

## WHITTINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**AN ORDINARY** meeting of Whittingham Parish Council took place on **Mon 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017** at 7.00pm at Goosnargh Village Hall.

### **Members:**

Cllr Alan Lewis – Chairman  
Cllr Dave Hall  
Cllr Stan Hunter  
Cllr Harry Landless  
Cllr Ruth Mills

### **Members of the public**

J Cross  
L King - GWHG

Mrs Julie Buttle – Parish Clerk

**APOLOGIES** Cllr Margaret Rigby, Cllr Bernard Huggon

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

**MIN 160** 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**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**MIN 161** it was RESOLVED that the meeting be adjourned for public participation.

The Clerk replied to a question regarding the amount of land maintained by the Parish Council in Cumeragh.

Each year at the Annual Parish Council meeting, Members are requested to consider the practicalities of meeting in an upstairs room at Goosnargh Village Hall. As the venue is now proving problematical, it was suggested that Members should consider an alternative venue.

At the February meeting, it was stated that a room was available in St Mary's Church, Goosnargh. The Clerk has made further enquiries but the hire would require an unbudgeted expense which needs to be considered as an agenda item.

Members questioned whether the Council could meet in a venue outside the parish and whether the meeting could be held at the sports and social club. It was confirmed that the Clerk would look at the regulations before advising members of a suitable venue, hopefully before the April meeting.

It was RESOLVED that the meeting be reconvened.

### **GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS**

Details of the grounds maintenance quotes were circulated with the Agenda. Members considered the quotes and noted that the existing supplier no longer represented best value in terms of price. Members considered other factors including the length of service of the existing supplier, locality and reliability. After due consideration it was proposed that the Council should accept the quote offering the best financial value to residents.

**MIN 162** It was RESOLVED that the contract should be awarded to Envirocare.

To ensure a smooth transition to the new supplier, the Clerk will arrange for regular communication between the supplier and the Council.

Members noted comments made by Councillor Rawlinson (Preston City Council Cabinet Member for Resources) in relation to the political representation of Parish Councils and their alleged apathy in improving parks and open spaces. Members also noted that the Parish Council has not had a reply to the questions raised regarding the maintenance of Goosnargh Village Green following a meeting with officers on the 8<sup>th</sup> February.

**MIN 163** Members RESOLVED that the Clerk – in consultation with the Chairman - would issue a reply objecting to the political references and highlighting that the Parish Council can't make any decisions until the City Council responds to the questions raised.

### **CUMERAGH PLAY AREA MAINTENANCE**

The City Council has confirmed that the 2016/17 **Annual Inspection** of Cumeragh play area will take place before the end of March.

**MIN 164** Members NOTED the current situation with items identified in the last inspection report.

**Bark Pit** – As advised at the February meeting, the Clerk queried whether the depth of the bark would meet ROSPA guidelines and this resulted in a revised quote being submitted. The revised quote was more expensive than the 2<sup>nd</sup> placed quote, so the contract was awarded to the lower priced contractor. Works will commence shortly and should be complete by the end of March.

**Swing repair** – Replacement caps have been ordered for the swing and were fitted on the 7<sup>th</sup> March.

**Signs** – An ownership and usage sign is in the Notice Board but enquiries were made to erect a more visible ‘stand-alone’ sign. The approved contractor has not replied to requests to complete the works. The Clerk met with an alternative supplier on the 10<sup>th</sup> March but the quote was in excess of £400. Other quotes will be sought.

**Benches** – Integrate advised that the staff who could do the work were retiring so they are unable to carry out the repairs. Mr Cooper, who has worked for the Council previously has been asked to provide a quote and details of another contact have been noted. An appeal for a handyman is also included in the spring edition of the Parish Newsletter.

**2017/18 Weekly Inspections** – Further to **MIN 91** of the October meeting, the weekly inspection of the play area will change from PCC to Barton Grange on the 1st April.

### **CENTRAL LANCASHIRE EMPLOYMENT LAND STUDY**

Members were informed that Preston City Council have commissioned BE Group to undertake an Employment Land Study to identify the supply, demand and need for employment sites and premises.

Members considered employment opportunities with the Parish and noted that there were units at the Sandbank Estate and Ashley Hall. In addition planning permission has been granted for a new Aldi which will create 40 full time jobs and there will be 9000sqm of employment / light industrial space at the former Whittingham Hospital site creating 350 / 500 full time jobs. Concerns were expressed that Longridge has been identified as a key service centre which is attracting new homes but no employment opportunities.

**MIN 165** Members RESOLVED to respond to the consultation with the above points including a specific request that BE Group consult with Ribble Valley.

Further to MIN 146 Members NOTED that the Employment Skills Statement will form part of the planning condition - which the developer will be obliged to adhere to - but the monitoring and actions for failing to comply with the Statement are yet to be finalised.

### **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).

**06/2017/0174** Outline planning application for residential development for up to 30no. dwellings following demolition of existing buildings (access applied for only) at Dean Farm Warehouse, Pudding Pie Nook Lane, Preston.

Members expressed concern that a 2<sup>nd</sup> application has been submitted whilst an appeal decision is pending but the Clerk explained the City Council can consider an amended application and this application proposes a new access from Whittingham Lane rather than Pudding Pie Nook Lane. In addition the number of dwellings has increased from 24 to 30.

Members reiterated their comments on the initial application in that the City Council has an identified 5yr housing supply which does not include this application. The site is in the open countryside and is also included in an area of separation. To approve the development would be contrary to Policy 19 of the Core Strategy and Policy EN4 of the adopted Local Plan. In addition the site is not considered to be an infill site between 2 existing developments and is considered contrary to Policy EN1 of the adopted Local Plan.

When considering a site at Barton, the County Council objected to the application and stated they cannot offer support to development that impacts on the A6 at J1 of the M55 over and above the level of development within the Preston Local plan. Traffic will approach from Preston via the A6 and Broughton crossroads so the highway objection must also apply to this proposal. Members also stated that the site is not in a sustainable location particularly due to the infrequent bus service and drew attention to the lack of progress and monitoring in relation to Travel Plans for new developments.

Finally, Members consider there to be poor visibility at the proposed new entrance on to Whittingham Lane.

**MIN 166** Members RESOLVED to object to the application and requested that the application be called before planning committee, rather than be determined by delegated authority, as Members had overturned the previous recommendation for approval.

**06/2017/0194** New entrance lobby to side of rear extension, new double door entrance and landscaping at The Stags Head, 990 Whittingham Lane, Goosnargh.

**MIN 167** Members RESOLVED to support the application as the alterations were minor and could improve trade for a local business.

#### **INTERNAL AUDIT REQUIREMENTS**

**MIN168** following a review of the internal audit documents Members RESOLVED to approve Mr Slade as the Council's Internal Auditor and requested that the Clerk

- a) check if the fidelity guarantee needs increasing due to CIL,
- b) adds the Newsletter to public representation and the risk of libel
- c) adds the Christmas lights to the asset register

#### **FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2016 / 2017**

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

#### **E-ON ELECTRICITY CONTRACT**

E-ON offer a fixed and variable priced electricity plan over 1, 2 or 3 years.

**MIN 169** Members RESOLVED to renew the contract as a fixed price plan for 1 year as it was the cheapest option.

#### **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

**MIN 170** Members RESOLVED to approve the following accounts for payment

DETAILS	PAYEE	AMOUNT	CHEQUE
Clerk Salary	J Buttle	£396.35	CQ1236
Tax / National Insurance	HMRC	£93.40	CQ1237
Kiosk glass repair	Preston Glass & Glazing	£66.00	CQ1238
Playdale swing cap repair	J Buttle – paid by BACs	£15.48	CQ1239
Sept – Dec 1/4ly Expenses	J Buttle	£47.70	CQ1240

#### **CIL UPDATES**

**MIN 171** Members RESOLVED to approve the Annual CIL report stating the balance brought forward and the income and expenditure for 2016/17. In addition, Members considered a table identifying the current position in relation to CIL suggestions.

Members requested that the Clerk chase up a reply regarding the emptying of the litter / dog bins and include a request for 'no dog fouling' signs.

Members discussed an accident at Back Lane and requested that the Clerk look into the costs of Speed Indicator signs possibly to be located on Whittingham Road between Halfpenny Lane and the fire station, at the old police house on Cumeragh Lane and between Goosnargh Village Hall and Oliverson School.

#### **NEWSLETTER**

Members considered the draft edition of the Parish Council Newsletter and noted that it included the resignation of Cllr Mills who was thanked for her services to the Council. The article regarding the vacancy will need to be altered depending on the outcome of the statutory consultation / co-option procedures.

**MIN 172** Members RESOLVED to amend the article on dog fouling so that it includes an updated sign and made reference to the requirement to have bags or the means to clean up any mess.

#### **NOTE NEW CORRESPONDENCE**

Attention was drawn to new signs erected at Seed House farm. The Clerk will draw them to the attention of the planning department.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 7.00pm.**