

WHITTINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Council Meeting

The **ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING (AGM)** of Whittingham Parish Council took place on **Monday 12th May 2014** after the Annual Parish Meeting at Goosnargh Village Hall, Preston.

Members:

Cllr Stan Hunter
Cllr Margaret Rigby
Cllr Ruth Mills
Cllr Dave Hall
Cllr Lona Smith
Cllr Bernard Huggon
Cllr Alan Lewis

Members of the public

2 members of the public
PC Chris Banks

Mrs Julie Buttle (Clerk to the Parish Council)

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Members NOTED Standing Order 8 (b) *No person shall be nominated as Chairman of the Council if they have acted as Chairman of the Council for 2 years immediately prior to the Annual Parish Council Meeting, (adopted by Council on 12th Dec 2011).*

MIN 01/2014 Cllr Hall was proposed as Chairman. As there were no other proposals, it was RESOLVED that Cllr Hall be elected as Chairman unopposed. He duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Cllr Hall stated he was pleased to have the honour and thanked Cllr Lewis as the retiring chairman.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

MIN 02/2014 Cllr Lewis was proposed as Vice Chairman. As there were no other proposals, it was RESOLVED that Cllr Lewis be elected as Vice-Chairman unopposed. Cllr Lewis thanked the Clerk, fellow Cllrs and Cllr Hunter for the support he received during his period as Chairman.

APOLOGIES

Members were reminded that apologies are *recorded* in the Minutes but if a Councillor is absent for 6 consecutive months an apology must be *approved* by Council - prior to the 6 months elapsing. There were no apologies for this meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of the meeting held on 14th April 2014

MIN 03/2014 It was RESOLVED that the Minutes be approved and signed as a true record.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Members were reminded of the requirement to update their 'notification of interest' forms and to disclose any personal or prejudicial interests in relation to Council business. There were no declarations for this meeting.

APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES

Members were reminded that Parish Council Committees are subject to the same rules as Council meetings in that the meeting must be advertised, open to the public and minutes taken. A discussion took place on whether a monitoring sub-committee should be set up regarding the leisure arrangements and development at the former Whittingham hospital but a view was also expressed that discussions should be heard at full council meetings. It was stated that the planning consent makes provision for a joint committee of interested parties to be set up. **MIN 04/2014** The Clerk was requested to write to HCA to establish how this is progressing.

MIN 05/2014 Members were happy with current arrangements and RESOLVED not to set up any additional committee meetings but NOTED this can be reviewed at any time during the municipal year.

MIN 06/2014 It was RESOLVED that Cllr Huggon, Cllr Hall and Cllr Mills would represent Whittingham at the Preston Area Committee.

MIN 07/2014 It was RESOLVED that Cllr Mills would continue as Trustee at Goosnargh Village Hall

MIN 08/2014 It was RESOLVED that Cllr Hunter would continue as Trustee to Goosnargh & Whittingham United Charity.

It was NOTED that Guild Lodge has not held regularly meetings for some time consequently a Member was not appointed to attend. If the meetings do resume this will be a future Agenda item and the Clerk was requested to inform the CVRA.

ADMINISTRATION

MIN 09/2014 It was RESOLVED that

1. Meetings will continue to be held on the 2nd Monday of the month at Goosnargh Village Hall commencing at 7.00pm unless the Council directs otherwise as specified in Standing Orders, or the Clerk and Chairman agree there is insufficient business to proceed. Members NOTED that it may be necessary to start the October and December meetings at 7.30pm as the Clerk has another commitment. A decision on the start time will be made nearer the time.
2. Where possible, correspondence will be sent by email with the exception of the Agenda which will be delivered by hand and displayed in the Notice Boards. The Agenda includes a request for the public to contact the Clerk in advance if disabled access to the Hall is required.
3. All Councillors may sign cheques – with any 2 to sign. Members NOTED the requirement to pay by cheque has been revoked and electronic payments can be made provided there are adequate fraud prevention measures in the Financial Regulations. The Clerk is monitoring the situation within other Councils before proposing any payment alterations.
4. The powers delegated to the Clerk under Standing Order 38 were renewed.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

2 Longridge residents explained they had attended the meeting to listen to the representations for 190 houses on land at Inglewhite Road. The Chairman explained the Parish Council has been heavily involved and were fighting the battle with the developers and would continue to do so. Concerns were expressed that Longridge residents had been consulted on the proposals but did not have long to respond but residents on Halfpenny Lane had not been consulted at all.

PC Banks advised that the policing rotas had changed as Fulwood station would be closing on the 31st May and officers from Sharoe Green and Garrison would work from Broughton. There will be no boundaries to job allocation with the nearest officer being allocated to incidents. This may mean Broughton officers going out to incidents on the borders such as Garstang and Chipping. The police should be able to attend Parish Council meetings but if there is a problem they will email the Clerk.

It was stated that estates have not made any progress in using the Village Hall as a police office but locally the police felt the facility could be well used.

Crime in the area is still very low. A landrover was stolen locally but was recovered in Preston after being broken up for spare parts.

Demolition has started at the former hospital site and although there is security on the site, thefts are occurring as the site is not wholly secure. Poaching deer is a problem at Inglewhite and Redscar but it is being monitored by the wildlife crew. With regard to the enforcement of the 20mph limit, this is a County Council initiative consequently the police need to raise concerns with LCC who give 'permission' for the police to carry out traffic counts and speed enforcement. An officer from the LCC speed enforcement team wants to attend the Parish Council to explain the role further. PC Banks will ask them to approach the Clerk for meeting dates etc. It was RESOLVED that the meeting be reconvened.

CONSIDERATION OF RISK ASSESSMENT FOR CUMERAGH PLAY AREA

A draft risk assessment was discussed at the last meeting and the Clerk sent a copy to the CVRA as they have responsibility for the willow tunnel. A member of the CVRA has IOSH training and the risk assessment has been slightly amended to take account of the recommendations made. **MIN 10/2014** Members RESOLVED to approve the Risk Assessment.

Members NOTED that the post installation report has not been received and the City Council has not emailed copies of the weekly inspections nor has it invoiced the Parish Council for the inspections as agreed. It was stressed that the City Council has confirmed the inspections are taking place. **MIN 11/2014** Members RESOLVED that the Clerk formerly requests the reports as a matter of urgency

Members considered the wording for the play area sign. **MIN 12/2014** Members RESOLVED that the sign should be durable and vandal proof and if possible should be affixed to the rear of the existing notice board. Members further RESOLVED to delegate the purchase to the Clerk providing the cost is less than £100.

Members NOTED that the Clerk had met an officer from LCC to discuss the Village Green application and an amended plan has been submitted which omits the paths and borders around existing structures. Registration of the Village Green should now be advertised and processed.

TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS BEFORE COUNCIL

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

06/2014/0197 Erection of 1no residential dwelling, creation of parkland landscape, erection of outbuildings, walled garden, solar panels and access works at Langley Lane. Following an approach by local residents at the April meeting, Members had requested an extension of time to consider this application as the Parish Council was not notified as the application is in Barton Parish. Members reiterated the comments made in April that the property was over intensification and out of character for the area. **MIN 13/2014** Members RESOLVED to OBJECT to the application and concur with the CPRE objections which state the site is on good agricultural land in the open countryside with open views from the surrounding Bowland and Longridge fells. The tranquillity of this area of natural open countryside has to be given some weight in the decision. The building does not fit into the natural built and historic environment of Goosnargh and local stone would be more sympathetic to the character of the area. Concerns were also expressed regarding the lack of information on the proposed community use and the increase in traffic that will be generated from the parking and garaging of 12 cars.

06/2014/0248 Outline application for residential development (Class C3) of 8.04 hectares of land for up to 190no dwellings, with new highway access from Inglewhite road, public open space, internal access roads, plus landscaping and associated infrastructure land at Inglewhite Road.

Members noted the application is to the north of the Ridings site which has recently been granted planning permission for 200 dwellings which the Parish Council strongly objected to. **MIN 14/2014** Members RESOLVED to OBJECT to the application on the grounds that development in this location is not included in the Local Plan. Members noted the comments of the Development Control Officer which confirm that the site is located in an Area of Separation and if developed, a considerable portion of the AOS will be lost. Significantly the fields of this site act as a gap between Longridge and the hamlet of Halfpenny Lane and the existing view of Longridge with a backdrop of hills and fells will be lost. The development is not sustainable as there is no existing infrastructure and there is none proposed to support the developments already approved. Concerns are expressed that there have been no statutory consultations with United Utilities regarding the drainage. It was stated that the application can't be viewed in isolation as there are nearly 2,000 homes planned in the area and there appears to be very little consultation between Ribble Valley, Preston City and Lancashire County.

It is acknowledged that Preston does not have a 5yr housing supply but land has been allocated in NW Preston and Members expressed concern that 70% of development should be taking place on brownfield sites, not in the open countryside. Following a request, Members RESOLVED to adjourn for further public participation. It was stated that the application report states there is no standing water on the field but the field has poor drainage and is often flooded especially as the area is served by 3 brooks. Longridge is a small rural town and there are existing traffic problems on Berry Lane. If approved, this development will add to the traffic on the high street. Members agreed that Longridge may have aspirations to be a key service centre but it is not capable of growth without the supporting infrastructure in place. Members RESOLVED to reconvene the meeting.

06/2014/0285 Repair and maintenance building following demolition of existing building at Irelands Works Brabiner Lane Whittingham.

MIN 15/2014 Members RESOLVED to make no objections to the application as it supports local business.

SELF BUILD HOMES

Following the reluctance of developers to progress the Whittingham hospital site, changes in legislation encouraging the provision of custom build homes and the perception that residents may be more in favour of individual, smaller, affordable home, Members considered a paper by Cllr Huggon regarding self build homes (also referred to as custom build homes). **MIN 16/2014** Members RESOLVED to ask the City Council what proposals they have to assess the local demand in accordance with government policy.

CONSERVATION AREA UPDATE

Members instigated discussions with the City Council regarding a conservation area / local list. It was understood this matter would go before cabinet in March or April but this has not happened. Members expressed concerns that this and the inspection of the Local Plan have been held up and developers were able to progress planning applications in the area. **MIN 17/2014** Members RESOLVED that the Clerk contact the City Council to express concern that the conservation area appeared to be going nowhere and to request a further update.

END OF YEAR ANALYSIS

The Clerk presented the end of year financial report and statement of balances to the Annual Parish Meeting. Members NOTED that the internal audit had been completed and no issues had been raised. Members considered the variations between the budget and the year-end figures. Members NOTED that asset purchases and repairs which showed an underspend were paid in April.

MIN 18/2014 Members RESOLVED to carry forward the surplus balance of £650 in the parks and open spaces budget to finance new lights and Speedi Tree equipment this year.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1st April – 30th April 2014

The Chairman verified that the financial and bank statements had been reconciled.

MIN 19/2014 Members NOTED the Co-Op bank financial difficulties reported in the media, but RESOLVED to remain with the company.

INSURANCE

MIN 20/2014 Members NOTED that the insurance premium has been received at £891.80. Comparable quotes are being sought from other companies and Members RESOLVED to delegate the final decision to the Clerk by ensuring that the company chosen provides adequate cover and best value to the Council.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT AND RECEIPTS

Members NOTED and approved the following accounts already paid in accordance with Standing Order 26 (b) & (c)

	DETAILS	PAYEE	AMOUNT
CQ 1067	Telephone Kiosk – re-issue of CQ	B Tyrer	£275.00
CQ 1068	Bus Shelter Materials	KDC Build	£380.00
CQ 1069	E-on Electric Bill	E-On	£13.59
CQ 1070	Installation of Bench Whitt Lane	KDC Build	£300.00

MIN 21/2014 Members RESOLVED to approve the following accounts for payment

Goosnargh & Whittingham Festival	£500.00	CQ 1071
Goosnargh & Longridge Show	£250.00	CQ 1072
Jan – March 14 quarterly expenses	£81.98	CQ 1073
Clerk's May Salary	£392.33	CQ 1074
May Tax Contributions	£53.80	CQ 1075
Glasdon's Bench at Whittingham Rd	£462.08	CQ 1076
Mr L Slade Internal Audit	£85.00	CQ 1077

Members NOTED the comments made under public participation regarding the lack of progress on using Goosnargh Village Hall as police base.

MIN 22/2014 Members RESOLVED that the Clerk write to the Chief Superintendent stating that the Parish Council is supportive of the venture and is prepared to contribute financially in order to support the local police in the area.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Monday 9th June 2014** at **7.00pm** at Goosnargh Village Hall.

At the close of the meeting Members NOTED the change in operating hours for the demolition of Whittingham hospital and the Save Our Countryside information from the CPRE.