

WHALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 17 January 2019 at 7.30pm in the Old Grammar School, Whalley.



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

Apologies received: PCSO Katie Ferguson, Parish Councillors Lois Rimmer, John Threlfall

In Attendance: M Richardson – Clerk to Whalley Parish Council
Members of the public (7) –Michael Wedgeworth, Tony Brown, Eric Ronan, Derek Pickup, Patrick Brown, Paul White

1430/19 to receive declaration of interests

Martin Highton and June Brown – Trustees of QE2 Playing Fields. None Pecuniary.

1431/19 to approve as correct the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15 November 2018

It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15 November 2019 be approved as a correct record.

1432/19 to adjourn the meeting for a period of public discussion (information only)

Michael Wedgeworth (Whalley In Bloom) raised three issues. He expressed frustration and annoyance regarding the anti social behaviour problems that arose on New Years Eve that led to Police intervention. This follows a decision by Ribble Valley Borough Council Licensing Committee to extend the opening hours of Bradys wine bar on Queen Street. Additional Licence conditions were put in place by the Borough Council as a result of the application to vary conditions. He questioned whether these new conditions had been breached on New Years Eve.

He went onto state that Whalley In Bloom had decided not to enter the competition in 2019 having achieved the highest accolades possible in 2018 being successful at a Regional and National level. The hot weather of last Summer meant the volunteers had to work extra hard to keep plants watered.

He added that plans had been approved by the Blackburn Diocese to change the way Whalley Abbey would be run. He outlined that the annual loss of running of Abbey has meant drastic action has been taken and it will now be run by Christian volunteers. On a personal basis he expressed concerns that these plans may cause the organisation to become more introspective and less connected to the community of Whalley. Over recent years the relationship with the Abbey and the community had improved through initiatives such as Whalley in Bloom. Patrick Brown also pointed out that Whalley Abbey is a tourist attraction bringing in much needed income for the area. The move to a more monastic running approach may negatively impact on the local economy.

Parish Councillor Cliff Ball supported Mike Wedgeworth's concerns regarding Whalley Abbey and in response the Parish Council would be inviting a representative to Annual General Meeting in 2019 to update parishioners of the proposed changes.

Eric Ronan brought with him to the meeting the 1988 Twinning Charter that would be kept at the Grammar School for the benefit of the people of Whalley. He also went onto to express his concern that a family had recently decided to move into the area from Great Harwood but due to the anti social behaviour around the Queen Street/Accrington Road area over Christmas they only stayed one night. This family will not relocate in Whalley due to the ongoing problems around late night drinking and public nuisance.

Patrick Brown requested that Ribble Valley Borough Council be asked to use the correct spelling of Brookes Lane. The area was named after a local family and was currently misspelt with an 'e'. The correct spelling is Brooks Lane. The Clerk undertook to report this to the Borough Council.

1433/19 to receive minutes of other Committees

The minutes were received of the Planning Committee meeting held on 15 November 2018

1434/19 Councillor Update

Councillor Mike Fallon reported that the coping stones on Vale Gardens have been stolen. The Clerk informed Councillor Fallon that this had been reported to the Police and logged as crime. The CCTV camera that could have recorded the crime was not working. This will be discussed at the forthcoming Grounds and Garden Committee meeting on the 29 January 2019. He went onto report many complaints from residents about the speeding traffic on King Street, Station Road and Mitton Road. The lighting of the pelican crossing on King Street outside the doctors surgery was particularly poor and requested that Lancashire County Council be contacted to assess the matter.

Councillor Dave Sleight circulated a brief written report about the ongoing challenges of Whalley, Wiswell and Barrow Joint Burial Committee to maintain gravestones. In November 2018, 40 memorials were identified as 'in need of repair.' Those that required immediate action had been repaired and there are 8 outstanding. He stated that often the family/owner of the plot cannot be traced and the cost of repair is met by the Committee until such a date when these costs can be reclaimed if it becomes possible to allocate ownership.

Councillor June Brown stated that she had attended the Borough Council Parish Councils Liaison Committee meeting on the 22 November 2018 and raised continuing concerns about the problems with public nuisance/anti-social behavior that was due to the unfettered growth of the late night economy.

A new Pickwick Committee is being set up to look at planning future events and changing the ethos of the night. As a Trustee of Whalley Educational Foundation, she had recently attended a meeting at which a new Chairman was elected ; Terry Hill replacing Eric Ronan. She reported that she attended the Parish Council Christmas Lights switch on, St Marys Church Christmas Tree Festival and Calderstones Carol Service in early December 2018.

Martin Highton reported his attendance at the Parish Council Liaison Committee meeting and reiterated the growing concerns of residents suffering from exponential growth in the nighttime economy. He stated the Parish Council is lobbying hard to put pressure on the relevant statutory bodies to put in place effective checks and balances to stop the growing problems of public nuisance and crime and disorder.

Philip Elson and Mike Reid had nothing to report.

Cliff Ball, Chairman of the Adam Cottam Almshouses reported a blocked foul drain at No. 30 Station Road on 6th January 2019 and this was fixed by 7th January 2019. As Chairman of the Churchyard Committee he was preparing to submit a Planning Application for new handrails to the East Gate. Armistice/Remembrance 2018 was a huge success and he was still receiving favourable comments on how the village rose to the occasion. The Whalley Remembers Group who organized the events had a bank balance of £9000. Once all outstanding expenses had been paid the remaining balance will be donated to the Royal British Legion. Discussion had taken about the possibility of ring fencing some of this money to contribute to a Whalley Remembers Monument. The anticipated costs of the monument were £8000 plus VAT. It was felt by the group these plans should be put on hold and revisited at a future date. The Whalley Remembers Group would now be wound up.

He reported the rotting archway to Whalley Railway Station was not getting any better and the sign was now lobb-sided. The red rose of Lancashire had been removed and he thought it was a health and safety hazard. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk writes to Network Rail/Northern Rail to put pressure on them to urgently address the problem.

1435/19 **Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA)**

Martin Highton reported that following the continuing anti social behaviour problems over Christmas; particularly New Years Eve, the Parish Council had met with Nigel Evans MP. The Council has expressed the growing concerns of residents affected by this and urged the MP to put pressure on the Borough Council to take urgent action and for the CIA Study to be undertaken as soon as possible. A further meeting was now planned with the Chairman of Ribble Valley Borough Council Licensing Committee to progress matters. Martin reiterated the need for people to carry on reporting to the Police and Environmental Health. A report will be

going to Ribble Valley Borough Council Licensing Committee on 29 January 2019 and the report should be available online from approximately 21 January 2019.

1436/19 Whalley Parish Council considered and approved the following Grant Applications for 2018-19

The Councillors had received in advance grant applications requests for 2018/19. In total 6 organisations applied for grants. It was agreed that the following applications met the criteria and shall be granted in 2018/19.

- Whalley Cricket Club - £850
- Whalley Table Tennis Club - £500
- Ribble Valley Rail - £100
- Whalley in Bloom - £1000
- Whalley Scout and Guide Group - £650

Whalley Educational Foundation had submitted a late application requesting £1080 for defibrillator and store and it was agreed that this application be put on hold at this stage until further information was provided.

1437/19 To consider a request from the Queen Elizabeth Playing Fields Trust – Future Insurance Arrangements for the Multi Use Games Area and Outdoor Green Gym

- A) Whalley Parish Council has the freehold ownership of Queen Elizabeth Playing Fields (a map was circulated identifying the area). The land is currently leased to the Queen Elizabeth Playing Fields Trust. Over the past three years, through grant funding the area has been redeveloped to provide a Multi Use Games Area that is owned by the Parish Council. It also now has an outdoor Green Gym that is owned by the QE2 Trust. The Trust is under a duty to insure and inspect the equipment in terms of public liability and/or maintenance and damage. This would cost an additional £2000 per annum. Following further enquiries by the Clerk, Whalley Parish Council, as Landlord is able to insure under its current annual insurance premium.
- B) It was agreed that this would be the most efficient way to insure but on the proviso that a Legal Indemnity would be signed by QE2 Trustees that ensures responsibility for Equipment Inspection and the associated on-costs lies with the Trust and not the Parish Council.

1438//19 To consider and approve a temporary extension to the Lengthsmen Contract from 31 January - 31 March 2019

The Council has a total of 3 three contracts for grounds maintenance in the Parish. A contract exists for the grounds maintenance of Vale Gardens, the Parish Church (St Marys and All Saints) and the Parish Lengthsman. The former two contracts are due to expire at the end of March 2019. The Clerk recommended that synchronising all three contracts was the most efficient way of re-tendering the contracts. Consequently, she suggested that the current Lengthsman Contract is temporarily extending from 31 January 2019 – 31 March 2019 with the intention of retendering and the commencement of 3 new contracts on the 1 April 2019. The Council considered and approved this suggestion.

Authorisation of Accounts, Payments, Receipts and Balances for December 2018 and January 2019.

It was resolved to accept the Accounts, Payment, Receipts and Balances for December 2018 and January 2019.

1439/19 **Clerks Report**

The Clerks Report for January 2018 was accepted. The Clerk reported that she had now been in post 14 months and during this time, it had been a steep learning curve; particularly trying to get to grips with the financial aspects of the job. She thanked Martin Highton for endless patience and support . In April 2019 the Clerk will undertake a Certificate in Local Council

Administration (1 of 6 sessions and compilation of a portfolio).

The Clerks new mobile phone number is 07712-725265

1440/19 **Borough Councillors Report**

The Borough Councillors were not present at the meeting.

1441/19 **Armistice Commemorations 2018**

Councillor Cliff Ball reported upon this in the Councillor update section of the meeting.

1442/19 **To approve the date of the next meeting of the Parish Council as 7.30pm Thursday 21 February 2019**

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

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____