

WHALLEY PARISH COUNCIL



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

Present: Councillor M Highton (Chairman)
June Brown (Vice Chair)
Councillor Lois Rimmer
Councillor John Threlfall
Councillor M Fallon
Councillor D Sleight
Councillor C Ball
Councillor M Reid

Apologies received: Philip Elson

In Attendance: M Richardson – Clerk to Whalley Parish Council
Members of the public (6) Tony Brown, Patrick Brown, Eric Ronnan, Mike Wedgeworth, Paul White

1458/19 **to receive declaration of interests**

None.

1459/19 **to approve as correct the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21 February 2019**

It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21 February 2019 be approved as a correct record.

1460/19 **to approve as correct the Minutes of the Special Purposes Committee held on 2 November 2018**

It was resolved that the minutes of the Special Purposes Committee held on 2 November 2018 be approved as a correct record. These mistakenly should have been presented at the January 2019 meeting.

1461/19 **to adjourn the meeting for a period of public discussion (information only)**

Eric Ronnan informed the Parish Council that he had tried to get other parishoners to attend the meeting following the request by Councillor Cliff Ball at the last meeting to ‘bring a friend.’. He stated that people were reluctant to attend because at the Planning Meeting they were not privy to the Plans prior to the meeting (although these are available on line at the Borough Council). He also reported that people felt they were restricted in participating due to the formality of meeting and had to wait until the end to speak. He went onto stated he was disappointed that the Parish Council was no longer asked or involved in the decisions to name streets in the locality. He stated that the Parish Council had a valuable role and that we should lobby prospective Borough and Parish Councillors to change this.

A member of the public had received a full copy of the recent Ribble Valley Borough Council Report on proposals to change the Licensing Policy for Whalley. She stated the report was lengthy and seemed rather 'technical.' She asked the Parish Council what this report meant for Whalley and the nighttime economy. Martin Highton stated that the Borough Council had decided to change the Licensing Policy for Whalley due to the ongoing problems with anti-social behaviour and crime following the rapid growth of drinking establishments. This will become Policy in April 2019 after being ratified by Full Council. She queried the granting of Planning permission for change of use and the creation of a restaurant on George Street (upstairs at Maureen Cookson). The closing time recommend by the Planning Officer was 11pm. Martin Highton stated that the owner could apply for a Licence to stay open beyond this suggested time but hopefully the new policy will take effect and the Council will be minded to follow the officer recommendations. Mike Wedgeworth thanked the Parish Council for keeping pressure on the Borough Council to change the Licensing Policy for Whalley.

Tony Brown expressed worries about the responsiveness of Lancashire County Council to recent heavy rain that resulted in an Amber weather warning on Saturday 16 March 2019. He thanked Andrew Ronnan for getting in touch with the relevant authorities using the 999 number as the culvert on King Street had become blocked. The out of hours number did not work and he expressed concerns that standby procedures were not effective. The culvert was a particular weak point in Whalley and this required close and constant monitoring during heavy rain. Flooding was rapid when this became blocked. Broad Lane was also heavily flooded due to blocked drain near Cross House.

1462/19 to receive minutes of other Committees

The minutes were received of the:

- Planning Committee meeting held on 21 February 2019

1463/19 Councillor Update

Councillor Mike Fallon reported many complaints from residents about the potholes on Abbey Fields and near the Library. Martin Highton suggested that these are reported by residents online at fixmystreet.com

Councillor June brown reported that a significant number of reports had been received about gangs of young people behaving badly:

- 25/2/19 – Young People at the Swan Car Park
- 5/3/19 – Young People and Anti-Social Behaviour – The Sands and Whalley Abbey Grounds/A59 Bridge
- 11/3/19 – Young People throwing eggs at Vale House & litter strewn around Vale Gardens
- 16/3/19 - Young People at Vale Gardens causing criminal damage and drug taking

This was a growing problem and of great concern to the Parish Council. A meeting had been held with John Threlfall, June Brown, the Clerk and concerned residents about these ongoing problem. It was agreed that a multi-agency meeting would be coordinated by the Clerk and involve the Police, Borough Council, Senior Management Team of Ribble Valley Secondary Schools to discuss how this is managed going forward.

In the interim, all these events had been reported to the Police by the Parish Council. The covering PCSO had intimated that a Special Constable Patrol would possibly be deployed at weekends

when the problems tend to occur. June Brown pointed out that the Police resource was limited and residents needed to be realistic. The permanent PCSO for Whalley, Barrow and Billington was now on maternity leave and this post had not been back filled. It was being covered by another officer who also had their own geographical area to patrol.

The Council had a discussion about the use of new technology and CCTV cameras in helping to manage the situation. It was not clear which CCTV cameras worked in Whalley. Ribble Valley Borough Council was responsible for the operation of CCTV and the Parish Council believed at least one of the three cameras was not working and had not been working for many months. The Parish Council stated that this is not satisfactory and that the Parish Clerk should obtain the facts from the Borough Council on what CCTV cameras did work and those that did not. It was essential that all cameras are brought back into operation as soon as possible.

As Chairman of the Grounds and Garden Committee, June Brown announced that three maintenance contracts had been successfully retendered by the Parish Council to Abbey Gardening Services Limited.

Councillor John Threlfall had received complaints about Mitton Road bus stop near Calderstones not being swept regularly and litter picked. He noted that the Borough Council did still deploy resources to the area contrary to the opinion of the complainant. John reported he had received reports of anti-social behavior and young people. He had contacts with the Senior Management Team at St Augustine and reported that some of their pupils had been involved in this behavior. He attended the residents meeting with June Brown and felt that a multi-agency approach was necessary particularly as the nights become lighter.

Councillor Dave Sleight as Chair of the Whalley, WISwell and Barrow Joint Burial Committee advised that work had been tendered for maintenance to the fence, benches and new gates. Three quotes had been received with wide variations in price. The Committee had chosen the lowest quote.

Cliff Ball, Chairman of the Adam Cottam Almshouses reported the electrical problem at No. 30 had been resolved. Accounts for 2017/18 had been submitted to the Charity Commission together with an update on the serving Trustees.

The Church Yard Committee had met in February and the Borough Council Planning Authority had been invited to visit site for the new handrails; Adrian Dowd has requested details of how the handrail is to be located – the drawings provided by Steve Burke may not be sufficient and new sketches are being prepared. The west path flooded following recent persistent rain but not as bad as before the drains were cleared; needs further discussion. Trees had been damaged by recent winds; advice from Ken Linford sought – ‘deadwood’ half of the limes on Church Lane now and the other half later in the year. The recent winds will have taken off much of the material but there are still some deadwood stubs to take out. Estimate requested from Andrew Piercy Tree Surgeon.

Armistice Commemorations & Whalley Remembers will be donating a generous £10,000 to the Royal British Legion. He reported that Ribble Valley Borough Council Planning Authority had passed the latest amendment to the Planning Application for a new Crematorium. Friends are due to meet on Saturday 23 March 2019 to discuss a way forward but it seems that the developer has ‘ticked’ all of the necessary boxes and the development will progress.

He reported that the litter bin on station road had been completely full with dog bags dropped all around. He stated this is totally unacceptable by dog owners who should take their dog bags

home if they can see that the bin is full. (Time for a change in the law that all dog bags are taken home).

The Post Box at Whalley Railway Station had still not been replaced. The Clerk has been requested to write to Royal Mail on behalf of the Council to find out what the plans are regarding its replacement. Finally, he had also received complaints about the state of the toilets at the bus station but these had now been cleaned.

Councillor Lois Rimmer reported her attendance at the Grounds and Garden Committee. She stated she had received feedback from local residents about the new Ice Cream Parlour 'not being in keeping' with the area.

Councillor Mike Reid reported that the Village Hall Committee had successfully hosted a number of social events; 2nd March 2019. The next event planned was on Sat 6 April a folk duo £6 per ticket. A table top sale takes place every 2nd Sunday of the Month. Martin Highton noted that according to the Charity Commission Website the 2018/19 Accounts are late being filed. Mike said he would raise this with the Treasurer.

1464/19 20th Anniversary of Kosovan Refugees Leaving Whalley

Eric Ronnan provided an update. He had received permission from Mersey Care Trust to hold a small gathering on site at the end of May. He confirmed those living in Kosovo would not be making the journey for the commemoration but will be involved using real time technology (skype/facetime). Those individuals that had that settled permanently will get together although they are dispersed in Preston, Accrington, Burnley, Leyland and London. The numbers would be confirmed in due course and he requested the Parish Council offer financial support to help with accommodation costs if necessary. He stated that he would speak to Councillors June Brown and Martin Highton to organise a sub group meeting to finalise arrangements.

1465/19 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 effective from April 2019. The Parish Council welcomed the change but once again warned this will not apply to existing Licence holders.

1466/19 Authorisation of Accounts, Payments, Receipts and Balances for March 2019.

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

1467/19 Clerks Report

The Clerks Report for March 2019 was accepted.

1468/19 Spring Newsletter

A Parish Council newsletter is proposed for Spring and the Committee agreed deliver areas.

1469/ 19 Borough Councillors Report

No Borough Councillors attended. June Brown informed attendees that Borough Councillor Terry Hill was poorly and they all wished him a speedy recovery.

1470/19 **To approve the date of the next meeting of the Parish Council as 7.30pm Thursday 18 April 2019**

It was resolved to hold the next meeting of the Parish Council on **Thursday 18 April 2019**.

The meeting closed at 9.21pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____