

## WHITTINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

An ordinary meeting of Whittingham Parish Council took place on **11<sup>th</sup> February 2019** at 7.15pm at Whittingham Sports & Social Club.

### Members:

Cllr A Lewis (Chairman)  
Cllr D Hall  
Cllr B Huggon  
Cllr S Hunter  
Cllr A Meades

### Members of the public

L King – Heritage Group

Mrs J Buttle – Parish Clerk

**APOLOGIES** Cllr M Rigby, Cllr H Landless

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** of the meeting held on **14<sup>th</sup> January 2019**.

**MIN 126** It was RESOLVED that the January Minutes 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

**MIN 127** it was RESOLVED that the meeting be adjourned for public participation. Those present gave examples of the difficulties experienced in connection with the roadworks at Preston Road, Longridge and the resultant diversions which were poorly sign posted. As the works were due to end imminently, it was agreed not to take any action.

### CONCERNS REGARDING THE DETERMINATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Members **noted** the update from the City Council regarding the timescales for re-calculating the 5yr supply; use of the Sedgefield approach to deal with the historic backlog; the likelihood that the supply figures may not change and the fact that the Local Plan will not be adopted until 2022.

### A. CALL IN PROCEDURES

Members were reminded that Mr Wallace MP has stated that he has asked the Secretary of State to 'call in' the recent planning decisions but as yet, an update has not been received.

Members were informed that the Parish Council may request a 'call in' by referring the applications to the National Planning Case Unit, but generally speaking, a referral is only successful if the case involves issues of more than local importance, involves national or regional controversy or involves a wider area than a single authority.

**MIN 128** Members felt the recent decisions would not meet the NPCU criteria and RESOLVED not to refer the applications, preferring instead to wait for a reply from Mr Wallace MP.

### B. LCC HIGHWAY COMMENTS

After the 11<sup>th</sup> January Planning Committee meeting, the Clerk emailed Preston City Council and Lancashire County Council to express concerns that Committee Members appeared to approve the application on the assumption that LCC will not defend an appeal.

LCC have replied by stating that officers from LCC and PCC attended a meeting prior to Christmas and *LCC asked that PCC defer the applications until they had completed their analysis of the M55 junction 1*. The reply continues *LCC will always defend its recommendations, but I can only assume that because LCC do not have the evidence base of the completed junction analysis, Preston Planning Officers have made an assumption that LCC could not defend the objection / comments if the application went to an appeal*.

PCC also confirmed that the meeting took place but they have stated that *they cannot refuse planning permission on highways grounds, if at the time of the decision, it has no evidence to support the refusal*. Similarly, *PCC cannot wait for the evidence as it is under a legal duty to determine the application within a statutory period of time - or another period of time agreed with the applicant*. PCC's reply continues that *LCC were unable to confirm when the evidence can be collated - and their comments that the modelling exercise may demonstrate spare capacity on the network - further weakens the case for the applications to be refused*.

Members considered the above information and acknowledged that the City Council is in a difficult position, because LCC has not carried out the modelling exercise. On this basis, it was not considered appropriate to refer the planning decisions to the Ombudsman.

**MIN 129** Members RESOLVED that the Clerk contacts the City Council to ask whether they contacted each applicant to see if they would be agreeable to an extension of time whilst the evidence was collated **and** that the Clerk contacts LCC, via the Parish Champion, to establish why LCC have been unable to collate the evidence - particularly when so many applications were being submitted – and when it is likely to be done.

### **C. MOTION OF NO CONFIDENCE IN PRESTON COUNCIL PLANNING OFFICERS.**

At the January meeting, Members were informed that Broughton Parish Council was submitting a Motion of 'no confidence' in Preston City Council Planning Officers. In light of the experiences in Whittingham, Members indicated their support for Broughton's stance, subject to further discussions at Preston Area Committee. At the PAC meeting, it was confirmed that Broughton have submitted their Motion and if Parishes wish to support them, they need to submit Motions of their own. A copy of Broughton's motion and the reply from the Director of Planning was circulated with the Parish Council Agenda.

Members discussed the situation regarding the 5 year supply and whether the recent spate of local planning applications were as a result of the Government's policy to build more homes or as a result of the City Council's interpretation of national and local planning policy. Members also discussed whether the City Council had sufficient information to determine where new homes should be built - in accordance with the level of need - and whether they were being proactive in ensuring that the submitted applications would help with the 5 year supply position. Members also took into account the weight of local feeling against the recent applications and felt that they had to take a stance to continue to champion the public's concerns. In light of the above discussions - which will be documented in the Motion's supporting statement, Members RESOLVED to submit the following Motion of No Confidence in Preston City Council Planning Department.

**MIN 130** *Whittingham Parish Council has no confidence in Preston City Council planning department to undertake their statutory duties, as a result of badly flawed City Council Planning Policy. For this reason the Council's Planning Committee cannot make effective judgements based on advice from officers.*

*The Parish Council considers the current Local Plan as not fit for purpose because the 5 year housing supply criteria, outweighs all other planning considerations in the Local Plan, including sustainability, so that a fair and balanced judgement on planning grounds cannot be made.*

*The Parish Council also considers the planning consultation process with the local community - including the Parish Council - as not fit for purpose, as the views of the local community are effectively ignored again because of the 5 year housing supply criteria outweighing all other issues.*

*The Parish Council also deplores the decision to extend the time for the adoption of the new local plan until 2022 for reasons as yet unspecified.*

The Motion and supporting statement will be sent to the Secretary of State with a copy to the Chief of Executive of Preston City Council.

### **D. CALL FOR SITES**

In response to a query about when the revised Local Plan would be adopted, the City Council replied – *As you are aware, the Central Lancashire authorities undertook a Call for Sites last year. For various reasons the Central Lancashire authorities have decided to repeat this Call for Sites exercise and this will take place probably between Jan and April.*

Members expressed grave concern that sites, which were originally rejected at the consultation stage of the current Local Plan, were subsequently included at a later date and having started the Call for Sites process last year, repeating the exercise simply gives the impression that the City Council is having several bites of the cherry – until it receives the outcome it wants! Members also expressed concern that at a Preston Area Committee

Meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> Sept, a City Councillor stated that *the City Council may specify how many sites are needed in each Parish as part of the Call for Sites process.*

Due to the number of applications already submitted and approved in Whittingham - and the possibility that more applications are on the way – Members wish to know how and why the City Council will specify the number of sites in each parish and why it will take until 2022 to produce the new Local Plan.

**MIN 131** Members RESOLVED to invite Mr Blackburn, Head of Planning Policy at the City Council to the March meeting of the Parish Council to discuss the above comments and the Call for Sites process. If Mr Blackburn is unable to attend, Members indicated that they would be prepared to meet him at the Town Hall.

### **CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS BEFORE COUNCIL**

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

**06/2019/0049** Extension to existing industrial building at Irelands Works, Brabiner Lane. Members noted that the extension is to provide additional storage for modern plant and machinery in connection with a local business. In general terms, the Parish Council wishes to encourage the economic growth of rural enterprise providing it is of a suitable size and scale so that it will not have a detrimental impact on the area.

**MIN 132** As the proposal relates to an existing use and as the extension is small in scale, Members RESOLVED not to object to the application.

**06/2019/0084** Prior notification submission for change of use from agricultural building to 1no.dwelling with associated building operations at Marimar, Cumeragh Lane, Preston. In general terms, the Parish Council would be opposed to a new dwelling in the open countryside in an unsustainable location, however it was noted that the application is for the conversion of an existing agricultural building and may be permitted development.

**MIN 133** Members RESOLVED to leave to planning.

**06/2019/0124** Outline application for 9 dwellings on land west of 208 Whittingham Lane. The clerk advised that the above application was received after the Agenda had been published. **MIN 134** It was RESOLVED that an objection would be made under delegated authority based on comments submitted on similar applications in the open countryside.

**LCC 2019/0006** Regularisation of departures from approved highway design in respect of Broughton by-pass. The clerk advised that the above application was received after the Agenda had been published, however as the application sought to regularise minor changes which have already taken place during construction, **MIN 135** Members RESOLVED not to defer the application to the March meeting.

Members noted that Homes England have requested a meeting of the Stakeholder group to discuss the submission of an outline application for up to 750 homes at the former Whittingham hospital site. **MIN 136** Members RESOLVED that the Chairman Cllr A Lewis should continue to represent the Parish Council at the stakeholder meeting.

### **ROAD CLOSURE PRESTON ROAD, LONGRIDGE**

The Parish Council was advised of a temporary closure of Preston Road, Longridge between the 6<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Feb. LCC were emailed with several questions regarding the works but they did not reply. Members noted the comments expressed under public participation and that there will be a temporary road closure on Inglewhite Road between the 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> March to enable pre patching works to take place. **MIN 137** Members acknowledged that the roadworks were necessary but as they are often carried out by contractors, they RESOLVED that there was not much more that they could do on this occasion.

### **HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING ALTERATIONS**

Members noted that Lancashire County Council are suggesting that Longridge and Clitheroe Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) should open from 9.00 – 5.00 for 5 days a week instead of 7 days. **MIN 138** Members RESOLVED to reply to the consultation by stating that they understand that the changes are necessary due to budget cuts and the changes are preferred to the closure of the sites.

## JANUARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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

### HOLME FELL – SOLICITOR'S FEES

Members NOTED the contribution of £2,500 from the resident group.

Members noted the reply from Winkwood Sherwood which states *the £2,500 referred to in the email of 20 Sept was an estimate of the costs. £5,750 is the actual costs incurred after the estimate was given. There was no duplication of work and a sum should not have been deducted from the invoice.* A revised invoice has been issued for the shortfall of £3,068.40. Members remain dissatisfied that the estimate has been doubled with no explanation or financial breakdown of the costs involved. **MIN 139** Members RESOLVED that the Clerk explains the Council's dissatisfaction and requests a fully itemised financial cost of the fees.

### ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

**MIN 140** Members RESOLVED to approve the following accounts for payment

DETAILS	PAYEE	AMOUNT	CHEQUE
Clerk Salary	J Buttle	£430.12	CQ 1385
Tax / National Insurance	HMRC	£107.40	CQ1386
New boundary signs including installation	LCC	£3,956.40	CQ 1387

### GOOSNARGH VILLAGE GREEN ACCESS AND SIGNAGE

At the January meeting, Members stated that horses were using the footpath near the tennis courts and that vehicles were also accessing the Village Green.

**MIN 141** As Goosnargh Village Green belongs to Preston City Council, Members RESOLVED to ask them if there were any by-laws covering what activities could and couldn't take place and if it would be possible to erect a sign confirming some of the prohibited activities. Members also RESOLVED to ask if bollards or a post and chain fence could be erected to deter vehicles. Members noted that if the City Council agrees to the suggestions, they may request that the works are funded by the Parish Council.

### CIL ITEMS

Members noted the following updates in relation to CIL items.

**Boundary Signs** – No further action. The signs have been installed and an invoice received.

**Circular walks** - Woodplumpton's Lengthsman has commenced an inspection of the walks.

**MIN 142** Members considered his initial report and RESOLVED that he continues with the other walks but they would like him to include grid references and a more detailed note of the works involved. It is understood that LCC may help with some of the repairs and the Clerk was requested to contact them. Members expressed a preference for all the walks to be inspected and repaired simultaneously, so that the leaflets can be published and issued as a complete collection.

**Speed cameras** – LCC provided maps of the 'final' locations for the SPID devices - subject to approval from the Network Management Highway Engineer. Further contact will be made once the safety report is received.

**Litter bins** – Following a complaint about an overflowing bin, PCC have been requested to empty the bin at Green Nook Lane. The Clerk will also make enquiries regarding the new bin at Halfpenny Lane.

**Bench** – The new bench will be similar in design and cost to the bench erected near 933 Whittingham Lane. PCC will be asked to install it as part of the works to install the bin.

**Drainage** – Envirocare have stated that drainage issues are not currently evident at Cumeragh Play area. New photos will be submitted if and when the problem occurs.

### NOTE NEW CORRESPONDENCE

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

1. the Parish Clerk will attend a training session run by the City Council on the 7<sup>th</sup> March in connection with the forthcoming elections.
2. Upper Whittingham has been added to United Utilities risk assessment study.
3. Following an accident in the shop's car park, Members stated that they believe the car park is the responsibility of the shop owners

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING** - The next meeting is on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 7.15pm.**