

WHITTINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Council Meeting

The Annual Parish Council Meeting (AGM) of Whittingham Parish Council took place on the 8th May 2017 at Goosnargh Village Hall after the Annual Parish Meeting.

Members:

Cllr Dave Hall
Cllr Bernard Huggon
Cllr Stan Hunter
Cllr Harry Landless
Cllr Alan Lewis
Cllr Alex Meades

Members of the public

Cllr L Smith – Preston City Council
Lindy King - GWHG

Mrs Julie Buttle (Parish Council Clerk)

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Members noted that the current Chairman Cllr Lewis was elected in 2016 and in accordance with Standing Order 8 (b), providing nominations for a new Chairman are not received, he may be re-elected for a second term.

MIN 01 Cllr Lewis was proposed as Chairman. As there were no other nominations, it was RESOLVED that Cllr Lewis be elected as Chairman unopposed. He duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

MIN 02 Cllr Landless was proposed as Vice Chairman. As there were no other nominations, it was RESOLVED that Cllr Landless be elected as Vice-Chairman unopposed.

APOLOGIES

Members were reminded that apologies are recorded in the Minutes but if a Councillor is absent for 6 consecutive months, an apology must be approved prior to the 6 months elapsing. Cllr Rigby last attended on the 14th November and has not attended since due to ill health. Members were informed Cllr Rigby is keen to resume her role as Councillor as soon as she is able. **MIN 03** Apologies were recorded for Cllr Rigby and Members RESOLVED to approve an unspecified period of absence.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of the meeting held on 10th April 2017

MIN 04 It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the April meeting be signed as a true record.

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

Members were requested to check and update their notification of interest forms which are published on the Parish Council website. There were no declarations made for this meeting.

APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES

MIN 05 Members RESOLVED to confirm the following appointments

- Stakeholder Group Whittingham Hospital development – Cllr Lewis.
- Preston Area Committee – Cllr Hall and Cllr Lewis.
- Trustee to Goosnargh Village Hall – Cllr Landless.
- Trustee to Goosnargh & Whittingham United Charity – Cllr Hunter
- Goosnargh & Whittingham Heritage Group – Cllr Hall

ADMINISTRATION

At previous meetings, Members have expressed concern that the upstairs room of Goosnargh Village Hall does not meet disability access requirements. Members considered various options and stated their preference to meet in a venue which did not incur a cost to residents. **MIN 06** Providing the meeting room is free, accessible to all and does not breach legislation with regards to meeting in licensed premises, it was RESOLVED that the Clerk alters the venue to the Sports & Social Club. Should the Club not meet the above criteria, the meeting will be moved to the community room at St Mary's Church at a cost of £25 per meeting. **MIN 07** Members RESOLVED that meetings will continue on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7.00pm.

MIN 08 Members RESOLVED that they would prefer to receive hard copies of the Agenda and supporting material with other documents / correspondence being forwarded by email where possible.

MIN 09 Members RESOLVED to renew the following items delegated to the Clerk under S101 of the Local Government Act 1972

- Make routine decisions
- consult with the appropriate Parish ward Councillor before making delegated representations on planning applications
- deal with emergencies
- spend small sums of money - not to exceed £100
- grant a dispensation to Members - in circumstances where the number of Members prohibited from participating, would impede the transaction of the business

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

MIN 10 Members RESOLVED that the meeting be adjourned for public participation.

Cllr Smith questioned whether any other access complaints had been made about the upstairs room and whether the Council would be taking the table and chairs with them. The Clerk replied that whilst no other complaints had been received, Members had concerns about the accessibility of the room and were trialling an alternative. The decision does not set a precedent for other groups to reach the same decision. With regards to the tables and chairs, they are listed on the Council's asset register but it is understood they are second hand and there are no plans to remove them from the Village Hall.

Cllr Hall raised a concern regarding the former Ridings site which is falling into disrepair. The property is unoccupied and windows and doors have been vandalised making the property insecure. The Clerk was requested to draw the matter to the attention of the City Council, requesting that they secure the property under S29 of the Local Government Act 1982.

The removal of the football posts from the Goosnargh Village Green was questioned. The Clerk replied that the City Council were contacted as soon as the posts were removed but they advised they had to remove them following a minor accident. The posts were inspected by a playground mechanic who decided they were a health and safety concern. The City Council were unaware who the posts belonged to but they had no plans to replace them.

A question was raised about hedge cutting but the query appeared to relate to a car accident which should be referred to the driver's insurance company.

TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS BEFORE COUNCIL

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

06/2017/0339 4no. dwellings, car port and associated landscaping following demolition of storage and stable buildings on land to rear of 907 and 909 Whittingham Lane. Members noted that the site lies within the open countryside to the rear of Whittingham Lane. As such the site is not considered to be an infill site and is contrary to policy EN1 of the Adopted Local Plan. It is noted that a stable and store are located on the site but these are acceptable rural uses and do not mean the site is 'previously developed' land as stated in 5.2 of the planning statement. Members do not consider there to be any local need for the development and any perceived need can be met by the Whittingham hospital site.

MIN 11 Members RESOLVED to object to the proposal.

06/2017/0456 Children's play area within beer garden and associated works at the Stags Head, 990, Whittingham Lane.

MIN 12 Members RESOLVED to support the application as it seeks to encourage economic growth of a local business and the play area and tower are not overlooked by residential properties.

RIBBLE VALLEY PLANNING CONSULTATION

Ribble Valley Borough Council are consulting on the publication version of the Council's Housing and Economic Development Plan.

It was stated that as Ribble Valley would be adding to the Core Strategy, they would be in receipt of £1m to be spent on education and £1m to be spent on transport. Concerns were expressed that they have a duty to consult the City Council and the Parish Council regarding how the infrastructure will be delivered particularly as it will have an impact on Whittingham and the surrounding area. It was also stated that as Ribble Valley have not adopted the Community Infrastructure Levy, there will be no local consultation or local financial contribution to address issues created by the new development.

MIN 13 It was RESOLVED to respond to the consultation with the above comments, however as transport and education are County Council functions it is likely that Ribble Valley will simply pass the income to the County Council who improve facilities on a county wide basis rather than parochially. A letter will be sent to Longridge Town Council to ask if they have approached Ribble Valley to adopt CIL so that it can be spent locally.

MIN 14 It was RESOLVED to object to the inclusion of Higher College Farm as an employment site as there will be a major impact with traffic affecting the Whittingham area. A request will also be made for a Masterplan to show the new development sites, supporting infrastructure and preferred access routes.

CPRE AGM

Members advised they were unable to attend the CPRE AGM on the **19th May 2017**.

BOUNDARY COMMISSION REVIEW

The Boundary Commission is recommending that the City Council is reduced to 48 councillors. Members noted the recommendation by the City Council to move Whittingham to Preston Rural East.

MIN 15 Members RESOLVED not to reply to the consultation until the draft proposals are accepted by the City Council and published by the Boundary Commission in Sept.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1st April – 30th April 2017

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

INSURANCE

Members noted the insurance renewal information supplied by the Clerk and an alternative product based on bandings by population size.

MIN 16 Members RESOLVED to delegate the renewal to the Clerk on the basis that an alternative quote should not exceed the renewal of £805.53. Payment will be paid by bank transfer as the policy will expire before the June meeting.

NEWSLETTER

The Spring newsletter advertising the Annual Parish meeting was produced, printed and delivered to populated areas in the Parish. Members noted that the issue was time sensitive and following email consultation with members, the Clerk made a decision under delegated authority to have the newsletter delivered at a priority rate.

MIN 17 Members RESOLVED to approve the following payments
Production £46.40 CQ1251, Printing £119.45 CQ1252, Delivery £80.00 CQ1253

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT AND RECEIPTS

MIN 18 Members NOTED receipt of £3,050.59 in CIL monies and RESOLVED to approve the following accounts for payment

Clerk's May Salary	£426.47	CQ 1254
May Tax Contributions	£78.80	CQ 1255
PCC 16/17 Play Area inspections	£2,489.76	CQ 1256
Repairs to Benches at Cumeragh	£323.62	CQ 1257

CIL UPDATE

MIN 19 Members NOTED the following updates on CIL items and RESOLVED that the Clerk issue another reminder to the City Council regarding the installation / emptying of litter bins.

- **Footpath Village Hall** – order placed with the appointed contractor
- **Litter / dog bins** – still no reply from the City Council regarding emptying
- **Speed cameras** – sales representative to attend the June meeting
- **Circular walks** – request for help to inspect the routes in the Newsletter. No further reply re availability of a template leaflet. A reminder has been issued.
- **Bus Service / Travel plans** – Although LCC acknowledge the request for more information on Travel Plans, a comprehensive reply has not been received. Ben Wallace MP has written to the Chief Executive requesting that a response is issued as soon as possible.
- **Green Space proposals** – Still no update on the costs so a FOI request has been submitted in accordance with **MIN 183**

NOTE NEW CORRESPONDENCE

Members NOTED that E-ON have requested access to the electric cabinet so a new meter can be installed. If a site visit is necessary, Cllr Lewis will attend.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Monday 12th June 2017**.
Venue to be confirmed in accordance with MIN 06.

END