



WHALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** held on Thursday 1st May 2014 at 7.30pm in Whalley Primary School, Church Lane, Whalley

1. PRESENT AND APOLOGIES

Present:

Councillor M Highton	Chairman
Councillor J Brown	
Councillor S Barker	
Councillor I Kent	
Councillor E Ronnan	
Councillor D Sleight	
Councillor N Ford	

Apologies received from:

Councillor S Earnshaw

13 members of the public present

In Attendance – Mr F Holland, Clerk to the Council

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2013/14

I would like welcome everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting.

Whalley PC is made up of 9 councillors, there has only been one change this year with the resignation of Mike Fallon and the subsequent co-option of Nic Ford. I would like to thank Mike for his contribution to the council and the village and welcome Nic. Councillors are volunteers and receive no financial support for the many hours spent working for the village. It was an honour to be re-elected Chairman at last years AGM and I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their support this year.

The council held the usual 11 monthly meetings plus AGM and Precept meeting (with a public attendance varying between 1 and 6 which often included one or both borough councillors). Planning meetings are normally held each month where any planning applications are considered and comments passed to RVBC, any objections can only be made on planning grounds. There has been a further year delay in the adoption of Ribble Valley's 'Core Strategy'; developers continue to take advantage of this situation. However, this year there have been no major new planning applications for additional housing developments in the village. Two major schemes have been permitted on appeal by the planning inspector these are on the site off Mitton Road and the development in neighbouring Barrow. I would particularly like to thank our Chair of Planning, Councillor Stephen Barker for the many hours of preparation prior to these meetings and representing the parish council at the Ribble Valley planning committee and the subsequent appeal hearing. We have now started the process of adopting a 'Neighbourhood Plan' for Whalley, probably linked to parts of our neighbouring parishes, Billington and Barrow. This will be a major task with serious cost implications but we do need something in place to

protect our environment and control the actions of developers in and around Whalley. I would like to thank Councillor Ivan Kent for his time and effort in preparing for this process.

Other regular committee meetings are:

Churchyard: Whalley is a closed churchyard and is a major responsibility for the PC. The general maintenance contract has continued with Abbey Gardening Services and I am pleased with the improvement of the appearance of the churchyard. Trees and slippery paths continue to be a major problem and need constant attention. A further batch of gravestones has been secured this year which completes the safety work identified in the original survey. Last year I reported that a number of trees had been the subject of deliberate criminal damage and although against the odds they did survive, I must now report that last month an unauthorised contractor entered the churchyard and felled these trees. This matter is in the hands of the police. A plan is being drawn up for the replacement of the mature trees around the churchyard as they approach the end of their lives and repair work will be required to the perimeter wall in the near future.

Grounds & Gardens: Abbey Gardening Services continue to make good progress in two roles, firstly as gardening contractors and now also with the contract as lengthsman for the village. A new bench was purchased and installed to commemorate the life and contribution to the village by the late Councillor Jill Taylor.

Whalley was again successful in the NW Britain in Bloom contest, collecting a silver gilt award in the small town category.

QEII Playing Fields: The feasibility study for enhancing the facilities on the QEII and Sports Club Site has been completed and will be published very shortly. Progress has been made to secure funding for a MUGA and youth shelter and improvements to the drainage of the pitches. Funding opportunities are being explored for the development of a new pavilion, changing facilities, sports hall, meeting room and storage. It is proposed that a new 'Charitable Incorporated Organisation' will be set up to take on the management of all the sports activities on the whole site. The QE II (and subsequently its successor body) does need to appoint at least 3 further trustees who are not parish councillors!

The PC also holds a joint meeting with the Calderstones Executive and is represented on many other committees and bodies.

Pickwick: I would like to thank the Pickwick Committee for their work in creating a successful event and promoting the village and hope that they will continue in this role. This year the Parish Council again agreed to pay the invoice from LCC for installing and removing the Christmas Lights on the lamp standards and we will ensure that a village Christmas Tree will be erected this year.

Whalley, Wiswell and Barrow Cemetery have continued to improve the site particularly with work on the drainage.

Old Grammar School, LCC withdrew from their lease of the property in October and the Whalley Education Foundation trustees have subsequently promoted its use as a Community Centre. This is supported by the PC and is now the home for our regular meetings.

The Whalley Village Partnership group has been created jointly with the C o T, R V councillors and officers. There are proposals on the table, at last, for time restricted parking in the centre of the village and several traffic issues are to be taken forward for consideration by LCC

We have successfully lobbied RVBC for action to control unauthorised advertising and fly posting in the village.

The PC has adopted the defibrillator which is located on the wall outside the entrance to the toilets. Most parish councillors have attended a training course on its use.

Section 137 grants continued at 3k this year, primarily made to local groups. The formal application procedure has continued and all applicants provided the necessary information. I particularly wish to commend work done for young people by all the sport groups in the village including football, cricket and table tennis.

Concurrent Functions: I am pleased to report that RV has continued to support PC with a grant towards expenditure on the lengthsman, burial grounds and parks.

Parish Council Surgery: The monthly surgery prior to the parish council meeting has continued where members of the community can meet a parish councillor to discuss any matter.

Parish Council Newsletter: we have continued to produce a regular newsletter, and would like to thank my fellow councillors for their help in distribution.

Finally, I would like to thank our Clerk, Fred Holland for the support he has given to me and the council throughout the year.

I look forward to continuing to work for the benefit of the village. Thank you.

Martin Highton

3. SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS ENDING 31ST MARCH 2014

Bank Reconciliation		
Council Name Whalley Parish Council		
Financial year ending 31 March 2014		
Prepared by F Holland	Date	26/04/14
Approved by _____ (Name and role (RFO/Chair of Finance etc)) Date _____		
Balance per bank statements as at 31 March 2014	£	£
Nat West Current account	1045	
Skipton Building Society	57698	
		58793
Less: any un-presented cheques at 31 March		
Cheque number 0002869	(75.00)	(30.00)
0002884	(45.00)	(45.00)
0002885	(59.00)	(59.00)
0002891	(300.00)	(300.00)
Add any unbanked cash at 31 March	0	
Net bank balances as at 31 March 2014		58264
<i>The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book (receipts and payments account) for the year, as follows</i>		
CASH BOOK		
Opening Balance		53252
Add: Receipts in the year		39419
Less: Payments in the year		34405
Closing balance per cash book as at 31 March 2014		58264

Each year **Whalley Parish Council's** annual return is audited by an auditor appointed by the Audit Commission and any person interested has the opportunity to inspect and make copies of the annual return and all books, contracts, bills, and receipts relating to them.

These documents are available on reasonable notice commencing on 6th May 2015 and ending on 3rd June 2014. If you wish to view them please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council at www.whalleypcclerk@yahoo.co.uk or 01254 245815

4. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

Presentation by Inspector Hassan Khan, Clitheroe Police

Inspector Khan gave an update of changes in policing which has impacted on Whalley recently. On 11th March Whalley police station closed down however an additional PCSO has been allocated to Whalley and WPC Wendy Waterhouse has been designated beat officer. Immediate response units book in and off at Colne police station but are allocated to the Ribble Valley. Neighbourhood police officers are stationed at Clitheroe and extra cars have been allocated to the division. Analysis of crime figures show that crime has not increased. He confirmed the police commitment to neighbourhood policing and that resources would be directed at targets highlighted by the community at PACT meetings.

The question and answer session considered the following:

- a. Confirmation that the CCTV at Vale Gardens is operative and manned 24 hours a day
- b. Traffic/parking – the disregard by motorists throughout the village to double yellow lines and parking on pavements; bus embayment; bus station; disabled parking bays; disregard to 20mph/30mph signs and speeding generally.

The meeting was strongly of the opinion that a campaign to deter offenders would be effective with:

- a. greater presence of traffic wardens
- b. a proactive response from PCSOs who should in turn refer persistent offenders to the beat manager.
- c. The village community reporting traffic infringements to either PCSOs and/or LCC at <http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/web/?siteid=4995&pageid=37382&e=e>
- d. The railway bridge on Mitton Road to have one approach as a priority to deter motorists attempting to pass vehicles directly under the restricted width bridge.

A Summer Fair will be held on Saturday 14th June, 10.00 am - 4.00pm at the Old Grammar School to raise funds to enable the building to remain open as a vibrant partner to the community.

5. WHALLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Councillor Ivan Kent gave an overview of the parish councils thinking regarding the possible establishment and implementation of a neighbourhood plan. The issues covered included: What is a neighbourhood Plan? What the parish council has done so far? Future plans and a possible designated area for the plan. A question and answer session then followed.

A copy Cllr Kents presentation may be obtained by e-mail from the parish clerk at www.whalleypcclerk@yahoo.co.uk

Concerns were expressed that:

- a. The villagers opposition to the planned overdevelopment of Whalley and neighbouring districts have been ignored by planners, politicians and inspectors.
- b. The communities fears regarding the lack of infrastructure has not been addressed

Cllr Highton thanked everybody for attending and closed the meeting at 9.20pm.

Signed.....

Date.....