

WHITTINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

AN ORDINARY meeting of Whittingham Parish Council took place on **Monday 14th October 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

PCSO David Reid

Mrs Julie Buttle – Parish Clerk

APOLOGIES Cllr R Mills

APPROVAL OF MINUTES from the meeting held on 9th September 2013.

MIN 65 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 L Smith declared a pecuniary interest in planning applications **06/2013/0699** and **06/2013/0700** as they relate to her employment at Guild Park, Whittingham Lane, Whittingham. Cllr D Hall declared a personal interest in the Fox appeal at the former Ridings site **APP/N2345/A/13/2202762** as his property abuts the boundary of the site.

REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

Members considered Whittingham's polling districts, polling station and ward boundary. No concerns were raised regarding the division of Whittingham in to Higher and Lower districts or with Goosnargh Village Hall being used as a polling station. However, Members did express concerns that Goosnargh and Whittingham fall under 2 separate Parish Councils yet the centre of Goosnargh is predominately in Whittingham Parish. **MIN 66** Members RESOLVED that the Clerk respond to the consultation by stating the above and querying what the procedure would be to request that the ward boundary be looked at.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

MIN 67 It was RESOLVED that the meeting be adjourned for public participation following the arrival of PCSO David Reid.

Just 1 crime has been reported in Whittingham however Grimsargh has had 15 burglaries this month (not including sheds and garages). Residents are being urged to ensure their properties are locked and secure. In response to the crime increase, the police have launched operation Fire Crest where officers are targeting the rural areas. Officers, including the Police and Crime Commissioner, will be at Beacon Fell on Wednesday 16th Oct between 10.00 and 2.00 to give crime prevention advice, issue shed and window locks and to post code bicycles.

There has been an increase in phone call scams and trading standards are investigating the sale of small incidental items. Following the sale, bank details are being used for other purposes. In response to a query, it was stated that no one has been caught for the burglary at Gorlands swimming pool. However, cars stolen in Grimsargh have turned up in Grange where they were being cut and sold abroad and arrests have been made. Members questioned the arrangements for the overnight closure of Broughton roundabout and the Clerk circulated an explanatory briefing note. As Brabiner Lane leads to a network of other roads LCC have stated it can't be closed but they will increase diversion signs at the junction.

Concerns were expressed that drivers are still not adhering to the 20mph zones. The police have reported this to County Highways who will start a Community Road Watch involving children at the local primary school.

In relation to the agenda item regarding Goosnargh Police Office it was confirmed that Goosnargh Parish Council will also be approached for a financial contribution. 3 volunteers will be recruited to staff the office possibly on Monday, Wednesday and Friday for 2 – 3 hours. These times will be advertised. The volunteers will be able to 'sign post' residents to the Parish Council and the Parish Council will be able to use the office to display plans, meet members of the public etc.

It was RESOLVED that the meeting be reconvened.

CONTRIBUTION TO GOOSNARGH POLICE OFFICE

Members felt strongly that there should be a police presence in the Parish especially as the Parish Council has already contributed to the installation of CCTV and that the Village Hall should be used as a police base. It was proposed that the Parish Council should underwrite the scheme by making up any shortfall however, the shortfall is not known as Goosnargh Parish Council have not yet declared whether they will be contributing to the scheme.

MIN 68.1 As the police have requested a contribution of £200, it was RESOLVED to allocate this amount in the budget for 2014/15 under S31 of the Local Government Rating Act 1997. **MIN 68.2** It was RESOLVED that the Clerk would not be required to attend the office on a regular basis but would use the facility if required to show plans or meet residents on a one to one basis. The Clerk offered to meet the police volunteers to provide advice and assistance regarding signposting Council matters.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS BEFORE COUNCIL

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

06/2013/0639 Erection of spectator stand for football club, installation of external lighting to clubhouse and changing room (Retrospective); retention and re-siting of 1 no. storage container and alterations to car parking and landscaping at Longridge Town Football Club Inglewhite Road Longridge.

MIN 69 Members RESOLVED not to object to the application as it may encourage sporting activity in the area and it is hoped that the relocation and painting of the storage container will improve the site appearance. It is suggested that use of the floodlights is restricted to between the hours of 7.00pm and 10.00pm and the lights should illuminate the pitch not the general car park area.

06/2013/0648 Erection of agricultural building at Chingle St Johns, 762 Whittingham Lane, Broughton. **MIN 70** Members RESOLVED to leave to planning.

06/2013/0682 Erection of first floor extension to side, canopy to rear and alterations to roof of existing single storey extension to front of dwelling at 85 Cumeragh Lane, Whittingham. Members noted a previous application had been withdrawn on design grounds. **MIN 71** Members RESOLVED to leave to planning.

06/2013/0694 Erection of 2 pairs of semi-detached dwelling houses with garages and outbuildings at land South of Old Poplar Foundry Inglewhite Road Longridge.

Members reflected that the former Ryan building is an eyesore and needs to be developed and that the Parish Council has previously acknowledged that the site would be suitable for housing or a mixed use of housing and offices. Members noted this criteria has been met by the approved application **06/2011/0863** which requires the use of this current application site for car parking.

MIN 72 Members RESOLVED to express concerns that the site should not be considered as a 'stand alone scheme' but should be considered as an integral part of the whole development of the former DJ Ryan site and the submission of a separate application for 4 houses was seen as an attempt to avoid the affordable housing element detailed in policy 7 of the Core Strategy.

As a stand alone scheme, Members believed the application to be development in the Open Countryside - contrary to policy EN1 of the Publication Version of the Local Plan. Furthermore, concerns were expressed that the development would be detrimental to the existing properties on Halfpenny Lane as the residents have already contributed to a drainage system running under the application site and the rear of block 2 would overlook the existing buildings on Halfpenny Lane.

06/2013/0699 Erection of two single storey extensions to create an additional 4no. ensuite bedrooms and **06/2013/0700** certificate of Lawfulness for the erection of a single storey extension, following demolition of existing conservatory, infill extension to western elevation, replacement windows, new anti-climb fascia, partial infilling of 2no. existing openings, erection of 2no. lengths of anti-climb fence (3m high), construction of new external fire escape and creation of 5no. parking spaces at Frank Gardham House Guild Park Whittingham Lane Whittingham.

MIN 73 Members noted that the extensions would improve rehabilitation of residents and RESOLVED to leave to planning.

APP/N2345/A/13/2202762

Members were informed of an appeal by Fox Strategic Land & Property against the refusal of **06/2012/0101** 200 residential units, 929sqm of office space, swimming pool, and public open space at the former Ridings Depot on land south of Whittingham Road. **MIN 74.1** Members RESOLVED to submit written comments to include that the Parish Council accepts that whilst improvements at Broughton roundabout are well underway, a large percentage of drivers will approach from Grimsargh, passing local primary and secondary schools and resulting in safety issues at Stonebridge roundabout. The site is located close to the Longridge / Preston boundary and to protect the character and identity of the different administrative boundaries, the site is included in an area of separation in the Preston Local Plan. The Local Plan acknowledges that part of the site is a brown field site and as such, provision has been made for the development of 90 homes - not the 200 proposed in the application.

It is also acknowledged in the Local Plan that Preston needs to identify additional land for housing to provide a 5 year housing supply. This has been achieved through the provision of land at a new strategic location at NW Preston and the Parish Council disputes the inference that this site is required in order to satisfy the 5 year housing supply. It is noted that Ribble Valley have designated Longridge as a Key Service Centre, but no plans have been provided to illustrate the additional infrastructure or highways required to make the area sustainable. In the absence of such a plan, concerns are expressed that the area will not be able to cope with an additional influx of 200 homes on the Preston boundary, in addition to Ribble Valley's development plans. **MIN 74.2** It was RESOLVED that Cllr D Hall would speak on behalf of the Parish Council at the Inquiry.

PRESTON LOCAL PLAN

Members considered the publication version of the Local Plan. In particular Members welcomed the Area of Separation particularly between Longridge and Preston and that the former Ridings site is earmarked for 90 residential units. Members stated that this reduction would mean that new development would have less of an impact on the surrounding infrastructure.

MIN 75 Members RESOLVED that the Local Plan was fit for purpose providing the Area of Separation is vigorously enforced.

CONSERVATION AREA

Members noted the report was incomplete as it does not include land south of Whittingham Road including the Green Nook Lane area. Historical information relating to Halfpenny Lane, The Alston Arms, Daniel Platt Farm and Gleadale House were also missing. Cllr Hall volunteered to meet the Conservation Officer and walk round the area to provide local knowledge.

MIN 76 Members RESOLVED to request a completed version of the report and that the Conservation Officer attends a future meeting to explain the implications of a Local List registration and how it can be taken forward.

OPEN SPACES SOCIETY

Members joined the Society for assistance with the registration of Cumeragh Village Green which is currently pending with LCC and is being followed up by the Clerk. Members noted the content of the OSS draft strategic plan for 2013-2018 and agreed there was nothing which would have an impact on the Council's membership.

MIN 77 Members RESOLVED that Cllr A Lewis would receive any correspondence or updates from the Society and that Cllr Wilkins will be contacted to see if he can intervene regarding the delay in registering Cumeragh Village Green.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Chairman confirmed that the accounts and bank statements reconciled.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

MIN 78 Members RESOLVED to approve the following accounts for payment

DETAILS	PAYEE	AMOUNT
Electric Community Garden	E-ON	£14.70
Half Payment of Charles Arnold Baker	Mrs J Buttle	£31.50
1/4ly Expenses April - Sept Including Domain name (2 year invoice)	Mrs J Buttle	£100.00 £2.99
October Salary	Mrs J Buttle	£351.87
Tax / National Ins	HMRC	£83.20

The Clerk provided an analysis of the hours worked on the tree felling complaints following a request by Members at the September meeting. **MIN 79** Members RESOLVED that an additional 9 hours be paid to the Clerk in her November salary.

SPEEDI TREE CONDITIONS OF USE

Under MIN 41 July 2013, Members unanimously resolved to trial the existing Speedi-tree equipment at the Millennium Garden. The Clerk has established that it may be possible to exchange the battery system for a mains operated system on a trial basis. **MIN 80** Members RESOLVED that the Clerk pursue this option and make enquiries regarding the donation or sponsorship of a 6m tree.

COUNCILLOR EXPENSES / ALLOWANCES

Members were advised that a Review Panel will be convened to consider any suggestions relating to the City Council allowances and expenses scheme which has been adopted by the Parish Council. **MIN 81** Members RESOLVED there were no matters to bring to the attention of the Review Panel.

HALF YEARLY BUDGET ANALYSIS Apr 13 – Sept 13

Members considered variances between the budget allocation and the half yearly budget expenditure. Members also considered items included in the budget which had not yet been purchased.

In particular Members noted that the Clerk's salary will exceed the budget by approx £150 due to an increase in the NJC scale and additional hours on the tree complaint and that the request for local tradespeople to quote for the work associated with the asset improvements will be published in The Guide and The Carrier Pigeon. Members requested that in further updates, the accompanying notes include a breakdown of the amounts awarded under grants and donations.

MIN 82 Members RESOLVED to accept the half yearly budget analysis.

CONSIDERATION OF 14/15 BUDGET ITEMS

The November meeting will primarily focus on the budget for 2014/15 including the commitment to consider progress at Cumeragh Village play area – **MIN 50 (2)**.

MIN 83 Members RESOLVED that the Clerk considers the following matters and where applicable, identify costs to be considered at the November meeting.

1. Asset register – Inspection of work needed and provide an updated copy for members
2. Varnish seat on Halfpenny Lane
3. Speedi tree – purchase of a mains unit to complement the battery unit
4. Additional admin work / costs associated with an application to become a Quality Council
5. Costs associated with Conservation / Local List consultation
6. Event to mark the centenary commemoration of World War one
7. Nova Scotia Twinning – separate agenda item explaining requirements

LANCASHIRE FIRE & RESCUE CONSULTATION

Members considered the Fire and Rescue Consultation and NOTED that the proposals did not affect the Preston area.

NOTE NEW CORRESPONDENCE

Members NOTED the following matters received since the issue of the Agenda.

- A briefing note on the closure of Broughton roundabout was circulated under public participation.
- A briefing note on the resubmission of the Whittingham Hospital application was distributed. Members noted that there will be a meeting with the Sports and Social Club and that Cllr Hunter will be in attendance.
- An appeal has been lodged against the refusal to allow floodlights to be used until 10.00pm at Goosnargh Tennis Club. This will be on the November Agenda but Members were advised to inform residents that comments need to be submitted to the planning inspectorate by the 18th November 2013.
- The Chairman will read the lesson and lay a poppy wreath at the Memorial Plaque on Remembrance Sunday
- An invitation to a community carol service on 22nd Dec at 6.30 was given to Members.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council is **Monday 11th November 2013** at 7.00pm.