

## **WHITTINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**AN ORDINARY** meeting of Whittingham Parish Council took place on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2013** at 7.00pm at Goosnargh Village Hall, Preston.

### **Members:**

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

### **Members of the public**

2 Members from Cumeragh Village Residents Association (CVRA)

Mrs Julie Buttle – Parish Clerk

**APOLOGIES** Cllr R Mills

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES from the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2013.**

**MIN 84** 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**

Cllr A Lewis declared a personal interest in the appeal by Goosnargh Tennis Club as his property overlooks the appeal site.

The Clerk reminded Members that this meeting is to discuss and quantify the topics to be included in the budget for the next financial year. A draft version of the proposed budget will be presented to the next meeting and Members will be required to agree the Precept required. As all Members have a pecuniary interest in setting the Precept, Members will be required to complete a dispensation form for consideration by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 38e.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**MIN 85** Members RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting for public participation and 2 members of the Cumeragh Village Residents Association addressed the Council.

**1)** They stated that they had noticed that the Christmas lights will be trialled at Beacon Drive this year resulting in a display not being erected at Cumeragh Village. They made a plea that an additional unit be included in next year's budget for use at Cumeragh Village.

**2)** The CVRA members also expressed concern that 2 items of play equipment had been removed from Cumeragh Village by the City Council without advance notification and when they made enquiries with the parks department, 3 separate reasons for the removal were given. (*The Parish Council was informed of the removal after the event and an explanatory email from the parks department was issued to Members with the Agenda.*) The CVRA members stated they had lodged a complaint with the parks department because one of the stated reasons was that the equipment was rotten - but it took 2 hours for workmen to remove it with a sledgehammer. It was noted that the City Council have said they will replace the equipment but the CVRA stated that the replacement equipment may not be necessary as they have been awarded a grant from BIFFA for the new play equipment.

**3)** The CVRA members continued to inform the Council that they have been successful with the £30,000 BIFFA bid - subject to 2 conditions. The first is to that the CVRA join Entrust (*the regulator for the Landfill Communities Fund*) and the other is that the CVRA find a 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Contributor to fund 10% of the grant awarded.

It was explained that for each grant awarded, only 90% can be claimed back in tax relief – leaving a 10% deficit which can be paid by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party – providing the 3<sup>rd</sup> party does not gain a unique benefit from the project.

As the Parish Council has already agreed to allocate £1,000 to the project, the CVRA requested that the Parish Council pay the 3<sup>rd</sup> party contribution of £3,000. This will enable the CVRA to access the full £30,000 from BIFFA and use other secured funding to install the equipment and do the landscaping works.

A Councillor stated that the work needed to progress as soon as possible due to the development of the Whittingham Hospital site as the 'need' may be harder to establish if play equipment is included within the new development.

Members asked whether the £30,000 would be compromised if the Parish Council did not finance the £3,000 and whether the CVRA were able to approach other organisations. It was stated that £3,000 had been secured from the Harris Fund but this was awarded for play equipment. It was stressed the amount needs to be paid before the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 and if a 3<sup>rd</sup> party contributor can't be found – CVRA will lose the £30,000.

A further question was asked regarding whether the Parish Council had a benefit in the scheme. The CVRA stated that they have the unique benefit of the equipment and BIFFA suggested that the CVRA approach the Parish Council to be the 3<sup>rd</sup> party contributor. It was confirmed that the CVRA are still raising funds and the LEF grant application will be considered on the 4<sup>th</sup> December.

It was RESOLVED that the meeting be reconvened.

### **COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

Members were informed that if they wished an alteration to be made to the Parish boundary they would need to ask the City Council to carry out a Community Governance Review (CGR). The City Council is not under a duty to do this unless it is accompanied by a valid petition signed by at least 10% of the electors.

Members stated that whilst they had sought advice on the procedures, residents would need to approach the Parish Council with a request before any action is taken. Members also noted that the suggestion had been made several years ago and had been dismissed.

**MIN 86** Members RESOLVED to take no further action at this time.

### **CONSIDER 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)

**06/2013/0713** Detached garage at Willow Lodge, 203 Whittingham Lane  
Members noted that the Clerk had requested an extension of time to allow Members to consider the application and in the interim had submitted comments expressing concern regarding the size of the garage and the number of windows. Members were informed that Planning had contacted the applicant regarding concerns about the windows. **MIN 87** Members RESOLVED to leave with planning.

**06/2013/0720** Erection of light industrial unit (Class B1c) on land adjacent Chipping Road, Longridge. Members noted that the site has no existing buildings and is situated between Longridge Town Football Club and Longridge Cricket Club. The applicant confirms the site is on a parcel of land currently classified as agricultural land. Supplementary Planning Document 3 – Rural Development, states that the Council will support the development of small business units in rural areas – including farm diversification and buildings that are no longer required. Members believe that development on agricultural land is not in accordance with the above SPD or Policy 9 of the Core Strategy which identifies economic growth from the re-use of vacant premises and the re-development of existing employment sites.

Members also noted that Core Strategy Policy 1 b iii directs some employment and growth towards Longridge and rather than develop on agricultural land, Members feel the application is better suited to Shay Lane industrial estate. Due to the rural nature of the site and proximity to a road junction, Members expressed concerns regarding the provision of a car park for 6 vehicles and a turning circle for HGV's. **MIN 88** Members RESOLVED to object to the application on the above grounds.

A query was raised regarding an application to widen a footpath at Daniel Platt Farm as the Council has not been consulted on the application. The Clerk will query this with planning.

### **GOOSNARGH TENNIS CLUB FLOODLIGHT APPEAL**

Members were informed that Goosnargh tennis club have appealed against the refusal to allow floodlights between the hours of 9.00 and 10.00pm during April, May and August. **MIN 89** Members RESOLVED to write to the Planning Inspectorate to support the decision by Preston City Council to refuse planning permission. Members acknowledged the importance of the facility for local use but as stated in the planning application, players are attending by car from outside the area. In order to complete matches, players are breaking the existing condition which permits illumination until 9.00pm which causes conflict and disturbance to local residents. Concern is expressed that if the floodlights are approved until 10.00pm it would lead to more matches being played and it would be well after 10.00pm before the players are ready to leave, causing noise and disturbance to residents living in a residential area.

### **RESUBMISSION OF WHITTINGHAM HOSPITAL APPLICATION**

After the October meeting Members were advised of HCA's intention to resubmit the planning application for Whittingham hospital to enable it to be built in 4 phases of 150 houses each. A meeting took place at the Sports and Social Club to discuss priorities for the new amenities. Cllr Hunter attended the meeting and explained to Council that whilst the new facilities are welcomed, it was unclear who would be accountable for the operation and running of the facilities. The site history was complicated with several appeals and S106 conditions and again it was unclear whether a new planning application would mean that all the existing agreements would be revoked. **MIN 90** It was RESOLVED that once the application is submitted, an officer from the Planning Department would be invited to attend the Parish Council meeting to explain the site history and the impact of the new application.

### **NOVA SCOTIA TWINNING**

Members noted that last year marked the first stage of the Twinning of the Whittingham Festival with the Appleblossom Festival in Nova Scotia. Cllr Lewis reported that exchange visits are being organised by the local schools and there may be an opportunity for the Parish Council to be involved if civic dignitaries visited England. **MIN 91** Members RESOLVED to remain supportive of the twinning perhaps by advertising events on the website but any specific requests for support or exchanges should be presented to Council with a clear indication of the requirement.

### **OCTOBER FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

The Chairman confirmed that the accounts and bank statements reconciled.

### **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

**MIN 92** Members RESOLVED to approve the following accounts for payment

DETAILS	PAYEE	AMOUNT
Nov salary Including additional hours MIN 79	Mrs J Buttle	£424.03
Tax / National Ins	HMRC	£101.40
Maintenance Contract	Barton Grange	£1,500

## **CONTRIBUTION TO GOOSNARGH POLICE OFFICE**

At the October meeting, Members resolved to allocate £200 in the 2014/2015 budget to enable the police to continue operating out of Goosnargh Village hall and Members noted that an invoice had been received for this financial year.

**MIN 93** Members RESOLVED to query the invoice and confirm that it will be paid in April assuming the cost is not shared by Goosnargh residents.

## **MILLENNIUM GARDEN CONTRACT**

**MIN 94** Members RESOLVED to accept the quote from Mr Shorrocks for the work at the Millennium Garden and noted that (weather permitting) the work will commence on around the 25<sup>th</sup> November.

*(Cllr Lona Smith left the meeting at this point)*

## **QUOTES FOR WORKS OUTSTANDING ON THE 2012/13 BUDGET**

**MIN 95** Further to the adverts and requests for local tradespeople to quote for various works within the Parish,

**95.1** Members RESOLVED to accept a quote for painting the telephone kiosk

**95.2** Members RESOLVED to purchase a recycled Phoenix bench from Glasdon's and RESOLVED that before accepting an emailed quote to install the bench, the Clerk ascertains the contractor's full address details and checks whether insurance and references can be provided.

**95.3** Members noted the variance in quotes provided for the window in the bus shelter and RESOLVED that the Clerk request further quotes for PVC and metal frame with a polycarbonate window.

## **SPEEDI-TREE EQUIPMENT AND CHRISTMAS TREE**

Members noted that the Speedi Tree equipment can be converted into a mains operated system free of charge on the assumption that an additional unit will be purchased next year. No reply has been received from Oak Nurseries regarding the provision of a tree. **MIN 96** Members RESOLVED to delegate changing the equipment and the purchase of the tree to the Clerk if necessary liaising between the suppliers and Members of the Council.

## **TO CONSIDER THE BUDGET REQUIREMENTS FOR 2014 / 2015**

Members considered the budget requirements for 2014/15 and suggested values for many of the budget headings in accordance with items listed on the agenda.

**MIN 97** In setting a DRAFT budget, Members discussed

1. Providing for an incremental increase on the Clerk's salary in accordance with the contract of employment and allowing for an inflationary increase of 1%. The Clerk's hours will remain as contracted with any additional hours being agreed as and when required as an unbudgeted expenditure.
2. Including a new budget heading of £550 for printing and consultations
3. Including a new budget heading of £200 for Goosnargh police office
4. Decreasing the grant budget to £1500
5. Increasing the maintenance budget by £500 to enable the enhancement of Goosnargh Village Green (following analysis of current provision) whilst also establishing if better value can be secured by renewing the maintenance contract with different contractors.
6. Provision of an additional Speedi tree system so that the Council has both mains and battery operated equipment
7. Including £1000 in a project account for a scheme to commemorate the centenary of world war one.

A revised budget reflecting the above options will be presented to the next meeting in order that Members may consider the Precept required.

Members considered the CVRA's request for the Parish Council to act as a 3<sup>rd</sup> party contributor for the BIFFA grant. Members expressed concern that the amount was being requested with no written confirmation that the £30,000 would be lost if the 10% could not be financed or that the Parish Council was considered a suitable contributor. Members felt under pressure to make a decision as the amount is required before the end of the current financial year. Members expressed concerns that if awarded, the amount would be an unbudgeted expense as the grant policy states grants will not be permitted to exceed 20% of the total budget allocation. Members noted that the CVRA have raised their own funds and still have other grant applications outstanding - including the LEF application – so other alternatives are a possibility. Members stated that they had established a principle in donating £1000 to the play equipment organised by the Friends of Whittingham and Goosnargh Green and by increasing the amount to the CVRA they felt that the request would result in a disproportionate amount of the Precept being spent in one area.

**MIN 98** Members RESOLVED not to act as 3<sup>rd</sup> party contributors to the loan.

#### **WORKSHOP**

**MIN 99** Members NOTED the correspondence regarding training workshops in Leyland but did not express an interest to attend.

#### **NOTE NEW CORRESPONDENCE**

Members NOTED that Cllr Hall met the Conservation Area Officer and showed her the various areas of interest in the area marked on the map discussed at the June meeting. The Officer will prepare a full report on the items of interest along with more information on how the area can be included in a Local List. It is hoped this information may be ready for Christmas.

#### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2013 at 7.00pm.**

After the meeting the Clerk was requested to report the flashing street lights at Goosnargh Village Green again along with the need to cut back the holly bush at the Green Acre entrance. Highways will also be informed that the hedges need cutting back along Whittingham Lane.