

WHITTINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

AN ORDINARY meeting of Whittingham Parish Council took place on **Monday 14th March 2016** at 7.00pm at Goosnargh Village Hall.

Members:

Cllr Dave Hall - Chairman

Cllr Margaret Rigby

Cllr Stan Hunter

Cllr Ruth Mills

Cllr Bernard Huggon (arrived during Public Participation)

Cllr Alan Lewis

Members of the public

City Cllr Lona Smith

Lindy King – Heritage Group

Alan Wheatley – Heritage Group

Mrs Julie Buttle – Parish Clerk

APOLOGIES None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of the meeting held on 8th February 2016.

MIN 142 It was RESOLVED that the February Minutes be signed as a true record.

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

MIN 143 Cllr Mills stated a personal interest in Cumeragh Village play area due to its proximity to her property.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

MIN 144 It was RESOLVED that the meeting be adjourned for public participation.

Mr Wheatley thanked the Parish Council for the donation to Goosnargh and Whittingham Heritage Group. (GWHG) He advised that their next meeting would be at 7.30pm on the 21st March at Goosnargh Oliverson's School. A further meeting will be held at St Francis School on the 18th April. He explained that the Heritage Lottery application between GWHG and St Mary's Church was still progressing and he outlined the future work of the Heritage Group over a 3 year period. Year 1 will include producing a book on the heritage of St Mary the Virgin Church, a school project on the stained glass windows and a quiz-based church trail and artwork produced by local artists depicting aspects of the church. Year 2 will involve the researching of school dress and children's games and Year 3 will concentrate on the former Whittingham Hospital and the history of the Goosnargh and Whittingham Whitsuntide Festival. He requested a letter from the Parish Council supporting the Lottery application as detailed under Agenda item 15.

Cllr Smith informed the Council that despite local opposition, the City Council will be introducing a £30 charge for brown bin collections. This may be discounted to £25 if residents pay early. The payment relates to the property not the bin, so if a resident moves house and the former occupier did not pay the charge, the new resident will need to pay again! Once residents have paid, they will be issued with a sticker to display on the bin. Grey bins containing garden waste will not be emptied. Concerns were expressed that the charges will lead to an increase in fly tipping.

Following LCC's budget decision to cut the subsidies to some bus routes, it was stated that Stagecoach will continue to run the number 4 bus service.

If the planning officer recommends approval for the housing application on Pudding Pie Nook Lane, Cllr Smith stated that she will call it before planning committee.

Mr Pratt, the Conservative candidate for Police and Crime Commissioner, has been in the area with Cllr Smith and is reportedly supportive of the use of Goosnargh Village Hall as a police base but despite everyone's best efforts, it was noted that the Parish Council has still not received an invoice to enable it to financially support the joint initiative.

Further to the report of intensive dog fouling in a field at Goosnargh (*Public Participation Jan 2016*), Cllr Lewis advised that he has checked the area and is unable to substantiate the comments, however further enquiries suggest that Seddon Construction are interested in developing the land and traffic monitoring measures have been placed on Goosnargh Lane. Members were reminded that the field is in Goosnargh and the Clerk will inform them of the information in the hope they will notify us of any new correspondence.

Members NOTED that the entrance to the Stags Head car park has been blocked by a temporary barrier. It was stated that this is because half the car park is being taken up by people not using the premises. A complaint has not been received and as the matter was not on the Agenda, no further action was considered necessary.

Several cycle / pedestrian routes through the grounds of the former Whittingham hospital were closed whilst demolition took place. It was queried if these will be re-opened now that the demolition has been completed. The Clerk will check with HCA.

It was RESOLVED that the meeting be reconvened.

UPDATE RE LAND AT REAR OF THE STAGS HEAD

At the February meeting, the Council was informed that an enforcement notice had been served on the owner of the land at the rear of the Stags Head in connection with an allotment. It is understood that discussions are still ongoing with the City Council.

MIN 145 It was RESOLVED that the Clerk continues to monitor the situation.

INTERNAL AUDIT REQUIREMENTS

In order to comply with Audit Requirements and Finance Regulations, Members reviewed the following documents and confirmed that they are up to date and appropriate to the Council's requirements.

- A.** Risk Management Plan and Policy Statement
- B.** Risk Management Register
- C.** Council's Asset Register

With regard to the Risk Management Register, Members previously took the decision to invest CIL monies in the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund which was developed in collaboration with the Local Government Association. The Fund is AAA rated and provided the lowest form of risk available for cash management at the time.

When the decision was taken, the FSCS bank compensation scheme excluded public sector cash however, a new EU directive issued in July 2015, means that small local authorities with a turnover less than £360,000 are now covered for the first £75,000 held in a bank account. Members NOTED that whilst there is still a limited risk with the Public Sector Deposit Fund, investments are not covered by the new compensation rules.

MIN 146 As the financial risks had changed, it was RESOLVED that the Council's financial situation should be fully reviewed when the next CIL monies are received.

MIN 147 Members RESOLVED to approve Mr Slade as the Council's Internal Auditor in accordance with the Terms of Reference and suggested Methodology for Internal Control. Members NOTED the Effectiveness of the Internal Audit which includes a summary of the information necessary to demonstrate that the Council meets the expected audit standard.

WEEKLY CUMERAGH PLAY INSPECTIONS

The City Council has advised that the weekly cost of inspecting Cumeragh play area will increase from £1,976 + vat to £2,074.80 + VAT in 2016/17. The Clerk has established that it may be possible for the equipment to be inspected quarterly providing the Council has a system in place to record that the equipment has been visually checked and any litter / glass has been removed weekly. It was stated that the community litter pickers may already be covering the area and removing litter on a weekly basis.

The Parish Council's insurers have confirmed that the altered arrangements would meet their risk criteria and if the person inspecting the play area is a volunteer, they can be included on the policy and would be covered for any personal accident or injury. It was confirmed the volunteer would not be personally liable for any problems providing the reports are completed and submitted weekly.

MIN 148 Members RESOLVED that the Clerk approach the community group to confirm if they are regularly litter picking in the area and ascertain if they will be willing to assist with the completion of weekly reports. Members stated they would be willing to make a financial contribution to the group if they suggested an amount.

Members NOTED that the City Council has stated that the roundabout is a trip hazard and there is no secondary failsafe on the swing. The Clerk queried the comments with Playdale who have confirmed their equipment is compliant with standard EN1176 and a failsafe is not required. The Clerk confirmed their reply with an inspector registered with the RPII (Register of Play Inspectors International) and his reply has been forwarded to the City Council.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS BEFORE COUNCIL

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

06/2016/0079 Erection of single storey extension to rear and erection of pitched roof over flat roof garage and rear extension at 879 Whittingham Lane, Goosnargh.

MIN 149 Members RESOLVED to leave to planning

06/2016/0102 Erection of single storey extension to rear of dwelling and dormer extension to NW elevation at Dean Meadow, Short Lane, Goosnargh.

MIN 150 Members RESOLVED to leave to planning

06/2016/0124 Outline planning application for residential development (Class C3) of up to 24no. dwellings seeking approval for access only (resubmission of planning application 06/2015/0425) on land off Pudding Pie Nook Lane, Goosnargh

The adopted Local Plan confirms the City Council already has a 5yr housing supply and this site is not included. The site adjoins the village of Broughton and as there are no other developments of 20+ houses in close proximity to the site the Parish Council considers that the design and scale of the development is not keeping with the character and appearance of the area. Furthermore, the site is located in an Area of Separation and concern is expressed that if the site is approved, adjacent fields will come forward for development which would harm the effectiveness of the AOS.

The application states that the mix of housing - particularly bungalows - will appeal to the elderly and first time buyers. The Parish Council considers it unrealistic to expect residents - particularly the elderly - to walk 2000m to the nearest local amenities which do not include doctors, dentists, healthcare or shops large enough for a comprehensive weekly shop. The Transport Statement confirms that there is only 1 bus every hour and as it takes 30 mins to reach Preston or Longridge it is likely residents will be reliant on the car which is contrary to Policy 3 of the adopted Core Strategy. Paragraph 14 of the NPPF refers to a presumption in favour of sustainable development - however based on the comments above, the Parish Council is of the opinion that that this site is not sustainable and is contrary to the NPPF.

It is noted that a 1.2m footpath will be provided but concerns are still expressed that the access track is a Public Right of Way - not an adopted road - and as such, there will be no obligation to provide street lighting or surfacing to the standard required to serve a development of 24 properties - particularly as the track is being used by HGV's using the distribution centre. It is noted that the visibility splay on the junction with Whittingham Lane will be improved but concerns are expressed that the exit is still dangerous particularly for traffic turning right. Due to the proximity to Langley Lane, Members request that a safety impact assessment is carried out at both junctions.

MIN 151 Members RESOLVED to object to the application on the above grounds.

06/2016/0152 Erection of steel portal framed agricultural building following demolition of existing agricultural building at Tomlinson's Farm, Cumeragh Lane, Whittingham

MIN 152 Members RESOLVED to leave to planning

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2015 / 2016

The Chairman confirmed that the parish accounts and bank statements had been reconciled.

Members were informed that the Co-op bank has requested confirmation that 3 former Councillors (Cllr Blair, Cllr Seed and Cllr Gornall) can be removed from the accounts. The Clerk has confirmed that they are no longer councillors by supplying recent election results, but the confirmation needs to be signed by 3 current signatories.

MIN 153 Members RESOLVED to sign a letter confirming the former councillors can be removed as signatories.

SLCC MEMBERSHIP

MIN 154 Members RESOLVED to renew the Clerk's membership to the Society of Local Council Clerks. As the Clerk works for 2 Parishes it was confirmed that the £167 membership would be shared equally by both Parishes at £83.50 each.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Further to the comments under public participation, Members NOTED that the invoice in relation to the rural police base has still not been received.

MIN 155 Members RESOLVED to approve the following accounts for payment

DETAILS	PAYEE	AMOUNT	CHEQUE
Clerk Salary	J Buttle	£419.97	1172
Tax / National Insurance	HMRC	£40.91	1173
SLCC Membership	SLCC	£83.50	1174
Parish Logo Design	Linotype printing	£45.00	1175

WAR MEMORIAL / TRIBUTE

Under MIN 119 Members resolved that they were happy to proceed with the stone mason and Members noted further correspondence in relation to the suggested type of stone, lettering and logo at the February meeting. **MIN 156** Members RESOLVED to approve the final design and authorise the order which will take approximately 8 weeks to complete.

NEWSLETTER

Under Minute 137, Members resolved to produce a Parish Newsletter with the printing costs not to exceed £190. The Clerk confirmed a quote has been received for £150 for 800 newsletters. This number is more than sufficient for the Newsletter to be delivered, with spare copies available at the Post Office.

MIN 157 Members considered the draft content and subject to some minor amendments and a final proofing, Members RESOLVED that the Newsletter be printed and delivered in April. Cllr Lewis will confirm that the Post Office is happy to have the spare copies.

WHITTINGHAM HOSPITAL COMMUNITY TRUST AND S106 UPDATE

The consultants have produced an interim 47 page report which contains a lot of statistical information on Whittingham residents but avoids the key issues such as where the Sports and Social Club will be located, how big will it be, what will happen to the Church etc. Members NOTED that another meeting will take place on the 21st March.

Members NOTED that the Clerk has contacted LCC and the HCA regarding the S106 requirement for a green travel plan co-ordinator but responsibility for the post has not yet been established. Members also NOTED that the Clerk emailed County Cllr Fillis regarding the intrusive, personal nature of the questionnaire relating to bus service usage, but a reply has not been received. It has since been established that service 4 will continue to be operated by Stagecoach but the Thu/Fri/Sat evening service will be withdrawn.

GOOSNARGH AND WHITTINGHAM HERITAGE GROUP

The GWHG lottery project was outlined under public participation and the group has requested that the Parish Council writes a letter to support their bid, but they have also requested that the Council supports the St Mary's building adaptations which will provide the community with a meeting room and display area for the use of local organisations wishing to meet, hold workshops and hold exhibitions.

Members stated that they were happy to support the work of the heritage group, but they had reservations about expressing support for the St Mary's building adaptations as the Church is primarily for religious occasions and it was felt that some residents may find the Village Hall or the Sport and Social Club a more neutral venue for a community meeting.

MIN 158 Members RESOLVED that the Clerk notify the GWHG of the above comments and if necessary, write the letter in support of the GWHG activities only.

COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL

The Parish Council has received a commemorative medal to mark the occasion of the Queen's 90th birthday. **MIN 159** It was RESOLVED to add the medal to the asset register.

NOTE NEW CORRESPONDENCE

Members NOTED that the storage units at Ashley Hall Farm have been approved. A letter has been received from Mr Livesey expressing concerns regarding the way the City Council has handled the application. The Parish Council can't challenge the decision and there is no right of appeal so his comments were noted.

Members NOTED an update on the Broughton by-pass scheme.

It is understood that a report has gone to the Cabinet member regarding Local Lists and the Clerk was requested to check the progress.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council is scheduled for **Monday 11th April 2016** at 7.00pm at Goosnargh Village Hall.