

WHITTINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

AN ORDINARY meeting of Whittingham Parish Council took place on **Mon 10th April 2017** at 7.00pm at Goosnargh Village Hall.

Members:

Cllr Dave Hall - Chairman

Cllr Stan Hunter

Cllr Harry Landless

Mrs Julie Buttle – Parish Clerk

Members of the public

Lindy King – GWHG

Cllr Lona Smith – Preston City Council

Gaynor Allen – Community Green Hug

APOLOGIES Cllr Alan Lewis, Cllr Margaret Rigby, Cllr Bernard Huggon

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of the meeting held on 13th March 2017.

MIN 173 it was RESOLVED that the March Minutes be signed as a true record.

TO ACCEPT DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND TO CONSIDER ANY WRITTEN REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

MIN 174 Cllr Hunter declared a prejudicial interest in the repair of the benches at Cumeragh Village because one of the quotes is from his son in law. Cllr Landless declared a personal interest in planning application **06/2017/0348** as he knows the resident. He also declared a personal interest in the grant application for the community green hug as he knows a person associated with the green hug.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

MIN 175 it was RESOLVED that the meeting be adjourned for public participation.

The Heritage Group will start to photograph the items for the heritage list but requested an AO map to plot them on. This is being organised by the Clerk.

It was stated that some artefacts from the former hospital site were for sale on e-bay and it was questioned if the contractor should be selling the items which could be of value to the Whittingham Lives project. The Clerk has raised the matter with HCA who stated that items of historical importance are being stored safely. A copy of the reply has been forwarded to the Heritage Group so that they can raise any further concerns directly with the HCA.

Gaynor Allen outlined a 'grow your own' project being run by the Lancashire Care Health Trust near the former railway bridge. Several residents have been attending the project called the Community Green Hug to learn a variety of gardening skills and techniques. The Green Hug are looking for funding to advertise the sessions to encourage more residents to attend and foster an interest in maintaining and managing allotments.

Using the skills learnt, those attending the sessions have already carried out repairs to the willow tunnels at Goosnargh Oliverson's School and on the Square. They will also supply produce to the Harvest Festival and will involve Goosnargh Ducklings in topics to do with growing and tasting food. In response to questions it was confirmed that patients at Guild Lodge do not have routine access to the site and if they do attend, they must be accompanied by staff. The land is still owned by the Health Authority and whilst they welcome the community involvement, it is without prejudice to any decisions regarding the long term use of the land which has been worked and maintained for over 200 years.

Cllr Smith advised the Group that funding may also be available from County Councillor George Wilkins who has a small budget to help community groups.

It was RESOLVED that the meeting be reconvened.

CO-OPTION OF A NEW COUNCILLOR

Following the resignation of Cllr Mills a vacancy was advertised in accordance with statutory guidance and the City Council have advised that the vacancy can be filled by co-option.

Mr Meades was considered a strong applicant last year and as he has re-confirmed his interest in the vacancy, Members reconsidered his application. As there is only one applicant, the Clerk advised that the Council has a discretion not to co-opt if Councillors think the applicant is not the right person, but a reason would be required.

MIN 176 Members RESOLVED to co-opt Mr Meades to the Parish Council. The Clerk will notify Electoral Services and make the necessary induction arrangements.

CONSIDERATION OF AN ALTERNATIVE VENUE

MIN 177 As an alternative venue will not be available before the May meeting, Members RESOLVED to defer the matter until May but suggested that Members take the opportunity to visit other venues to determine their suitability.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS BEFORE COUNCIL

Note - Members are advised prior to the meeting that applications can be viewed at www.preston.gov.uk.

06/2016/1039 Re-consultation - 95 dwellings, access, landscaping and ancillary works at land at rear of Holme Fell, Goosnargh Lane, Goosnargh.

The Clerk explained that the City Council needs to consider 2 elements – the principle of the development and the highway comments. The principle centres on whether the application can be classed as a rural exception site for affordable housing under policy HS4. Further information has been submitted to allegedly support the case, however, due to the mixture of development tenures, it is still difficult for a lay person to understand whether or not the site is an exception. In relation to the highway comments, a Travel Plan has now been submitted and the access has been altered but it appears that highways remain opposed to the application unless 3 specific highway elements are delivered relating to the M55 slip road, the PWDR and changes / linkages yet to be provided by development north of East Way.

MIN 178 Members RESOLVED to express concern that whilst the application explains the number of homes available under each mixed development tenure, it does not provide a breakdown of each property type nor does it clearly explain why the application should be considered as an exceptional site. Given the variety and number of reasons why the Parish Council considers the application to be contrary to policy, Members request a clear and comprehensive explanation concerning how and why the application can be considered a rural exception site. Notwithstanding this, Members note the 3 highway elements that must be met before development can be approved and would be strongly opposed to any of these elements being dismissed simply because the application might meet any rural exception criteria. Members remain strongly opposed to the application.

06/2017/0325 Engineering operations to provide an earth pit for the storage of slurry at Whittingham Hall Farm, Whittingham.

MIN 179 Members RESOLVED to reply to the consultation by noting that the application is described as a resubmission of planning application 06/2016/0799, however the application is not accompanied by an odour management plan. The Parish Council has previously expressed concerns regarding the management of odour and flies and request that the application is considered further by environmental health.

06/2017/0348 Single storey front and side extension at 8 Church Lane, Goosnargh.

Cllr Landless declared a personal interest in the application as he knew one of the residents and Cllr Hunter stated that he is also familiar with the site. **MIN 180** It was RESOLVED that representation would be made by the Clerk under delegated authority. The Clerk stated that as the proposal was set forward of the building line, there would be an adverse effect on the street scene and the property would be out of character to the neighbouring properties.

06/2017/0356 Outline application for residential development (Class C3) of 8.04 hectares of land for up to 190no. dwellings, with new highway access from Inglewhite Road, public open space, internal access roads, plus landscaping and associated infrastructure (pursuant to 06/2014/0248 to seek variation of conditions 8 "Affordable Housing" and 12 "Code for Sustainable Homes") (pursuant to 06/2016/0993 to seek variation of condition no's 8 "Affordable Housing" and 12 "Code Level").

Members noted that the application was to amend the affordable element from 35% down to 30% in accordance with the Core Strategy.

MIN 181 Members RESOLVED to leave to planning.

Members NOTED that the appeal for **06/2016/0124** outline planning application for residential development at Dean Farm Warehouse, Pudding Pie Nook Lane will take place on the **13th June 2017** and application **06/2017/0174** will be heard by planning committee if recommended for approval.

In relation to 06/2017/0174, Members NOTED that the Clerk has submitted a stronger argument in relation to the Area of Separation because it has come to light that an application for 61 dwellings was approved in Broughton Parish Council's area. Given the close proximity of the sites, it is considered that approval will result in an adverse impact on the rural identity and distinctiveness of the local area. **MIN 182** Members RESOLVED that the Clerk should present the objection to planning committee if the opportunity arises.

Members NOTED that the enforcement team are investigating the unauthorised signs at Seed House Farm under reference **E/2017/0052**. In addition, it has been alleged that the old farmhouse has not been demolished in accordance with the planning consent. This has also been drawn to the attention of the enforcement team.

MAINTENANCE UPDATES

a) Goosnargh Village Green

A letter was sent to Cllr Rawlinson regarding his comments about the maintenance of green spaces but he is not prepared to retract the comments. Furthermore, he is still of the opinion that Parish Councils have done very little to fight, object to or mitigate the effects of the Government's spending cuts.

MIN 183 Members RESOLVED to reply to his comments by providing a breakdown of the financial contributions the Parish Council has made in relation to parks and open spaces from a precept of £15,375. The reply will also re-request a breakdown of the figures resulting in the budget decision. If the information is not supplied by the May meeting, a request will be made under the Freedom of Information Act.

b) Cumeragh Village Green / Beacon Drive

MIN 184 Members NOTED that the Clerk has met Envirocare and grass cutting will commence before Easter. Envirocare have been advised that the festival will be held on the 3rd June and have noted that the grass will need to be cut one week before.

c) Cumeragh Play Area

Annual Inspection – The City Council has been asked to provide the annual report.

Information Sign – A sign mounted on posts may cost approx. £400 and as all the required information is in the Notice Board, it is suggested that we wait to see if the matter is again flagged as a concern during the 2016/17 inspection.

Weekly Inspections – The 2016/17 invoice from the City Council has not yet been received. Barton Grange have confirmed that they will commence the 2017/18 inspections and will email the reports to the Clerk.

Bark Pit – This has been completed by Countrywide and the invoice is on the agenda.

Benches – Members advertised for a handyman to repair the benches in the summer 2016 newsletter and as no-one came forward, under MIN 91 Members resolved to accept a quote from Integrate. Under MIN 164, Members noted that Integrate were unable to carry out the works and new quotes were requested. 2 quotes have been received but as Cllr Hunter has declared a prejudicial interest in the matter, Members can't make a decision because the Council will not be quorate. **MIN 185** As the photograph attached to one of the quotes illustrates that a bench is in a dangerous condition and as the Clerk has delegated authority to make emergency decisions it was RESOLVED to delegate the decision to the Clerk.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2016 / 2017

The Chairman verified that the accounts and the bank statements had been reconciled.

2016 / 2017 ANNUAL RETURN

MIN 186 Members considered and approved Section 1 (Annual Governance Statement) and Section 2 (Statement of Accounts) of the Annual Report and RESOLVED that the documents be signed and returned in accordance with the requirements.

2016 / 2017 CIL END OF YEAR SUMMARY

At the March meeting, Members received a financial report and update on CIL items and noted that the City Council are in the process of obtaining 3 quotes for the footpath repair at Goosnargh Village Hall.

MIN 187 Members considered the 3 quotes and RESOLVED to agree with the City Council decision to approve contractor A option B. In accordance with the City Council requirements, the Clerk will place the order and the City Council will project manage the work.

Members NOTED that the Clerk and Cllr Hall met with the Ramblers Association regarding the inspection and improvements to Public Rights of Way. Leaflets have previously been approved for 6 walks and it was agreed that these would be a starting point. The Clerk has made enquiries to obtain a template of the original leaflets and the Ramblers have agreed to assist in providing a report on the condition of the routes. Once the report is finalised, the Parish Council can commission any improvements prior to relaunching the leaflets.

MIN 188 Further to the PROW letter circulated to Members, it was RESOLVED to apply to the County Council for £250 towards the costs of maintaining the PROW's.

The Clerk has made enquiries regarding Vehicle Activated Speed Indicator Devices. There are various signs on the market including signs which record data. Signs can be mains, solar or wind powered. Location and installation will be subject to LCC approval.

Members RESOLVED to invite a company to the June meeting so that Members have a greater awareness of the products on offer and the likely costs involved.

OPEN SPACES SOCIETY

MIN 189 Members RESOLVED to renew membership to the Open Spaces Society at a cost of £45.00.

RENEWAL OF LALC MEMBERSHIP

MIN 190 Members RESOLVED to renew membership to LALC including a £20 contribution to the Area Secretary at a cost of £325.69.

GRANT TO COMMUNITY GARDEN - Rachael Hesketh

MIN 191 Following the discussion and presentation under public participation, Members RESOLVED to approve a grant of £200 to The Green Hug Community Gardening Group. Subject to grant conditions, the cheque will be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

MIN 192 Members RESOLVED to approve the following accounts for payment

DETAILS	PAYEE	AMOUNT	CHEQUE
Open spaces membership	Open Spaces Society	£45	CQ 1241
LALC	LALC	£325.69	CQ 1242
Clerk Salary April 2017	J Buttle	£426.67	CQ 1243
Tax / National Insurance	HMRC	£78.60	CQ 1244
Bark pit repair	Countryside	£2820	CQ 1245
Quarterly Exp Jan - March	J Buttle	£87.05	CQ 1246
E-ON Bill	E-ON	£25.28	CQ 1247

NEWSLETTER

An initial draft of the Newsletter was considered at the March meeting. **MIN 193** Members RESOLVED to approve the final version which will include contact details for Cllr Meades.

LALC CONFERENCE

Members NOTED that the Lancashire Association of Local Councils Spring Conference will be held on Saturday 13th May at the Leyland Hotel, Junction 28 M6 Motorway between 9.30a.m. – 4.15p.m.

PROVISION OF SCHOOL PLACES

The County Council is responsible for ensuring that there are the right number of school places, in the right areas, at the right time to meet demand. Members noted a consultation seeking views on the level of provision required. **MIN 194** Members RESOLVED to reply to the consultation by stating that whilst it is noted that hot spots have been identified in Longridge and Preston Rural, it would be helpful to have a breakdown showing the current capacity of schools linked to the build out rate of housing developments. Clarity is also requested regarding the location of the proposed schools as development at Whittingham hospital should generate an additional need in Whittingham Parish – not Goosnargh.

NOTE NEW CORRESPONDENCE

New correspondence regarding the artefacts at the formal hospital site was raised under public participation.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be the Annual Council Meeting on **Monday 8th May 2017** which takes place **after** the Annual Parish Meeting.

Members were reminded that Council RESOLVED that the Annual Parish Meeting will commence at **6.30pm** and invitations will be issued to community groups with the option for them to give a brief presentation on their activities. In respect of grant allocations, it was confirmed that presentations will be requested from Whittingham Festival, Goosnargh and Longridge Show and the Community Green Hug. GWHG will also be requested to give a brief update on their work.