



WHALLEY PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** held on Thursday 30th April 2015 at 7.30pm in The Old Grammar School, King St, 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 J Smith

7 members of the public present

In Attendance – Mr F Holland, Clerk to the Council

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2014/15

I would like welcome everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting.

Whalley PC is made up of 9 councillors; there have been no changes to the council this year. However the council is up for election and 4 councillors are standing down Nic Ford, Susan Earnshaw, Jon Smith and our longest serving member Eric Ronnan. I would like to thank all of them for their contribution to the council and the village. Tony Brown gave an excellent detailed appreciation of Eric's contribution at the last P C meeting and I have asked him to repeat this at the end of my report this evening. 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 9 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. Ribble Valley's 'Core Strategy' has finally been adopted; and should lead to some control over future developments. This year there have been no major new planning applications for additional housing developments in the village. There has been a change in our Chair of Planning this year, Councillor Stephen Barker stepped down after accepting a post with RVBC and we were very fortunate to have an excellent replacement available, Councillor Ivan Kent. I would like to thank both of them for the many hours of preparation prior to these

meetings and representing the parish council at the Ribble Valley planning committee. We have started the process of creating a 'Neighbourhood Plan' for Whalley, which is now unlikely to include our neighbouring parishes of Billington and Barrow. We have applied to RVBC to have the area confirmed. I would like to thank Councillor Ivan Kent for his work on this project.

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 continued improvement of the appearance of the churchyard. Trees and slippery paths continue to be a major problem and need constant attention. Some repair work has been carried out to the perimeter wall and this project will be on-going. Tree work was completed as recommended by the survey. It is still hoped that a plan can be drawn up for the replacement of the mature trees around the churchyard as they approach the end of their lives but compliance with the requirements of the Diocese make this process challenging.

Grounds & Gardens: Abbey Gardening Services continue to make good progress enhancing the environment of the village in two roles, firstly as gardening contractors and also with the contract as lengthsmen for the village. Representatives from Whalley in Bloom and the Pickwick committee attended a recent meeting to agree roles and responsibilities.

Whalley was again successful in the NW Britain in Bloom contest, collecting a gold award and a special award for commercial effort in the small town category and have been invited to participate in the 2015 national competition.

Whalley has entered the 2015 Best Kept Village competition, this is co-ordinated by Gillian Darbyshire, President of the reformed Whalley Lions and supported by the P C. There will be village clean up days through May, volunteers welcome!

QEII Playing Fields: The feasibility study for enhancing the facilities on the QEII and Sports Club Site has been published. Planning permission has been granted for the MUGA and youth shelter and the parish council allocated a further £20 000 to the project to enable construction to start very shortly. Work on improvements to the drainage of the pitches is also due to start. Funding opportunities are being explored for the development of a new pavilion, changing facilities, sports hall, meeting room and storage. A new 'Charitable Incorporated Organisation' has been set up to take on the management of all the sports activities on the whole site. Councillor Jon Smith will describe the proposed developments for the QE II and the Sports Club in the next agenda item.

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 supported the provision of a village Christmas Tree.

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

Old Grammar School, the Whalley Education Foundation trustees have successfully promoted its use as a Community Centre with the number of users increasing. A new constitution which we support has been submitted to the Charity Commission. We have helped to cover expenses with a £4000 grant this year will continue to support this worthwhile asset for the village.

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

Section 137 grants increased to 3.5k 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, tennis 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.

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

I mentioned at the beginning that the council is up for election and am disappointed to report that only 7 candidates have been nominated for the 9 places available. These candidates will be elected next week and we will be seeking 2 further volunteers to be co-opted onto the new council.

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

Martin Highton

3. Future Sports Facilities for Whalley – Jon Smith

The Queen Elizabeth II Playing Fields Charitable Trust and the Sports Club Trust have formed the “Whalley Sports Community Park” which is currently being registered as a Charitable Organisation. A feasibility study of the site has taken place, a detailed plan has been developed with support from the whole community. Three achievable projects have been devised:

Project 1 – Effective drainage for the playing fields site and a brand new junior pitch. Funding from Sport England and RVBC.

Project 2 – Creation of a MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) with floodlighting, a Green Gym and Youth Shelter. Funding from Whalley Parish Council, RVCB, Lancashire Environmental Fund, The Harris Charity, Whalley Village Hall and Athertons.

Project 3 – Development of the Community Sports Building. Provision of all year round facilities for the community as a whole – changing rooms, multifunction rooms for sports/drama

4. SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS ENDING 31ST MARCH 2015

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 2015. If you wish to view them please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council at www.whalleypcclerk@yahoo.co.uk or 01254 245815

Bank Reconciliation		
Council Name Whalley Parish Council		
Financial year ending 31 March 2015		
Prepared by F Holland		Date 26/04/15
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

5. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

Mr Brown and Councillor Hill paid tribute to Councillor Ronnan for his endeavours, dedication and commitment to the Whalley community over the last 37 years and wished him well for the future. These comments were echoed by the meeting.

Clr Highton thanked everybody for attending and closed the meeting at 8.37pm.

Signed.....

Date.....