider Lancashire County Council Household Recycling Centre Consultation**

The County Council is proposing reducing the Clitheroe Henthorn Road Recycling Centre. The proposal is to cut the service from 7 days to 5 days. The Parish Councillors commented that this could have a negative impact in terms of increased fly tipping in the area. Whalley has a growing population and making it harder for people to dispose of their waste could merely exacerbate an ongoing problem. Enforcement costs could increase if this shift in service results in increased fly tipping but no budgetary allocation has been made for this under the current proposals.

1450/19 **To consider proposals to Introduce on Street Parking Meters**

Borough Councillor Terry Hill introduced the matter. A Lancashire County Council Report 'Service Challenge Savings' Report to Cabinet 3/12/2018 Money Making Matters suggested a variety of locations in Lancashire where revenue could be raised for kerb side parking. This included the suggestion of Whalley. Councillor Hill contacted County Councillor Atkinson

opposing such a suggestion and he has confirmed that in the wake of the Budget meeting if this proposal is rolled out, it will not include Whalley.

1451/19 20th Anniversary of Kosovan Refugees Leaving Whalley

Eric Ronn an stated that he would like the Parish Council to support a 20th memorial event this year. Those individuals that had returned to Kosovo would not be taking part in the event as some were still fearful of trying to get a visa to visit Britain. The families that settled permanently may get together although they are dispersed in Preston, Accrington, Burnley, Leyland and London. He had spoken to the Whalley Methodist and St Marys and All Saints Vicars' who are supportive and felt that a low-key event would be best. He was going to investigate whether Mersey Care Trust maybe interested in the event. Suggested possible dates of 24/25/16 May 2019. It was agreed that Eric would like to get together a more detailed plan together with the help of a few Parish Councillors that maybe interested in helping.

1452/19 To consider appointment to the Ribble Valley Seniors Forum

Ribble Valley Seniors Forum was founded about 15 years ago as a voice for the older people of the borough, to ensure that their needs were being met through public services. A local government structure exists to inform about issues that affect older residents, and allows for feedback to the decision makers about local concerns. The Forum has been supported by Ribble Valley Borough Council, and recent issues being addressed include the establishment of tai chi classes in 6 locations, and supports the work of the elected Older People's Champion who has lobbied nationally for a minister for older people. Sadly, the number of representatives has dwindled and in the light of proposed cuts to services, the work of the group is more vital than ever to ensure future access to facilities. It has been suggested that each parish is represented at the forum, which meets a few times each year, to share the concerns of the local people, and gathers valuable insights from local government to feed back to the parishes. This is a real opportunity to make a difference, and as such, interested people are invited to an Information Day at Ribble Valley Borough Council Chambers on Thursday 14th March 2019, 11:30-2pm, hot lunch provided. The Parish Council did not feel in a position to commit at this stage.

1453/19 Update on weather damage following the storms – week commencing February 2019

Cliff Ball stated that during the storms of week commencing the 4 February 2019 some tree damage was observed in the Church Yard. A further Tree Inspection is being sought and any subsequent action will be passed onto the Council's insurers.

1454/19 Authorisation of Accounts, Payments, Receipts and Balances for February 2019.

It was resolved to accept the Accounts, Payment, Receipts and Balances for February 2019.

1455/19 Clerks Report

The Clerks Report for February 2019 was accepted.

1456/19 Borough Councillors Report

Borough Councillor Terry Hill attended and reported that in his role as Chair of Whalley Old Grammar School Listed Building Consent was being sought for defibrillator. He stated that the Lawsonsteads Planning Application was not progressing at the moment due to an impasse

between the Planning Authority and Developer plans about density and layout. As regards the Accrington Road Planning Application site, the Flood Authority is not satisfied with current proposals so this has not progressed.

He made applauded the highly presentable Whalley Parish Church Yard grounds.

1457/19 **To approve the date of the next meeting of the Parish Council as 7.30pm Thursday 21 March 2019**

It was resolved to hold the next meeting of the Parish Council on **Thursday 21 March 2019**.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____