

WHITTINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

AN ORDINARY meeting of Whittingham Parish Council took place on **Monday 8th April 2013** at 7.00pm at Goosnargh Village Hall, Preston.

Members:

Cllr Alan Lewis – Chairman
Cllr Stan Hunter
Cllr Dave Hall
Cllr Bernard Huggon.
Cllr Margaret Rigby
Cllr Lona Smith

Members of the public

Kerry Harrison - CVA
PC Chris Banks

Mrs Julie Buttle – Parish Clerk

APOLOGIES Cllr R Mills.

The Clerk clarified that under S85 of the Local Government Act 1972, Cllrs Mills will be disqualified unless she attends the May Parish Council meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES from the meeting held on 11th March 2013.

In response to a query from Cllr Hunter, the Clerk confirmed that the ownership of the land at Cumeragh Village will not be affected by the Village Green application – the ‘disposal of interest’ mentioned in MIN 148 relates to the Parish Council effectively disposing of its interest because it will be unable to deny residents access to the land for recreational purposes once it is registered as a Village Green.

MIN 153 It was RESOLVED that the Minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

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

MIN 154 Cllr Smith declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in relation to her employment at Guild Lodge. (agenda item 10).

Members questioned whether they had any interest to declare in respect of agenda item 8 - Consideration of a Conservation Area. The Clerk stated she had been informed that Members may participate in discussions on the processes involved in establishing a Conservation Area but Members would need to declare a disclosable pecuniary interest once it is established that the Council wishes to create a Conservation Area and that their individual property is included in the proposed area.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

MIN 155 it was RESOLVED that the meeting be adjourned for public participation. PC Chris Banks addressed the Council on the following matters

- Broughton Police Station remains secure at present and will be staffed by 1 PC and 2 PCSO's and where possible, at least one member will cover a shift. Sarah Catterall has replaced Ashley Lawton. Volunteers are also working at the station and have received training in the day to day activities. Dave Herbert has replaced Dave Brown as the new Inspector.
- Numbers are dwindling at PACT meetings but this could be as a result of the excellent email communications. Whittingham meetings will move back to Whittingham club and the next meeting will be on the 8th May.
- The Citizenzone bus will be in Whittingham on Saturday 13th April with crime prevention advice and post coding kits. Free window, door and shed locks will also be available. The dog warden will be present and will offer a free dog chipping service and will give advice on how to report dog fouling.
- LCC will be laying recording strips in the 20mph zones following complaints that traffic is not adhering to the 20mph limit. Once this is confirmed by the readings the police will work with local schools to challenge drivers caught speeding.

- The road policing unit will be asked to target areas where the 30mph limits are not being adhered to.
- The rural traffic car is being fitted with an Automatic Number Plate Recognition device which will enable officers to trace vans etc coming in to the area particularly during the evenings / early mornings. In general PCSO's are restricted from driving marked police cars, but it was confirmed that the rural PCSO's will be trained to ensure maximum use of the vehicle.
- Shop owners have raised concerns about anti-social behaviour and youngsters congregating outside. As the forecourt is private land there is little that can be done and the shops have been asked to consider not serving the youngsters concerned.
- The police are also monitoring the amount of traffic cutting across the shop forecourts in an attempt to avoid the new pedestrian traffic lights.
- Discussions are underway for the festival day and it was stated the policing style will not be different from last year.

Kerry Harrison of Cumeragh Village Association addressed the meeting and explained that they had decided to apply for match funding for the play area before submitting the Lancashire Environment Fund grant. She listed all the grants being applied for and confirmed £500 had been secured from the Duchy of Lancaster. It was confirmed they were only a small group but they hoped to submit as many applications as possible with a view to submitting the LEF grant in September. Hopefully if this is successful, work could start in the Spring of 2014.

It was RESOLVED that the meeting be reconvened.

CONSIDERATION OF TREE REPORT AT CUMERAGH

Members noted that the tree report was still not available despite the Clerk contacting the contractor and specifying it must be available by the 2nd April.

MIN 156 Members RESOLVED that the Clerk contact the contractor again stating that unless the work is completed and the written report received before 5.00pm on Friday 12th April, no payment will be made in respect of this matter and another contractor will be appointed. Should it be necessary, Members confirmed that the Clerk should award the work to the 2nd priced contractor who quoted for the works

MILLENNIUM GARDEN

Members considered the plant quotes for the refresh of the Millennium garden.

MIN 157 Members reaffirmed their desire to support local businesses and provided the prices quoted include VAT, members RESOLVED to proceed with the quote from Spout Farm nursery at Longridge. The Clerk will contact the nursery and will also inform Janine Deady of the decision so that the work can commence in mid April. Members NOTED the £388.50 received from the Green Partnership Awards and NOTED that the Clerk had contacted Community Gateway for a donation and will contact the County Council Parish Champion after the May 2013 elections.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS BEFORE COUNCIL

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

06/2013/0175 Erection of first floor extension to side, canopy to rear and alterations to roof of existing single storey extension to front of dwelling 85 Cumeragh Lane Whittingham.

MIN 158 Members RESOLVED to leave to planning.

06/2013/0180 Sub-division of existing dwelling into 2no.residential dwellings Meadowcroft Back Lane Whittingham.

MIN 159 Members RESOLVED to leave to planning.

CONSIDERATION OF A CONSERVATION AREA

The Clerk explained that she had contacted Grimsargh Parish Council regarding their progress in creating a Conservation Area and had established that they had been assisted by officers from Preston City Council.

MIN 160 Members RESOLVED to explore the merits of establishing a Conservation Area and requested that the Clerk arrange an extra-ordinary meeting with officers from Preston City Council and a Member involved in the project at Grimsargh. The meeting will be arranged after the Annual General meeting in May.

HIGHWAY TRANSPORT MASTER PLAN – 2ND CONSULTATION

Members considered the 2nd consultation on the Highway Master plan with particular reference to page 24 Broughton Congestion Relief and expressed concern that unlike the first draft, no public consultations had been arranged even though specific details are now being put forward.

MIN161 Members RESOLVED to respond to the consultation expressing their grave reservations regarding the decision to stop vehicles turning right at Broughton crossroads when travelling from Preston. This will result in traffic travelling further north and there is no evidence to suggest that traffic will not queue at the new junction. Members also expressed concern that the proposal only covered the northern section of the by-pass and would like clarification regarding the unilateral undertaking relating to the Whittingham hospital site as it is understood from the Section 106 agreement, that the developer would be contributing an equivalent to 70.5% towards the total cost of the construction of the by-pass.

Furthermore attention is drawn to the planning inspector's decision in relation to the Fox appeal against the refusal of application 06/2011/0344 in which the Inspector states that *There can be no doubt that the current extreme situation will deteriorate progressively and significantly with the additional traffic generated by any scheme that is 'obliged' to pass through Broughton Crossroads.*

Members feel that the Transport master plan should make it clear that no new development which impacts on Broughton Crossroads and the M6 / M55 junction should be approved until the whole of the by-pass is complete and opened.

Members NOTED that the clerk has contacted How Planning for an update on the Whittingham hospital site.

CONTACT WITH GUILD LODGE

Members NOTED that the Clerk and Councillors Hall and Lewis attended a meeting at Guild Lodge to better understand their activities and establish community contacts. The occupational therapy manager has invited them back to see the work undertaken and exchange ideas on how the service users may get more involved in community work. It was requested that those attending proceed with caution as some residents have reservations about patients mixing with the community. The Clerk clarified that the Parish Council has no jurisdiction regarding this and any suggestions to engage in a specific community project would need to come back to Council for a decision.

MIN 162 It was RESOLVED that a further meeting be arranged for information.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2012 / 2013

The Chairman verified that the accounts and bank statements had been reconciled. Members NOTED that the Clerk has completed the year end accounts and has sent the 12/13 PAYE information to HMRC. The Clerk has also transferred the PAYE system over to Real Time Information in accordance with directions from HMRC.

The year-end accounts will be presented to the Annual Meetings.

Members NOTED the Clerk's expenses of £56.50 for Jan to 31st March will be deducted from the 2013/2014 financial year.

RENEWAL OF LALC MEMBERSHIP

MIN163 Members RESOLVED to renew the Lancashire Association of Local Councils subscription and noted that the invoice included a contribution to the Area Secretary and Local Council Review.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

MIN 164 Members RESOLVED to approve the following accounts for payment

DETAILS	PAYEE	AMOUNT
Clerk Expenses Jan – 31 st March	Mrs J Buttle	£56.50
April salary	Mrs J Buttle	£348.56
Tax / National Ins	HMRC	£82.20
Quality Training Course x 2	LALC	£20
Membership	Open Spaces Society	£45
Membership	LALC	£331.30

CONSIDERATION OF GRANT APPLICATIONS CVA PLAY EQUIPMENT

The Clerk expanded on the meeting she attended with CVA and Community Futures as mentioned under Public Participation. Community Futures explained that if the Parish Council managed the finances, the VAT could be reclaimed thus reducing the cost of the project. The Clerk stated this was contrary to the wishes of the Parish Council (as expressed at the last meeting) and copies of the Minutes were provided. It was jointly agreed that the CVA should secure the match funding before submitting the LEF grant application. Once the match funding was secured, Community Futures and the CVA could attend the Parish Council meeting to sign the letter of engagement and discuss how to proceed with the LEF application. This was NOTED by Members. The Clerk was asked to NOTE that the Parish Council may need to consider some drainage works whilst the equipment is installed.

NOTE NEW CORRESPONDENCE

Members NOTED a planning approval relating to the removal of an occupancy condition at the former Bushells Arms, Mill Lane, Goosnargh.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

MIN 165 It was RESOLVED that the next meeting of the Parish Council will be the Annual General Meeting on **Monday 13th May 2013 after the Annual Parish Meeting commencing at 6.30pm**

Members were reminded that community groups would be invited to the Annual Parish meeting with the option to give a brief presentation on their activities and if applicable, to update the Council regarding and proposed grant or donation.