



WHALLEY PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** held on Thursday 5th May 2016 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 Earnshaw
Councillor M Fallon
Councillor L Rimmer
Councillor D Sleight
Councillor C Ball
Councillor M Reid

Apologies: Councillor Barker

11 members of the public present

In Attendance – Mr F Holland, Clerk to the Council

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2015/16

I would like welcome everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting.

Whalley PC is made up of 9 councillors; there were 2 vacancies following the election last year and we subsequently co-opted Cliff Ball and Mike Fallon to the council. Earlier this year Ivan Kent resigned as he was imminently returning to London, I would like to thank him for his contribution to the council, most specifically for his work on the neighbourhood plan and for chairing the planning committee. We co-opted Susan Earnshaw to the council at our last meeting. 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 year's 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 2 and 11 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. This year there have been no major new planning applications for additional housing developments in the village but detailed applications are in the system for the developments off Mitton Road and Accrington Road. Following Councillor Ivan Kent's resignation I am pleased to confirm that Councillor Dave Sleight agreed to Chair the planning group. I would like to thank both of them for the many hours of preparation prior to these meetings. There has been a

change from paper to electronic details of planning applications this year but both our chairs took this in their stride. It has been decided that we would abandon a formal 'Neighbourhood Plan' for Whalley but it is hoped that the Parish Plan can be updated.

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 is 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 and the Borough Council 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 lengthsman for the village.

Whalley was again successful in both the NW and National Britain in Bloom contests, collecting a national silver gilt award and a NW gold medal in the small town category. Whalley in Bloom are planning for 2016 to be a year of Recovery, Restoration and Renewal.

Whalley entered the 2015 Best Kept Village competition, this was co-ordinated by Gillian Darbyshire, President of Whalley Lions and supported by the P C. There were several village clean up days and these will continue this year although we will not be entering the competition. We were runner up in the large village category, have the best public toilets and were highly commended for Vale House, Cosgroves and Vale House Gardens.

QEII Playing Fields: I am pleased to confirm that the MUGA surface and youth shelter have been completed this year. However, further funding is required for constructing the goal ends, fencing and lighting. The Sport England funding has been novated to the Parish Council and work on improvements to the drainage of the pitches will start imminently. We have had a valuation and registered the land. Funding has been obtained to prepare plans and develop the proposals for a new pavilion, changing facilities, sports hall, meeting room and storage. This will be by a new process as a Community Right to Build development.

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 for installing and removing the Christmas Lights on the lamp standards and the provision of a village Christmas Tree.

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

Adam Cottam Trust, I would like to commend Cliff Ball for his work in getting the Almshouses trust sorted out and hope that all properties will soon be available to let.

Old Grammar School, the Whalley Education Foundation trustees have successfully promoted its use as a Community Centre with the number of users increasing. The new constitution which we support has still not been confirmed by the Charity Commission. We have helped to cover expenses with a further grant this year through the Parish Grant scheme and 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. We still await details from LCC of their proposals for addressing parking and

congestion. These will at last include time restricted parking in the centre of the village. These proposed traffic regulations will need to be enforced unlike the current situation that we suffer!

Section 137 grants continued at 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 look forward to continuing to work for the benefit of the village.

I will conclude by putting on record the devastating effect on the village by the flooding from the river on Boxing Day. We regularly have problems with overflow from the culvert on King Street and this has caused damage to property on several occasions but the volume of water and damage caused by the river were unprecedented. A significant area of the village including my own property continues to be unoccupied. I will also like to record thanks to all the volunteers that have contributed to helping those affected, particularly the coordination arranged by Whalley Lions. I look forward to the following presentation from the Whalley and Billington Flood Action Group and their proposals for addressing this issue.

3. WHALLEY AND BILLINGTON FLOOD ACTION GROUP

Presentation by Richard Wallwork and Andrew Ronnan

The Action Group has recently been formed following the destruction in December 15. It is a limited company comprising of a group with individuals skills. Short term aims are to prevent a reoccurrence of the circumstances that led to the flooding; long term aims are to secure finance from the various bodies to enable the construction of flood defences.

The flood location areas identified were: i. Culvert on King St; ii. The build up of waters at the Calder Bridge and iii. After Calder Bridge when the river flow is prevented by build up of the Ribble/Hodder flows.

LCC are now undertaking a survey of surface / culvert water discharge – the first time evidence has been sought.

The Action Group aims to ensure flood doors are available; to ensure liaison with other authorities, organisations and statutory bodies; identification as to which institution is responsible for what? And that all villagers will have their individual action plan.

The next meeting of the Action Group will be 7.30pm on Wednesday 18th May 2016 at Billington Band Club.

4. SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS ENDING 31ST MARCH 2016

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 8th June 2016 and ending on 19th July 2016. 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 2016		
Prepared by F Holland Date 26/04/16		
Approved by _____ (Name and role (RFO/Chair of Finance etc)) Date _____		
Balance per bank statements as at 31 March 2016	£	£
Nat West Current account	10645	
Nat West QEII Account	130	
Skipton Building Society	28810	
		39585
Less: any un-presented cheques at 31 March 2016		
Cheque number 0003067	(55.00)	(55.00)
Add any unbanked cash at 31 March 2016	0	
Net bank balances as at 31 March 2016		39530
<i>The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book (receipts and payments account) for the year, as follows</i>		
CASH BOOK		
Opening Balance		62065
Add: Receipts in the year		96593
Less: Payments in the year		119129
Closing balance per cash book as at 31 March 2016		39530

5. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

Mr Clarke expressed concerns regarding the proposed construction on Accrington Road. The development is located on the flood plain with water percolating up to the surface. The impact on water table will be considerable. Building should not take place on a flood plain. The Calder bank is being eroded but no agency will take responsibility to prevent an inevitable future disaster. For the existing residents there will be a resultant increase in traffic on already congested roads, whilst there will be problems with noise and possible damage to the structure of the houses when constructors pile drive for the foundations.

Mr Ronnan considered that the number of car parking spaces on the site, available to the public was inadequate.

Cllr Highton thanked everybody for attending and closed the meeting at 9.37pm.

Signed.....

Date.....