

WHITTINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

Members:

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

Members of the public

Miranda Radford
Goosnargh & Longridge Show

Mrs Julie Buttle – Parish Clerk

APOLOGIES Cllr B Huggon and Cllr R Mills.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES from the meeting held on 10th June 2013.

The Clerk highlighted that the payment section on the Minutes stated the insurance was for a 16 month period. Members were asked to note the insurance is for a 12 month period. **MIN 29** With the above amendment, it was RESOLVED that the Minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

In relation to MIN 28, the Clerk read out a reply from the fire service explaining their position on customer satisfaction performance indicators. A copy of the reply was given to Cllr Hall who raised the initial question.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

MIN 30 it was RESOLVED that the meeting be adjourned for public participation.

A representative from Goosnargh & Longridge Agricultural Show explained the request for funding to promote the local handicraft and baking section and the links with Whittingham WI. It was also confirmed that any balances in the funding is paid to the main show committee funds which pay for the marquees, insurance etc. Disappointment was expressed at the demise of the Royal Lancashire show and the importance of maintaining local events such as this. A cheque for £250 was presented to the representative in accordance with MIN 111. A note has been made of a suggestion to review the amount when setting the budget in November.

CUMERAGH TREE WORKS

5.1 Members considered a quote for **£1200** to remove the branches, trees and root system against a quote for **£450** to remove the branches and fell the trees to approx. 8" / 2ft, leaving the stumps clearly visible in the ground (**£550** to split the wood into logs and leave on site for residents). A proposal was put forward to accept the quote of **£450**. An amendment was put forward to accept the quote of **£1200** and remove all the root system.

In accordance with sch.12 of the Local Government Act 1972 para.13 (2) a named vote was requested. Members voting **for** the amendment - Councillors Hunter and Rigby. Members voting **against** the amendment Councillors Lewis, Hall and Smith. The amendment fell by 3 votes to 2. Members voted on the substantive proposal.

MIN 31 It was RESOLVED to accept the quote of **£450** with all logs removed.

NOTE Before the works take place, as per MIN 22, the Clerk will issue a flyer to inform residents of the felling. For health and safety reasons, the contractor will not allow residents to approach the site and collect cut branches whilst he is working but the flyer will include the contractors contact details giving residents the option to contact him to purchase any cut logs.

5.2 Preston City Council stated that the felling of the Horse Chestnut is not currently justified and they suggest the tree is regularly monitored. Members NOTED this requirement which is already covered by the risk assessment register. No further action was proposed in relation to the original survey not mentioning any problems.

5.3 Members considered a request to replace the felled trees.

MIN 32 It was RESOLVED with 4 votes and 1 abstention not to replace the trees immediately but to monitor the area for 12 months once the trees have been felled.

CONSIDERATION OF A CONSERVATION AREA

The report on the Conservation area was not received in time for consideration and the matter was deferred to the next meeting as previously suggested under MIN 25.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS BEFORE COUNCIL

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

06/2013/0341 Detached bungalow and creation of grassed paddock area following demolition of contractor's depot at Withy Trees Farm, Cumeragh Lane. (amended scheme to application 06/2010/0464)

Members considered the application information and a supporting email from the applicant. **MIN 33** Members RESOLVED to leave to planning.

06/2013/0346 Alterations and extensions to conservatory at rear of Verona 228 Whittingham Lane, Goosnargh. **MIN 34** Members RESOLVED to leave to planning.

06/2013/0418 Single storey extension and canopy to side and rear of dwelling following demolition of existing attached garage at Glen Vista, 808 Whittingham Lane, Goosnargh. **MIN 35** Members RESOLVED to leave to planning.

06/2013/0349 Outline application for the redevelopment of 25.9ha of land for mixed use development comprising of residential development of up to 300 dwellings (Class C3), 2.1ha of employment land (Class B1(b); B1(c); B2 and B8), 0.7ha mixed use centre (including Class A1-A5 local shops, services, food and drink; Class B1(b) employment; Class C2/C3 residential care/nursing home; and Class D1 local community facilities), open space provision, landscaping and associated infrastructure, roads and footways, access junctions and new link road between Eastway and D'urton Lane

MIN 36 Members RESOLVED to reply that whilst it is acknowledged that the principle of housing is accepted through the Site Allocations and the Core Strategy, the application site should not be developed until the supporting infrastructure is "more than a thought on a plan" – i.e. in place - and any new development should be in accordance with the NW Preston master plan.

NOTE Members were informed of the dates of a consultation to be held on Broughton by-pass and a consultation by URS on the NW Preston master plan.

Reference was also made to the Site Allocation Publication Version approved by the City Council on the 4th July. City Councillors were thanked for their efforts in getting the Riding site reduced in size and the Clerk advised that the Parish Council will get an opportunity to discuss this further when the document comes out for consultation.

DIVERSION OF FOOTPATH 1 & 5 AT THE SAND BANK ESTATE.

Members were reminded that the original footpath was a hard surface and a diversion was proposed to take it away from some industrial units. The diverted footpath would pass alongside the south and easterly boundaries of Gatehouse Barn and following an objection, the diversion was the subject of an appeal.

The Inspector concluded that the proposed diversion would harm the living condition of those occupying Gatehouse Barn and he rejected the diversion.

The Parish Council was invited to comment on the appeal in 2012 and under MIN 67, Members resolved to reiterate the original comments made by the Parish Council in 2007 which supported the diversion - providing the path was a hard surface. As the appeal has been dismissed, Members considered the current proposal as a completely fresh application.

MIN 37 Members RESOLVED that as the footpath was currently a hard even surface and a diversion would impact on Gatehouse Barn, the path should not be diverted at all and should continue along its original route.

COMPLETION OF AUDIT 2012/2013

Members noted there were no matters arising in respect of the external audit and the conclusion of Audit notice has been displayed in the Notice Boards.

MIN 38 Members RESOLVED to accept and approve the Annual Return.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Chairman confirmed that the accounts and bank statements reconciled. Members NOTED that the £1000 cheque to FOWGG had been misfiled by their treasurer and would now be presented.

REVIEW OF 1st QUARTER ACCOUNTS APRIL - JUNE

Members considered the comparison of the 1st quarter's expenditure against the budget. The Clerk confirmed quotes are being sought for the painting of the telephone kiosk and the window in the bus shelter. Members noted the Insurance balance of **£456.31** due to the 30% discount for changing companies.

MIN 39 Members RESOLVED to use this balance to pay for the unbudgeted expense of the tree felling at Cumeragh Square.

Under MIN 85.4 Council resolved to replace a bench at the bus stop on Whittingham Lane following an offer of a bench donation from the Bretheren Friendship which has unfortunately not come to fruition.

MIN 40 As the Council received a favourable reply to a consultation to replace the previous bench, Members RESOLVED to purchase a bench for this location as a priority over the budgeted replacement bench at Goosnargh Green.

Members noted the £800 in the budget for the City Council to erect a Christmas tree at the Millennium Garden. Members discussed the merits of using the Speedi Tree equipment in this this location. Members noted that the Speedi tree equipment is either battery OR mains supply. The current equipment is battery operated and the Clerk was uncertain whether the lights would work on the mains electric supply.

MIN 41 Members unanimously **RESOLVED** to trial the existing battery equipment at the Millennium Garden this year, and if successful, consideration will be given to the purchase of an additional mains supply Speedi Tree system in next year's budget.

NOTE Members were advised that in making this decision, the Speedi Tree equipment could not be used elsewhere and a Member of the Parish Council will be required to charge and change the batteries if the lights can't be connected to the mains supply. Members will also be required to arrange for the purchase, delivery, and removal of a Christmas tree. Confirmation of these arrangements and the signing of the conditions of use will be an Agenda item for the October meeting.

Further to the update at the June meeting, Members NOTED that the CVRA have been awarded £3,000 from the Harris Charity and provided a spreadsheet detailing current application progress. **MIN 42** It was RESOLVED that the CVRA be invited to the next meeting to discuss the LEF grant as agreed under MIN 20

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

MIN 43 Members RESOLVED to approve the following accounts for payment

DETAILS	PAYEE	AMOUNT
External Audit	BDO LLP	£120.00
July salary	Mrs J Buttle	£348.56
Tax / National Ins	HMRC	£82.20

Members were informed that the Data Protection is due for renewal and the options have come through to pay on-line or by direct debit which will require a revision of the financial regulations. **MIN 44** Members RESOLVED to pay the amount of £35 by Cheque and request that they continue to accept payment in this manner.

COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARD

Members were informed that the City Council no longer operates a community champion award. If the Parish Council were to initiate the scheme it would need to set up an application / nomination process and a procedure for selecting suitable nominees. A view was expressed that some nominees may not welcome the publicity associated with such recognition and others may feel they have been 'overlooked'. To appraise the nominations fairly, the Council would also need to be aware of unsung heroes who may not be nominated and this requires greater knowledge of the community. **MIN 45** Members felt the suggestion should not be dismissed and RESOLVED to look at it in more detail if and when the Council considers Community Engagement under the Quality Council scheme.

QUALITY COUNCIL SCHEME

Cllr Hall reported on the Quality Council Training Course and informed Members of the mandatory criteria and the potential benefits to the public and the Council. Members expressed reservations regarding the additional work and the cost and time involved measured against the benefits afforded. It was also noted that communication is a 2 way process and more needs to be done to encourage the public to attend meetings and engage with the Council. Members noted that a revised scheme may be issued by the end of the year. **MIN 46** Members RESOLVED to reassess the situation when the revised scheme is produced.

TRAINING COURSE

MIN 47 Cllr Hall expressed an interest in the Community Engagement workshop on the 16th October and Members RESOLVED that Cllr Hall attends.

NOTE NEW CORRESPONDENCE

Members were given a copy of the email regarding the exchange in relation to the Twinning of the Goosnargh Festival with the Apple Blossom Festival in Nova Scotia.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council is scheduled for Monday 12th August, however, due to absence and holidays, it was proposed that the August meeting be postponed on the understanding that an additional meeting can be called for August if necessary. **MIN 48** Members RESOLVED that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be on **Monday 9th September at 7.00pm**