

## **WHITTINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**AN ORDINARY** meeting of Whittingham Parish Council took place on **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2014** at 7.00pm at Goosnargh Village Hall, Preston.

### **Members:**

Cllr Alan Lewis – Chairman  
Cllr Stan Hunter  
Cllr Dave Hall  
Cllr B Huggon  
Cllr R Mills  
Cllr M Rigby  
Cllr Lona Smith

### **Members of the public**

CVRA Member  
PCSO  
PCC Dog warden  
3 representatives regarding  
Whittingham Hospital site  
  
Mrs Julie Buttle – Parish Clerk

**APOLOGIES** None.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES from the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2014.**

**MIN 147** It was RESOLVED that the Minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

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

**MIN 148** Cllr Mills declared a personal interest in the CVRA Play Equipment as she lives on The Square.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**MIN 149** It was RESOLVED that the meeting be adjourned for public participation.

The dog warden explained that she is patrolling the area following an increase in calls about dog fouling. She confirmed that signs are in place informing people not to let their dog foul, however the City Council is moving away from this initiative as people ignore the signs. Instead the Council is advising residents on how to report incidents of dog fouling. Letters detailing the information are being delivered in the area and a supply was left with the Parish Council. It is harder for the wardens to collate information about events occurring at night and residents are encouraged to record information on diary sheets which should be returned to the City Council. A canine volunteer scheme is also being piloted where dog walkers talk to other walkers and report incidents and problems to the Dog Welfare Team. Details on this scheme are also in the literature. Dog fouling was reported at The Square and literature was passed to the CVRA to circulate. It was confirmed that the City Council issues fixed penalty notices and if people don't pay they are taken to court.

Tricia from the CVRA confirmed that a residents meeting took place to update residents on the play area. Construction will start on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 14 and the equipment is expected to be officially opened on the 7<sup>th</sup> April – subject to the post installation inspection being completed. Members of the CVRA confirmed they were prepared to do the weekly visual inspections and would be responsible for the maintenance of the willow tunnel.

The PCSO reported that crimes remained low and had mainly occurred in isolated rural areas. There had been some thefts of tools from insecure vehicles but there have been no anti-social behaviour issues. The serious incident on Halfpenny Lane is still being investigated and some arrests have been made. Following a query it was confirmed the PCSO's patrolling Halfpenny Lane were likely to be from the Longridge area. An incident involving lasers was reported to Broughton Police Station but the phone was not answered. It was stated that 101 should be used where a more urgent police response is required. It was confirmed that the poaching incidents circulated by email related to the Grimsargh area and the registration numbers were circulated by other forces not just the Preston area.

2 representatives from Taylor Wimpey and a representative from How Planning (the planning consultants for Taylor Wimpey) attended the meeting to introduce phase 1 of the Reserved Matters application for the former Whittingham hospital site. It was explained that they would be submitting a detailed application for 150 houses in a mixed development of 2–4 bedroomed properties comprising detached, semis and apartments. There will be a percentage of affordable housing included on site. Given the economic situation and the desire for some homeowners to downsize, it was questioned why bungalows were not proposed. It was stated that bungalows are very land intensive and Taylor Wimpey's preferred strategy is to build properties which can be adapted in the future, with wider staircases etc. With regard to parking it was confirmed that there will be a minimum of 2 car spaces per dwelling with some properties having 3 or 4 spaces. Where a property has an integral garage, a double drive will be provided to assist with off street parking. It was confirmed that surface water will be collected in pipes and discharged in to a brook at a controlled rate rather than using a holding pond as the land is not considered suitable. A SUDS system may be used in later phases. It was stated that the land was very boggy and questions were asked regarding the capacity of the brook. It was stated that the discharge principle had been established in the outline application and full details will be in the technical report which the Local Planning Authority must consider. A flood risk strategy will also be carried out which looks at everyday events and events that may only occur once every 30 or 100years. United Utilities have stated that there is capacity in the existing sewer system and properties will be connected to this. The capacity was disputed and it was stated that sewage is a problem for some existing properties. It was acknowledged that only time will tell whether or not a problem will occur. It was stated that the HCA outline application includes the phasing for schools, medical provision, leisure activities etc. and it was confirmed there were no plans for a play area in phase one. Highways will be designed to meet LCC standards and work on the main access has already started. It was confirmed that the existing road will stay open and there are no plans for Taylor Wimpey to close it off or join on to it. Where possible natural hedgerows and trees will remain and will be enhanced. In response to a query regarding consultation, it was confirmed that Taylor Wimpey would be consulting on their phase of 150 houses and it is understood that HCA will be covering the consultation on the wider site development. Taylor Wimpey hope to submit the application in 3-4 weeks and hope to be on site by early 2015. They are anticipating a completion rate of 36-50 units per year and hope to have the first legal completion done by 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015. It was queried why Taylor Wimpey were now only developing phase one of the site and it was stated that 650units was a very large financial commitment but whilst HCA have a marketing policy, Taylor Wimpey may come back to develop other parcels. It was confirmed that Taylor Wimpey have a policy to support local employment and apprenticeships and further details can be provided. Those present were thanked for attending. It was RESOLVED that the meeting be reconvened.

## **INTERNAL AUDIT REQUIREMENTS**

**MIN 150** Members RESOLVED that the following were up to date and appropriate to the Council's requirements

- Risk Management Policy Statement
- Risk Management Register
- Council's Asset Register

Members completed the **Effectiveness of the Internal Audit and Internal Control** document and RESOLVED to appoint Mr Slade as the Council's internal auditor.

## **PLAY EQUIPMENT INSPECTIONS AT THE SQUARE**

The City Council accepted responsibility for the removal of the existing equipment and this has been removed to the satisfaction of the CVRA and the historical maintenance inspections have now been concluded. Members noted that a portaloos and storage container will be temporarily situated on site whilst the equipment is built. The Clerk attended the CVRA residents' meeting and informed members of some matters arising from the discussions which needed Parish Council approval.

**MIN 151.1** Members RESOLVED that the Parish Notice Board will be used to display acknowledgments to those who have provided funding for the equipment. A Notice will also be included in the Notice Board to inform people that any accidents or misuse of the equipment must be reported to the Parish Council.

**MIN 151.2** Members RESOLVED to add the new equipment to the Council's insurance at a cost of £56.01 until the June renewal.

It is a recommended requirement that a post installation inspection is carried out on the equipment and this has been requested via the CVRA. The inspection report will form part of the mandatory risk assessment which needs to be carried out prior to use. The Clerk presented several options regarding weekly, quarterly and annual inspections. Members noted that an annual inspection is a statutory requirement and weekly inspections (formally recorded by a responsible adult) are a requirement of the insurance policy. Quarterly inspections focus on the interim lubrication and maintenance of the equipment and would involve an inspection by a trained person which can be provided by several companies or the Clerk could attend a local training course at Myerscough College.

**MIN 151.3** Members noted quotes had not been received for the annual and weekly inspections but RESOLVED in principle to arrange these through the City Council. Upon receipt of the installation report and risk assessment Playdale will be consulted regarding any additional maintenance checks.

## **PLANNING APPLICATIONS BEFORE COUNCIL**

**Note** - Members are advised prior to the meeting that planning applications can be viewed at [www.preston.gov.uk](http://www.preston.gov.uk)

**06/2012/0099** 50kw wind turbine - centre of field 0967, Swainson House Farm, Goosnargh Lane and **06/2012/0100** 50kw wind turbine - western of field 0967 at Swainson House Farm, Goosnargh Lane

Members recalled that the applications were originally submitted in 2012 but have not been determined. Members noted that the proposed wind turbines have been reduced in size to a hub height of approximately 16.5m and an upper height to the tips of blade up to 25m, however a NATS email dated the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2012 states *At only 957, from our transmitter site and on a higher piece of land, we do not believe that there is a turbine height at which it will be possible to prove there is no risk of a negative impact on our air-ground-air voice communication equipment.* **MIN 152** In view of the NATS comments, the Parish Council RESOLVED to remain **strongly opposed** to the applications. It was noted that the Parish Council's previous objections were not included on the City website and the Clerk was requested to ask that these objections are also noted.

**06//2014/0114** Certificate of lawfulness for use of land as residential curtilage at Daniels Farm, Ashley Lane. Members were reminded that the applicant needs to demonstrate that the land has historically been used for residential purposes for the certificate to be granted. **MIN 153** Members RESOLVED to leave to planning.

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2013 / 2014**

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

## **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

**MIN 154** Members RESOLVED to approve the following accounts for payment

DETAILS	PAYEE	AMOUNT
March salary	Mrs J Buttle	£351.87
Tax / National Ins	HMRC	£83.20

## **INSTALLATION OF WINDOW IN BUS SHELTER**

Further to the request for an additional window in the bus shelter on Church Lane a quote for a metal frame has been at £500.

**MIN 155** Members RESOLVED to accept the quote as the metal frame would be a one off expense and would be in keeping with the existing side window frame. The contractor will be requested to complete this work and the installation of the bench at Whittingham Lane.

## **CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT INCREMENTAL INCREASE**

**MIN 156** In accordance with the Clerk's contract of employment, Members RESOLVED that the Clerk progress to salary point 22 from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014.

## **NOTE NEW CORRESPONDENCE**

A briefing note was provided to Members on the Trust arrangements for Goosnargh Village Hall which explains that the Council acts as a Custodian Trustees and has no management responsibilities. The management of the Hall is carried out by the management Trustees and these will be invited to the Annual Parish Meeting to give an overview of the operational procedures.

Cllr Hall stated he was interested in the planning seminar to be held in May. A place will be reserved and payment will be included on the April agenda.

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Council is scheduled for **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2014 at 7.00pm** at Goosnargh Village Hall.