

## WHITTINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**AN ORDINARY** meeting of Whittingham Parish Council took place on **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2015** at 7.00pm at Goosnargh Village Hall.

### **Members:**

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

### **Members of the public**

Mrs Julie Buttle – Parish Clerk

**APOLOGIES** Cllr Ruth Mills, Cllr Lona Smith and Cllr Bernard Huggon

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

**MIN 124** It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the February meeting be signed as a true record.

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

There were no declarations of interests.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No members of the public were present.

### **INTERNAL AUDIT REQUIREMENTS**

**MIN 125** Members RESOLVED that the following were up to date and appropriate to the Council's requirements subject to the following minor alterations

- Risk Management Policy Statement – add the year.
- Risk Management Register – add reference to the separate risk assessment for Cumeragh Play area. Add the need for training and annual review of community engagement procedures.
- Council's Asset Register – add Cumeragh play equipment and planters.

**MIN 126** Members considered the Internal Control methodology and the Effectiveness of the Internal Audit and RESOLVED to appoint Mr Slade as the internal auditor for a fee of £85.

### **PLANNING APPLICATIONS BEFORE COUNCIL**

Members NOTED no planning applications have been received this month and application **06/2014/0891** for a residential dwelling with solar panels, parkland landscape and walled garden at Langley Lane, had been approved by planning committee despite strong local objections.

### **LOCAL PLAN MAIN MODIFICATIONS**

**MIN 127** Members RESOLVED to respond to the Local Plan modifications with the following comments

**MM2 – Para 2.12** Whittingham Parish Council welcomes the insertion of para 2.13 stating that development in rural areas should be concentrated in key service centres *appropriate to the needs of the local community*, but submits that the current scale of proposed development in Whittingham (which borders the key service centre of Longridge) substantially exceeds the above requirements and instead of *supporting the needs of the local community*, is contributing to Longridge becoming a satellite town for Preston.

**MM10 – Policy HS1** In the publication version of the Local Plan, 90 dwellings were allocated to site HS1.14 north and south of Whittingham Road. This has increased substantially to 488 dwellings.

Whittingham Parish Council asserts that the scale of the development proposed is unsustainable especially as it is not supported by an up to date infrastructure master plan for the area.

**MM13 – Policy HS5** - Agricultural Workers Dwellings stated that new dwellings *or conversions of existing buildings* will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that there is a need for workers to live on the site. It is noted that MM13 proposes to remove the reference to conversion of existing buildings.

Whittingham Parish Council fully supports the need for agricultural workers dwellings to be justified, however, Members are of the opinion that conversion of existing buildings should be the preferred policy rather than routinely allowing a new agricultural workers dwelling. On this basis Whittingham Parish Council suggests that the policy be amended to read ... new dwellings will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the *conversion of existing buildings is not practicable* and there is an essential need for worker(s) to live on or in the immediate vicinity of the site...

**MM23 – Policy EN4** Whittingham Parish Council notes the additional wording given to Policy EN4 Areas of Separation. The previous policy was clear – *Development that leads to a risk of settlements merging will be resisted*. The proposed wording states *development will be assessed in terms of its impact, upon the Area of Separation, including any harm to the effectiveness of the gap between settlements and in particular, the degree to which the development proposed would compromise the function of the Area of Separation in protecting the identity and distinctiveness of settlements*.

Whittingham Parish Council requests that the original wording remains as it is a clear and strong statement. The *effectiveness of the gap* and the *degree of compromise* are too vague and open to interpretation and significantly weakens the City Council's position to resist development in the Areas of Separation.

#### **VACANT PROPERTY TO LET**

Goosnargh Parish Council advised that a property in Goosnargh has a lettings criteria attached to the S106 agreement which means the property may only be let to applicants who live, work or have connections to the Parish or adjoining parishes. Members noted that whilst 30% of the new development in the Parish must be affordable, it is not clear whether a similar agreement can be attached to new development or whether this is at the discretion of the developer. Members also noted that there are conditions relating to who may apply for the affordable homes in terms of number of people in proportion to the number of rooms etc.

**MIN 128** Members RESOLVED that the Clerk contacts Preston City Council to make enquiries regarding the use of a S106 agreement as described above and if an agreement can be added, does it need to be agreed at the outline application stage or can it be applied to the detailed submission. Members also requested a briefing on the criteria for affordable homes.

#### **FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2014 / 2015**

Members NOTED the bank statements had not been received and were not available for verification.

#### **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

**MIN 129** Members RESOLVED to approve the following accounts for payment

DETAILS	PAYEE	AMOUNT	CHEQUE
March salary	Mrs J Buttle	£400.15	116
Tax / National Ins	HMRC	£56.00	117

## **2015/2016 GRANT APPLICATIONS**

Members considered a grant application for £500 to assist with the payment of a covered outdoor play area for Ollie's Nursery based at Goosnargh Oliversons CE Primary School. The Parish Council's grant policy states, the Parish Council will consider grants that *will bring direct benefit to their area or any part of it*. Members noted that the nursery was in Goosnargh Parish. With this in mind, Members felt Goosnargh Parish Council should be approached to match fund the request.

The grant policy also states that *requests will be assessed according to the number of parishioners likely to benefit*. Members felt more information was required to ascertain the number of children from Whittingham Parish likely to benefit.

The grant budget for 2015/2016 is £1,000. *Grants that exceed 20% of the budget will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances*. As the contribution requested is part of a larger capital project, it was felt the application did not meet this criteria.

**MIN130** Members RESOLVED that the Clerk reply to the Nursery with the above information.

## **COMMUNITY PAY BACK WORK**

Members NOTED a sponsorship request to subscribe to the Community Payback Scheme in return for a work package of services across the Parish.

**MIN 131** Members RESOLVED not to subscribe to the package, but are prepared to use the service for one off jobs within the Parish – such as topping up the bark at Cumeragh play area. The Clerk was requested to contact them for a quote to complete this work.

## **CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT INCREMENTAL INCREASE**

As the Clerk holds the CILCA qualification, under the terms and conditions of her employment, subject to satisfactory performance, she is entitled to progress to point 23 of the NJC salary scale with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> April. Provision has been made in the budget. **MIN 132** Members RESOLVED to approve the incremental increase.

## **NOTE NEW CORRESPONDENCE**

**Members may be requested to NOTE any new correspondence received since the issue of the Agenda.**

The Clerk has been requested to attend a briefing at Preston City Council on Thursday the 12<sup>th</sup> March regarding changes to the Parish Council election process. Nomination packs for re-election will be available after the meeting.

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Council is scheduled for **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at 7.00pm** at Goosnargh Village Hall.

The Clerk was requested to report the lack of white lines following the resurfacing of Halfpenny Lane.

The Clerk was requested to contact the police regarding the accident at the school to see if speeding was an issue as the village is covered by a 20mph zone.