



WHITTINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting held on
Thursday 14th April 2022 at 7.15pm
in Goosnargh Village Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr Dave Hall - Chairman
Cllr Barbara Clarke
Cllr Eddie Marginson
Cllr Dave Price
Cllr Michelle Woodburn

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

PC Ruman Takhar
Peter Pemberton – Chair, Village Hall Trust
Mary Cooper – Whittingham Bowling Club
Gill Paton – Goosnargh Tennis Club
Julie Buttle – Parish Clerk

APOLOGIES Cllr Tony Brooks, Cllr Bernard Huggon.

The Clerk informed Members that the County and City Councillors had sent their apologies as they were attending a City Council meeting. Cllr Woollam had also advised that he will not be standing for re-election to the City Council in May.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of the meeting held on **10th March 2022**.

MIN 21/151 it was **RESOLVED** that the Chairman sign the Minutes as a true record.

TO ACCEPT DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND TO CONSIDER ANY WRITTEN REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

MIN 21/152 Cllr Woodburn declared a personal interest in the donation to the Goosnargh Village Hall roof fund as she is a member of the Management Committee. Cllr Clarke declared a personal interest in the flood lights at the Tennis Club as her husband is a member.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

MIN 21/153 It was **RESOLVED** that the meeting be adjourned for public participation.

- a) PC Rumandeep Takhar introduced himself to the Council and explained he will be covering the rural area alongside PCSO Julie Anyon. He intends to come to future meetings to network and feedback on issues. He is aware of the speeding concerns and will be involved in an operation with police cadets on Saturday. In response to a question, he confirmed that he is based in Preston and also covers Sharoe Green and Fulwood. He does not have a specific day to cover the rural areas but when attending jobs, he will patrol the area and speak to people. He was thanked for his attendance.
- b) Gill Paton explained that 4 floodlights are working at the tennis club but before repairing the others, they wish to know if Members will support a proposal to keep the lights on until 10.00pm for 12 days a year during April & May and Aug & Sept. Currently the lights are switched off at 9.00pm to comply with a planning condition and matches are either suspended due to poor light or transferred to Broughton. If the proposal is rejected, the Club will struggle to host tournaments. It was explained that the lights are designed to shine onto the court and a deciding point will be played to ensure matches end at 10.00. A previous application to extend the hours was rejected by the City Council due to residents' objections and the Club hopes the Parish Council will support the proposal. Gill was thanked for her presentation which will be considered under the agenda item.
- c) Mary Cooper introduced herself as the new secretary to Whittingham Bowling Club. She stated that Whittingham had 7 bowling greens previously but now there is just one. The Club is keen to encourage more members as the game is suitable for all ages. Bowling aids are available to help players with mobility problems and a bowling arm was demonstrated to Members. The Club would like assistance to purchase a 'lifter' and 3 arms of different lengths which players could try before purchasing their own. In addition, the Club would like to replace 4 benches in recycled plastic. It was confirmed that these can be ordered, delivered and installed by the Club. The Club will be holding 2 open days (1st & 29th May) to encourage more players to try the sport and it was requested if this could be included in the Parish Newsletter. Mary was thanked for her presentation and it was confirmed the requests will be confirmed under the agenda items.

d) Mr Pemberton, Chair of Goosnargh Village Hall Trust explained that the Management Committee has a clear and defined duty to keep the building in a fit state of repair but unfortunately, the roof is in urgent need of repair and he was present to approach the Parish Council for assistance as Custodian Trustee. He explained his belief that the Custodian Trustee has a duty to take over the building if the Management Committee considers they can no longer meet their obligations.

He stated that the village thrives on community activities, many of which are based in the Village Hall and every pound spent on the building would benefit the community as a whole. A structural report has been commissioned and the repairs are likely to cost £100,000 + VAT but they could increase to £150,000. The Management Committee have established a 'Fix the Roof' fund and have submitted an Expression of Interest form for a £30,000 grant from the Lancashire Environment Fund. However, the process takes time and the Management Committee would like to 'box off' £120,000 to secure property quotes and grant requests. If the request is accepted, the Management Committee can go to tender for the work which is unlikely to take place before the end of the year.

In response to questions, it was confirmed that debris has fallen from the ceiling tiles and hirers are advised to check the floor for damp patches before use. It was acknowledged that until the repairs are carried out, temporary measures can be put in place to ensure the building can be used safely. It was stated that a firm of surveyors would project manage the repairs to the roof.

Mr Pemberton was thanked for his passionate presentation but did not stay to hear the Parish Council's discussion on the matter.

It was RESOLVED that the meeting be reconvened.

TENNIS CLUB FLOOD LIGHTING SUPPORT

MIN 21/154 Members considered the flood lighting request and **RESOLVED** to seek the opinion of local residents by issuing a leaflet with a reply slip, to those most likely to be affected. The Clerk will compile an address list and write the leaflet which Cllr Woodburn offered to deliver.

2021/22 END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS

The Chairman confirmed that the finance and bank statements had been reconciled. Members NOTED that the Clerk had credited £170.95 PAYE to the Council following an error on the March salary. The Chairman initialled the credit on the April bank statement.

MIN 21/155 Members **RESOLVED** to approve the following invoice already paid in accordance with Standing Order 2020 15 (xii)

2021/22 Quarterly Play Inspection	Barton Grange	£402.00	BACS	Ref 83
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MIN 21/156 Members noted the account variances and **RESOLVED** to approve the End of Year Account Statement so that the accounts can be passed to the Internal Auditor.

OPEN SPACES SOCIETY 2022/23

Members stated that the renewal should not be automatic and noted that the Parish Council has not contacted the Open Spaces Society for advice in recent years.

MIN 21/157 Members **RESOLVED** to renew the membership at a cost of £45.00 as their help may be required regarding the current discussions on the use of Goosnargh Village Green.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS - MEMBERSHIP 2022/23

The Clerk explained that LALC provides training and information on national policies and can be approached for independent advice on Parish Council matters. Membership includes a £20 contribution towards the provision of a secretary to Preston Area Committee.

Members expressed concern regarding the cost, especially as training is charged separately.

MIN 21/158 A Member objected to the amount of £499.70 but Members **RESOLVED** to review and monitor the value of the Membership for the forthcoming year.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

MIN 21/159 Members **RESOLVED** to approve the following accounts for payment

Jan – March 2022 Expenses	Mrs J Buttle	45.03	BACS
April salary (New Tax year)	Mrs J Buttle	560.73	BACS
April PAYE Clerk	HMRC	140.00	BACS
Beacon Drive electric	E-On	15.68	DD

GRANT / DONATION REQUESTS 2022/23

MIN 21/160 Members **RESOLVED** to award £100 to the Goosnargh Little Show in accordance with the Council's grant conditions.

MIN 21/161 Members **RESOLVED** to waive the grant policy restriction which states grants will not be permitted to exceed 20% of the total budget and **RESOLVED** to award £510 to the Bowling Club to enable them to purchase a lifter and 3 bowling arms at the full price. If the items are discounted, the Bowling Club should inform the Parish Council of any surplus.

2021/22 CIL EXPENDITURE / ANNUAL REPORT

MIN 21/162 Members **RESOLVED** to approve the end of year CIL Finance report for 2021/22.

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) BUSINESS PLAN

Members discussed how and when items were placed on the CIL Business Plan and were given a verbal update on the progress of each item.

Members noted that Homes England have reconsidered their position on the woodland walk, and now require the Parish Council to commission contractors to install the path at the Council's expense. This will be discussed with Homes England at the site meeting on the 19th April.

Members noted that whilst the Council has spent CIL monies totaling £69,871, the 5-year cumulative income exceeds the expenditure. It was noted that some organisations had cited Covid as a reason for delayed orders, however, contact has been made with all the organisations and many items should be progressed this financial year.

It was also noted that several items have been added to the CIL Business Plan to identify an intention to use CIL funding, even though the actual cost of the project is not yet known.

a) USE OF GOOSNARGH VILLAGE GREEN (CIL)

Further to MIN 21/140 of the March meeting, the Village Green working group confirmed that a meeting will take place with an officer from the City Council on the 26th April.

b) ADDITIONAL LIGHTING ON GOOSNARGH VILLAGE GREEN (CIL)

Further to MIN 21/141 of the March meeting, Cllr Marginson has discussed the proposal with the City Council who are prepared to seek quotes for the works providing the Parish Council confirms it will fund the costs in writing.

MIN 21/163 The Clerk has discussed the matter with the City Council but will confirm the intention to fund the works - subject to written quotes being obtained by the City Council.

a) GOOSNARGH VILLAGE HALL (CIL)

Members reflected on the points made during public participation and noted an article from a Community Development Officer at ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) which explains that *a Custodian Trustee has no obligations towards a charity, other than acting under a lawful instruction in the context of the property title. Furthermore, a management committee cannot abandon a Charity on the assumption the Custodian Trustee will 'take over', as a Custodian Trustee has no powers to administer the Charity and should not seek to do so.*

Members stated that they valued the Village Hall as a community asset and were sympathetic towards the repairs, however, concerns were expressed regarding the cost, particularly as Members were refreshing the Parish Plan and wished to prioritise funding towards outcomes currently being identified.

Members noted that although a structural survey has been carried out, the likely cost of the repairs fluctuated from £100,000 to £150,000 which could be reduced through grants and other funding initiatives.

Members expressed an intention to include the repairs as a CIL expense, however there was a reluctance to commit to a value until Members had sight of the structural survey and quotes.

MIN 21/164 It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk respond to the Chairman's letter by explaining that as Custodian Trustee, the Parish Council is not under an obligation to help the Village Hall financially. However, the Parish Council is prepared to consider the matter further but before it can do so, Members require a copy of the structural survey and quotes so the matter can be considered at the 12th May meeting. In addition, Members request that the Management Committee identify and prioritise other repairs so that the Parish Council can consider items in a timely manner alongside other budget expenses.

CONSIDERATION OF NEW ITEMS FOR THE CIL BUSINESS PLAN

Members noted that LCC have confirmed that flowering trees can be planted in the verges on the eastern side of Beacon Drive providing the Council applies for a licence and maintains responsibility for the trees.

MIN 21/165 Members **RESOLVED** to consult Beacon Drive residents by a 'return slip' letter.

Members referred to the letter from the Bowling Club and noted that the current benches are over 15 years old and are becoming unstable. A preference was expressed for 4 recycled plastic, benches manufactured by KBS depot.

MIN 21/166 Members **RESOLVED** to purchase 4 KPS benches at £355 + VAT. The Clerk will liaise with the Bowling Club regarding ordering and payment. It was confirmed that the Bowling Club would install the benches.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS - CONSIDERED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

MIN 21/167 Members **RESOLVED** to approve the March delegated planning comments.

PARISH PLAN REFRESH

Members have held 2 working group meetings to discuss a refresh of the Parish Plan and a discussion draft was emailed to all on the 10th April. The covering email suggested a further meeting to prioritise the objectives in the tables at the end of the document. A date will be confirmed by email.

Members noted the NALC information regarding an online Neighbourhood Planning session but stated the Parish Plan consultation needs to be completed first.

MIN 21/168 Members **RESOLVED** that they would prefer to have a group presentation on Neighbourhood Plans once comments have been received on the Parish Plan consultation.

NEWSLETTER

Members noted the draft Spring version of the Parish Council Newsletter which will be printed and delivered in time to advertise the 12th May Annual Parish Meeting.

MIN 21/169 It was **RESOLVED** that Members would email any amendments or comments to the Clerk by the 22nd April.

APPOINTMENT OF A HANDYMAN

Prior to the meeting Cllr Price circulated a Work Description and Conditions of Contract for the Parish Lengthsman which was based on a joint contract between Woodplumpton Parish Council and LCC. LCC's commitment to the Lengthsman's scheme, has since been replaced by the Public Rights of Way Local Delivery Scheme which poses several questions regarding indemnities, purchase of materials and arbitration in the event of a dispute.

MIN 21/170 As the Clerk has contacted LCC to query what should be included in the Contract, it was **RESOLVED** that the item be deferred until a reply is received.

NOTE NEW CORRESPONDENCE

Members **NOTED** the following updates on current matters / new correspondence received since the issue of the agenda.

- a) Following the Parish Council's concerns that the drainage infrastructure can't cope with the additional housing proposed at Halfpenny Lane and Inglewhite Road, United Utilities have confirmed that the 3 discharge points all connect to the existing network.
At present they are unable to commit to an upgrade but their investment programme is being continually reviewed. In the meantime, flooding incidents should be reported to their 24hr contact centre on 03456 723 723. The Clerk will add this to the website.
- b) The Clerk is waiting for the report on the use of GATSO cameras and has requested some free, speed management resources from LCC.
The SPIDS at Halfpenny Lane are working well, but the Whittingham Lane SPID still won't connect to the blue tooth device. As the Council needs the data to demonstrate the number of speeding incidents, the device will need to be repaired at a cost of £125.
- c) Homes England have advised they will be carrying out some work on the surface water gullies on the footpaths in Whittingham cemetery within the next couple of weeks. The work will not require the use of machinery.
- d) Cllr Woodburn stated that she has been able to contact 2 relatives of Beatrice Blackhurst who are happy to give their permission for the City Council to name a street after her. Their consent will be forwarded to the City Council.
- e) Cllr Clarke advised that the City Council had responded to a fly tipping incident on Brabiner Lane but had not removed all the items. Cllr Clarke was requested to send the fly tipping location / log number to the Clerk and she will request that they attend again.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be the Annual Council Meeting on Thursday 12th May 2022 which takes place after the Annual Parish Meeting.

The Annual Parish Meeting starts at **6.30pm** and provides an opportunity for community representatives to update the Council on their work. It also provides an opportunity for local groups or organisations to attend and update the Council on any grants received.