

WHITTINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

AN ORDINARY meeting of Whittingham Parish Council took place on **Mon 13th Feb 2017** at 7.00pm at Goosnargh Village Hall.

Members:

Cllr Alan Lewis – Chairman
Cllr Dave Hall
Cllr Stan Hunter
Cllr Ruth Mills

Members of the public

Cllr L Smith - Preston City Council
A Wheatley - GWHG
K Beattie – University student
Mrs Julie Buttle – Parish Clerk

APOLOGIES Cllr Margaret Rigby, Cllr Bernard Huggon, Cllr Harry Landless

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of the meeting held on 9th January 2017.

MIN 142 it was RESOLVED that the January Minutes be signed as a true record.

It was NOTED that in relation to **MIN 140** Cllr Hall will not be attending the LCC Parish and Town Council conference at the end of February.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

MIN 143 it was RESOLVED that the meeting be adjourned for public participation.

Ms Katie Beattie addressed the Council to explain she was completing a university dissertation on whether it is economically better to demolish historic buildings such as Whittingham Hospital or whether they should be adapted for re-use. The study seeks local opinions regarding the demolition of the Whittingham hospital buildings and the new housing development. Katie advised she will be contacting residents to ask them to complete a questionnaire in relation to the Whittingham site. The Chairman allowed a temporary adjournment to enable Members of the Council to complete the questionnaire.

Cllr Smith advised that 'unsuitable for HGV signs' have been erected on Brabiner Lane. A 'pedestrians crossing' sign has been erected at Guild Lodge and SLOW has been painted on the road. Cllr Smith stated that whilst she was aware that a meeting had taken place on the City Council greenspace proposals, City Councillors have not been briefed on the details.

Mr A Wheatley distributed a briefing sheet providing an update on the Goosnargh and Whittingham Heritage Group. The next meeting is on 20th February and attendees are encouraged to bring heritage information and photographs relating to local activities and events in the villages. On the 20th March the Group will be screening The Battle of the Somme which forms part of LCC's commemorations of the centenary of World War one. Adaptions to St Mary's Church are complete and include a ground floor meeting facility with modern communication facilities and wi-fi. The Group were successful in their application to the Heritage Lottery Fund and received a grant of £25,000. Thanks were expressed to the Parish Council for their donation to assist the Group in producing a leaflet to promote the Group's work. The leaflet includes the Parish Council logo and it was noted that all GWHG communications will include a 'crest' which was designed by a local school pupil.

The Group are encouraging people to become Trustees and an invitation was extended to the Parish Council. This will be considered at the Annual Parish Council meeting in May. In response to a query it was stated that the Group now has approx. 30 members.

It was RESOLVED that the meeting be reconvened.

UPDATE ON WHITTINGHAM HOSPITAL COMMUNITY TRUST

At the December meeting, Members approved option 9 for the proposed community facilities at Whittingham Hospital. Option 10 has now been proposed which increases the size of the events area. Currently it is 2700m². Option 9 increases it to 3,794m² and option 10 increases it to 5,528m². In option 9, 2 car parks were proposed, option 10 proposes 1 larger carpark with the MUGA moved to the site of carpark 2. Cllr Lewis stated that HCA are considering whether to provide the facilities earlier as the developer has pulled out of phase 2 and additional leisure facilities may make the site more attractive to prospective buyers.

MIN 144 Members considered the alterations and RESOLVED to support option 10.

S106 TRAVEL PLANS

Members NOTED that LCC have stated that whilst their Development Control section will ensure that a Travel Plan is submitted and approved in accordance with the planning conditions, on most developments, it will be up to the Developer to appoint a travel plan co-ordinator to ensure the measures are delivered.

Notwithstanding the above, LCC have conceded that due to the wording of the S106 agreement for the Whittingham Hospital site, LCC are responsible for appointing a travel plan co-ordinator and it is understood that Taylor Wimpey have repaid the sum of £46,814 to LCC so that a co-ordinator can be appointed. However, despite receiving the money, LCC have advised they are not in a position to confirm when the appointment will be made.

When clarifying the above with LCC, the Clerk stated that the Parish Council had conducted a survey of residents in relation to CIL expenditure. Improved bus services featured highly on the list of items to be addressed. With this in mind, the Clerk suggested that LCC should meet with the Parish Council to discuss a partnership / financial agreement to allow the Parish Council to play an active part in appointing the co-ordinator and ensuring the measures are delivered. Despite agreeing it was a possible way forward, LCC have not come back with any information to confirm whether or not they can proceed.

Members stated that LCC are receiving substantial sums of S106 money to ensure Travel Plans are in place and expressed their anger that no one is taking ownership for the delivery of the measures. Without the delivery, it is considered that the sites are not sustainable and should not have been granted planning permission.

Members supported the principle of working in partnership with LCC to ensure the measures are delivered, but given that LCC are receiving funding to ensure the Travel Plans are in place, Members felt the responsibility for ensuring the measures are implemented should rest with LCC not the Parish Council.

Members NOTED that developers have already been informed that the Parish Council is keen to support them in the delivery of their travel plan measures and an invitation was issued to invite them to a Parish Council meeting in accordance with MIN 117.

MIN 145 It was RESOLVED that the Clerk issue a formal letter to LCC expressing the Parish Council's annoyance with the situation. The letter will request an itemised account of the S106 monies received by LCC to date and request details of any correspondence between LCC and the developers to ensure the Travel Plans are being progressed. A copy of the letter will be sent to the City Council Planning department, local councillors and the MP.

EMPLOYMENT SKILLS SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

The City Council has issued a consultation on an Employment Skills SPD. The SPD requires applicants to complete an Employment Skills Statement for housing developments of 30 or more and applications with a commercial floor space greater than 1000sqm. The consultation states the Employment Skills Statement can ensure the right skills and employment opportunities are provided to benefit both the developer and the local population.

MIN 146 Members RESOLVED to support the principle of the Employment Skills Statement as it encourages developers to consider the creation of apprenticeships, links with schools & colleges, use of local suppliers and help with community based projects, however, Members question whether the developer is obliged to provide any of the items listed in the Skill Statement, whether officers will be in a position to monitor compliance and if the developer doesn't comply once development commences, what action, if any, will be taken?

LOCAL HERITAGE LIST

The City Council have advised that they hope to look at the list of heritage assets in the coming months and have requested that the Parish Council provides a map pinpointing the location of the asset with photographs of the structures.

Given that the Parish Council was required to submit the draft List by the end of September, Members expressed their dismay that the City Council has waited 5 months before referring the matter back to the Parish Council and concerns were expressed that the project is receiving a very low priority. Members felt that as the Conservation Officer is employed to assess and identify heritage assets, responsibility for the completion lies with the local authority as the Parish Council does not have the relevant expertise.

MIN 147 Members RESOLVED to reply to the email stating that the photographs should be taken by the Conservation Officer as the Parish Council does not have the heritage expertise and rather than submit hard copies of location plans, it would be more effective for the Council to visit the site, take the photograph and log the assets directly on to their interactive maps. The City Council will also be requested to confirm the timescales for the project.

CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS BEFORE COUNCIL

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

06/2016/1166 Outline planning application for 2no. dwellings (all matters reserved) at 28 Church Lane Goosnargh.

MIN 148 Members noted that the application was an infill site within an existing settlement and RESOLVED not to object to the proposal.

06/2017/0093 Outline planning application for 1no. detached dwelling and new vehicular access (access, landscaping and layout applied for) at Broadfield, Inglewhite Road, Preston. Members noted that the Local Plan indicates that the site is located in open countryside, however given that development has been approved to the south of Inglewhite Road, Members felt there were no strong reasons to object to the principle of 1 new dwelling particularly as the site is along the frontage of Inglewhite Road and can be considered an infill plot. **MIN 149** Members RESOLVED not to object to the proposal.

06/2017/0094 Outline application for 3no. detached dwellings and new vehicular access (access, landscaping and layout applied for)) at Broadfield, Inglewhite Road, Preston. Members noted that the Local Plan indicates that whilst the site is located in open countryside, some applications to the south of Inglewhite Road have been approved. However, unlike previous applications, the site does not front on to Inglewhite Road and the application is considered to be back land development on land which has previously been part of the residential curtilage of an existing property. In addition there is a plentiful supply of new housing on sites already identified in the Local Plan and the applicant has not demonstrated any need for 3 new dwellings in this location.

MIN 150 Members RESOLVED to object to the proposal.

PLANNING APPEAL 06/2016/0124

Members were informed that an appeal has been lodged against the refusal of 24 houses at Pudding Pie Nook Lane, Goosnargh. The Inspector will receive a copy of the original objections made by the Parish Council but the Parish Council is invited to submit further comments and speak against the application at the hearing.

MIN 151 Members RESOLVED not to speak at the hearing but requested that the Clerk send an additional email stating that the site is not allocated for development in the adopted Local Plan and as the City Council has a 5yr housing supply, there is no need to allocate more land for housing, particularly in an area where the City Council has refused applications on the grounds that the location is considered unsustainable.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Chairman confirmed the accounts and bank statements had been reconciled.

SLCC MEMBERSHIP

MIN 152 Members RESOLVED to renew the subscription to the SLCC with the £157 cost being shared equally between Whittingham and Woodplumpton Parish Councils. Members noted the amount does not include a £10 subscription to the Union element of the Society as this may be paid separately by the Clerk.

PLANNING TRAINING COURSE

Cllr Hall confirmed he will be available to attend the planning training course in April.

MIN 153 Members RESOLVED to approve the £25 course fee CQ 1233

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

MIN 154 Members RESOLVED to approve the following accounts for payment

DETAILS	PAYEE	AMOUNT	CHEQUE
Clerk Salary	J Buttle	£396.55	1234
Tax / National Insurance	HMRC	£93.20	1235

CITY COUNCIL GREENSPACE PROPOSALS

The City Council has limited resources and the Clerk and Chairman were requested to attend a meeting regarding the future maintenance of greenspace and the potential closure of rural play areas. At the meeting it was stated that the City Council was considering a reduction in grass cuts to 3 per year and were also considering the removal of play areas.

Parish Councils present raised several objections particularly as many play areas have been funded by Parish Councils and local communities. The City Council stated that the reduction could be avoided if Parish Councils took over the maintenance and management of the open spaces and play areas and if desired, the City Council will consider transferring the asset to the Parish Council. Following the meeting the Clerk requested further details such as the current costs of ground maintenance per piece of land, details of any covenants, TPO's or restrictions on the land, a full list of the installed equipment including guarantees and details of the supplier and the costs of any transfer of the land.

MIN 155 Members NOTED the full list of questions and will consider a course of action once the reply is received.

COMMUNITY USE OF GOOSNARGH VILLAGE GREEN

The City Council has received an enquiry concerning the booking of Goosnargh Village Hall for a wedding reception on the 22nd July. In addition to the Hall, the hirer wishes to locate a marquee for 200 people on the adjacent village green.

Members stated that the land is a registered Village Green for use by everyone and it should not be hired out for a private function. As the Village Green surrounds a residential area, concerns were raised regarding the noise that will be generated by 200 people regardless of any noise from music. In addition there are no parking facilities and residents will be severely inconvenienced. Concerns are also expressed regarding the restoration of the village green and the clearing up of any litter and waste.

MIN 156 For the above reasons Members RESOLVED to object to the request.

CIL UPDATES

Further to MIN 137 and the discrepancy between the City Council's CIL figures for 2015/16 and the Parish Council's audited figures, Members NOTED that the Clerk will be attending a meeting with City Council officers on the 16th February.

The City Council have provided a quote regarding improvements to the footpath at the Village Hall. As one quote will not satisfy our financial regulations, the Clerk queried the role the City Council will take in procuring and delivering the works. They have advised that they will seek 2 further quotes and once these are received, they have requested that the Parish Council places the order and pays the contractor but the City Council will monitor the works for quality assurance. **MIN 157** Members RESOLVED that they are happy with this approach and will await the 2 additional quotes.

HCA have advised that cycle routes were closed during the demolition of Whittingham Hospital and new routes will be provided as part of the redevelopment but as HCA have 'suffered a setback' in appointing a developer for the second phase, it may be 2-3 years before the routes are completed and re-opened.

Members noted the reply but whilst they understand that HCA cannot create new paths until the layout of phase 2 is agreed, the 'old routes' should be reopened due to safety concerns around Brabner Lane. A suggestion was put forward for a wheelchair friendly path once a developer is found for phase 2.

MIN 158 Members RESOLVED that the Clerk contact HCA to request that the path from South Lodge to Brabner Lane is re-opened as soon as possible.

LITTER AT GUILD LODGE

The Litter Picking Team have contacted the Parish Council requesting support to stop residents from Guild Lodge from throwing drinks cans into the field behind the bus stop on Whittingham Lane.

MIN 159 Members NOTED that the Clerk has referred the matter to the City Council and will consider the matter further once a reply is received.

NOTE NEW CORRESPONDENCE

1. Members NOTED that LCC issued a budget consultation but the accompanying letter stated that LCC do not anticipate impacts on service delivery. A reply was not issued.
2. Members NOTED that another pane of glass has been broken in the telephone kiosk at Halfpenny Lane. The Clerk has authorised the repair under delegated authority. The invoice will be presented to the March meeting.
3. The Clerk has also requested some new caps for the swing in Cumeragh play area as the uncovered bolt has been mentioned on the risk assessment. The invoice will be presented to the March meeting.
4. The City Council has issued a reply to the budget queries raised by the Parish Council under **MIN 139**.

CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING

All members present completed some training on the Code of Conduct in accordance with an instruction from the Standards Committee requesting that all Parish Councillors receive an update on the subject.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for **Monday 13th March 2017 at 7.00pm.**