

WHITTINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

AN ORDINARY meeting of Whittingham Parish Council took place on **Monday 11th January 2015** at 7.00pm at Goosnargh Village Hall.

Members:

Cllr Dave Hall - Chairman
Cllr Margaret Rigby
Cllr Stan Hunter
Cllr Alan Lewis
Cllr Bernard Huggon

Members of the public

City Cllr Lona Smith
Lindy King – Heritage Group
PC Chris Banks
Mr & Mrs Slater
Jayne Bradbury
Mrs Julie Buttle – Parish Clerk

APOLOGIES - Cllr Ruth Mills

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of the meeting held on 14th December 2015

MIN 111 It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the December meeting be signed as a true record.

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

MIN 112 Cllr Hall and Cllr Rigby both declared a personal interest in application 06/2015/0989 as the application is in close proximity to their own individual properties.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

MIN 113 The Chairman wished everyone present a Happy New Year and it was RESOLVED that the meeting be adjourned for public participation.

In response to a query it was confirmed that the Clay Lane applications were granted an extension of time and should be determined at the February planning committee.

Mr and Mrs Slater addressed the meeting on application **06/2015/1004** Ashley Hall Farm. They confirmed the site already has planning permission for haulage and storage and the application seeks to expand the storage and tidy the site up to address current enforcement issues. It was stated that there was a demand for additional storage particularly with people moving into new houses and if approved, the HGV and haulage use will discontinue. Concerns were raised that the site was an untidy mess and should be landscaped with cars and gas canisters removed from the frontage. It was stated that the application seeks to address some of these issues but the enforcement issues were not part of the application. The comments were noted and the Chairman confirmed the Parish Council would consider the application as part of the Agenda.

PC Banks explained that crime was low over the Christmas period but the local policing team had been busy with flooding issues. Concerns were expressed regarding mud and debris left on the roads particularly on Camforth Hall Lane and at the new developments at Mosses Farm and Whittingham Hospital. LCC had been contacted where roads were severely affected but the service was under pressure due to flooding across the County.

4 assaults were reported at Whittingham Hospital and a broken window at Goosnargh church is being investigated as criminal damage. At the November meeting concern was expressed about the well-being of a local resident and following discussions between the police and social services, it was reported that the resident is now being cared for.

The police service review has been completed and there are no major changes proposed. The volunteers at Broughton have won an award and as their good work has been noticed, there are no further plans to close Broughton police station. The police base in the Village Hall is operational but the times have not been advertised as the administration has not yet been finalised. The Clerk will send a reminder to the estates section.

A car accident occurred at the junction of Inglewhite Road and Mill Lane and LCC have been asked to improve the road markings.

Jayne Bradbury addressed the meeting and asked for advice regarding dog fouling in a field she had recently purchased for keeping horses. It was established that a public right of way runs through the field which is actually in Goosnargh Parish. Contact details for the dog welfare team at the City Council were supplied.

Cllr Smith informed the meeting that work had started on Broughton by-pass and it was anticipated that the road would be complete within 18 months. The works will result in the removal of the traffic lights at Broughton and it was noted that there would be local delays and inconvenience whilst the works took place.

Following a report on the performance of the planning department, the City Council has reduced the number of applications likely to be heard by the planning committee and is also tightening up on the 21 days for comments to be submitted. Cllr Smith argued against the changes as it reduces democratic accountability and will make it difficult for Parishes to comment within the timescales - especially Parishes that only meet bi-monthly.

It was acknowledged that the City Council has already made the decision but reference to the matter will be included in the Parish Council response to the City Council budget to be considered under agenda item 7.

Lindy King of the Heritage Group thanked the Council for the grant received in December. She explained that a lot of heritage information is stored at the Museum of Lancashire and due to its proposed closure, the archives are hoping to take over the database. The Heritage Group is getting involved with the Whittingham Lives Project which looks at people who lived and worked at Whittingham Hospital. Cllr Hunter made reference to a 'black museum' which contains information on some of the more 'sinister events' associated with life at the hospital as this may be helpful to the project.

MIN 114 it was RESOLVED that the meeting be reconvened and that planning items including Ashley Hall Farm should be moved forward whilst the public were present.

CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS BEFORE COUNCIL

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

06/2015/1004 change of use of land from haulage yard to self-storage (retrospective) at Ashley Hall Farm Yard, Inglewhite Road, Longridge.

The Clerk reminded members that the Parish Council had objected to a recent application **06/2015/0603** due to health and safety concerns associated with the public having access to the site with no defined parking areas or pedestrian access. Members also considered that 40 units was an over intensification of the site when combined with the HGV usage.

The application was withdrawn and the website includes a summary of a meeting between the applicants and planning and enforcement officers. The summary states that visits to the site would be few and far between as the containers are for long term storage; associated parking is not required as customers will be able to park adjacent to their own particular container to assist with loading / unloading and although there are security lights on the site, customers would only use the containers during daylight hours. Marked pedestrian walkways are not considered necessary or practical as the yard is gravel and not suitable for marking.

MIN 115 Members considered that the above answered some of their initial concerns and it was RESOLVED to comment that members still have concerns about the over intensification of the site and a condition should be included confirming that the haulage use is no longer permitted as the site is to be used for storage use only.

Members acknowledged that on balance the health and safety issues relating to pedestrians had been addressed but in order to address the parking concerns, if approved, the planning consent should refer to the layout plan illustrating the parking layout and allocation for each unit. Whilst it is noted that the enforcement issues are not part of the application, members request that these issues are addressed and the visual impact of the site is improved as more storage units are brought in to use. A vote was taken and these comments were approved with 3 votes for, 1 against and 1 abstention.

06/2015/0989 replacement dwelling to include solar panels and sewage treatment plant to rear following demolition of bungalow and existing shed at Morris Mount*, Whittingham Road, Whittingham. *Members noted that the City Council has called the property Morris Mount when the plans and accompanying correspondence refer to the property as Maris Mount. The Clerk was asked to draw this to the City Council's attention.

MIN 116 Members expressed concern that the application seeks to replace a traditional rural bungalow with a much larger dwelling and it is considered that the increase in size is contrary to SPD 3 which states that a 50% increase in size will not be considered favourably.

06/2015/1014 erection of steel portal framed agricultural building following demolition of existing agricultural building at Tomlinsons Farm, Cumeragh Lane, Goosnargh.

Min 117 Members raised no concerns with the application.

Pudding Pie Nook Lane

The Parish Council opposed an application for 26 homes on Pudding Pie Nook Lane due to concerns about the sustainability of the site. The application was refused. A letter has been received addressing the sustainability issues and explaining that the application will shortly be resubmitted.

MIN 118 Members considered the letter and expressed concerns that the developers have stated that local amenities are only 10 – 12 minutes away by bus – but residents would need to walk from Pudding Pie Nook Lane to Whittingham Lane as the bus goes down Langley Lane by-passing the site entrance. In addition, the bus service is subsidised and could be withdrawn. The nearest shop is described as the petrol filling station in Broughton which is not considered suitable for a weekly shop.

DESIGN IDEAS FOR THE WAR MEMORIAL

Cllr Huggon updated Members on the suggested memorial following discussions with a stone mason. A sloping design was not recommended due to weathering of the lettering.

Members considered a revised design which resembles a partly open book which could be created in a smooth granite or slate. Black granite with gold lettering will be avoided so that the memorial does not resemble a tombstone.

MIN 119 Members RESOLVED that they were happy to proceed with the stone mason who had provided the design to Cllr Huggon and a final quote will be sought for a 'book tribute' in Westmoreland Green Slate with the following inscription on the larger slate *In memory of the residents of Whittingham Parish who served in any way in the Great War of 1914 – 1918.* The smaller slate will be inscribed with *Erected by Whittingham Parish Council and dedicated on (date*)* The date will depend on how long the order will take. The stones will be mounted on a slate plinth centred with the inscription *We will always remember you.* Enquiries will be made to see if a poppy or the Parish Council emblem can be incorporated into the design. It was confirmed that the Clerk has submitted a grant application to the Parish Champion.

CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET PROPOSALS

MIN 120 Members RESOLVED to strongly oppose the proposed £30 charge for the collection of waste from brown bins due to concerns about increases in fly tipping, neighbourly disputes, a reduction in recycling and concerns about the business case for a vehicle collecting one bin from a rural area. In addition, Members wished to express grave concerns regarding the performance of the planning department and the lack of consultation regarding changes to the administration of planning applications.

Members noted that the County Council budget consultation included cuts to libraries and museums, countryside rangers and subsidised bus services.

MIN 121 Members RESOLVED to reply by stating that the cut in library services should be compensated by an increase in the mobile library service run by volunteers if necessary. Cuts to the countryside ranger service are strongly opposed on the basis that tourism is essential for the economic growth of rural areas and visitors will be discouraged if the countryside public rights of way, facilities and amenities are not retained or properly maintained. The withdrawal of bus subsidies was considered at the December meeting and the matter will hopefully be taken further at the Preston Area Committee.

DECEMBER FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Chairman confirmed that the parish accounts reconciled with the bank statements. Further to the need to operate an electronic bank account detailed under MIN 88, Members were advised that the Co-op had requested that the signatures on the bank account be updated in addition to the Clerk being added as a service administrator.

MIN 122 Members RESOLVED to complete and sign the forms.

QUARTERLY BUDGET ANALYSIS 2015/16 AND CIL PROGRESS

MIN 123 Members considered the 3rd quarter's budget analysis (April to December) and NOTED progress on the budget items not yet committed for expenditure.

MIN 124 Members also NOTED the items relating to CIL expenditure and RESOLVED that the Clerk proceed with the quote to transfer the Parish emblem into a Parish logo so that the website and newsletter can be taken forward.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

MIN 125 Members RESOLVED to approve the following accounts for payment

DETAILS	PAYEE	AMOUNT	CHEQUE
Clerk Salary	J Buttle	£419.77	1165
Tax / National Insurance	HMRC	£49.80	1166
1/4ly Admin Expenses	J Buttle	£49.69	1167
Electricity Invoice	E-On	£27.50	1168

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

MIN 126 Members RESOLVED to update the Parish Council's Freedom of Information scheme adopted in 2009 to reflect the fact that information will shortly be available via the website and a Parish newsletter. Members also RESOLVED to waive all charges where the fee would be less than £5 however an administration charge of £25 will be considered for complex requests resulting in multiple information or significant research.

WHITTINGHAM HOSPITAL COMMUNITY TRUST UPDATE

Cllr Lewis reported that 2 meetings have taken place regarding the access road being used by HGV's and it has been agreed that a path will be provided for pedestrians and new fencing will be erected. He also advised that the consultant appointed to progress the Community Trust has met with various groups to collate an overview of the issues.

The consultants are now looking at the existing social activities across the Parish and a report will be presented to the February stakeholder meeting confirming the facilities and resources needed to accommodate the new development.

It was stated that the S106 agreement has already identified the facilities to be provided and it was confirmed that the City Council will advise the consultants of the requirements already stipulated in the S106. It was also confirmed that whilst the report will contain recommendations, the HCA will not be bound by the findings of the report.

Concern was expressed that the S106 agreement made provision for a roundabout at the entrance to the site but this has not been taken forward. The clerk was requested to check if the phasing of the site has affected the delivery of the roundabout.

NOTE NEW CORRESPONDENCE

Members requested that the Clerk pass a letter, regarding a nationwide litter pick to improve areas for the queens 90th birthday, to the community litter picking group.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for **Monday 8th February 2016 at 7.00pm.**