



WHITTINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
on Thursday 12th Sept 2024 at 7.15pm
in Goosnargh Village Hall – downstairs

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr Dave Hall - Chairman
Cllr Tony Brooks
Cllr Martin Carefoot
Cllr Michelle Woodburn

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

County Cllr Sue Whittam,
City Cllr Steve Whittam,
Jan Finch (Acting Clerk for the meeting)

APOLOGIES

The Chairman expressed his and the Parish Council's condolences to the Clerk on her recent bereavement and thanked Jan Finch for stepping in to Clerk the meeting.

Apologies were also received from Cllrs Barbara Clarke, Anthony Eccles and Dave Price.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11th JULY 2024.

MIN 24/25.58 Members **RESOLVED** that the Chairman sign the Minutes as a true record.

TO ACCEPT DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Cllr Woodburn declared a non-pecuniary interest relating to Goosnargh in Bloom as she is a member of the community group.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

MIN 24/25.59 Members **RESOLVED** to adjourn the meeting for public participation.

City Cllr Steve Whittam reported that he is still dealing with anti-social behaviour on the former Whittingham hospital site. He had also contacted the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding the use of GATSO cameras but had not yet had a response. He was asked whether someone would come to speak to the Parish Council and City Cllr Whittam agreed to ask. County Cllr Whittam advised that Councillors and residents use the survey on priorities recently circulated by the Police and Crime Commissioner to make the case for GATSO cameras.

Further to emails circulated in August regarding the use of UK Shared Prosperity Funding to improve the drainage at Goosnargh Green, Councillors asked for clarification on where the work is to be done as the City Council own Goosnargh Village Green site and the Parish Council owns the Cumeragh Village Green site. Cllr Whittam agreed to find out more details.

County Cllr Whittam advised that she had nothing to report.

Cllr Woodburn reported that she had reported a street light out on Love Clean Streets. She also advised that part of the public footpath on Goosnargh Lane is currently closed but there are no signs to show the closure. County Cllr Whittam advised that the developer is responsible for putting up temporary closure signs and Cllr Woodburn agreed to talk to them.

Cllr Woodburn queried why the war memorial on Beacon Drive only mentions WW1 not WW2. Cllr Hall advised that the memorial was installed to commemorate the centenary of the start of WW1 but may also be used to remember those who have died in other conflicts.

Cllr Woodburn asked about the recent news that Goosnargh Oliverson's is planning to expand. County Cllr Whittam advised that the County Council had asked every school if it wished to expand and the village school had replied in the affirmative. In response to a question, she reported that the new school on Whittingham Park is still due to go ahead even if the village school expands. There will be a formal consultation and this will be on the October agenda.

The Police sent an email advising that there had been several thefts of keyless vehicles in the rural areas, so residents are advised to keep the fobs locked away. 2 youngsters will be spoken to regarding damage to the village hall toilets.

As there were no more items raised, the meeting was reconvened.

12th Sept 2024 - Minutes

NO COLD CALLING ZONE / SIGNS

Following a request at the July meeting for “No Cold Calling” signs the Clerk had established that there were two options. Option 1 is to request stickers for residents to display in their homes and Option 2 is to ask that a No Cold Calling Area (NCCA) is set up, recognising that these have no legal status.

MIN 24/25.60 Members **RESOLVED** that the Clerk ask LCC if a NCCA can be set up to cover not just the 20mph hour area but also Goosnargh (some parts of which fall under Goosnargh Parish Council who would need to be consulted), Whittingham Park and Cumeragh village.

Members further **RESOLVED** to request 200 stickers, the availability of which will be advertised through the Parish Newsletter, with Members to decide how the stickers are distributed.

LCC HIGHWAY ISSUES

Members **noted** a reply from LCC highways stating that the Cumeragh Lane bend has been inspected but as there is a ‘bend ahead’ warning sign, no further traffic calming measures are proposed prior to the bend. Discussions are still taking place with the developer regarding the barrier / missing chevron sign. A copy of LCC’s reply is on the Parish Council website.

After the July meeting, a complaint was received regarding parking on Church Lane and the Clerk queried whether LCC would consider the use of parking cones or double yellow lines.

LCC’s reply stated that they would not support the use of traffic cones nor would they install double yellow lines as the area has a good safety record and there have been no complaints from bus operators. With regards to cars parking outside the Post Office, LCC consider that parked cars may trigger drivers to pay greater attention at the junction and any efforts to stop parking may have the unintended consequence of increasing speed.

MIN 24/25.61 Members acknowledged the reply and **RESOLVED** that as obstructive parking is a police issue, any concerns should be reported to them.

COMMEMORATIVE TREE – GOOSNARGH VILLAGE GREEN

Members noted that an Ash Tree on the Church Lane side of the Village Green, had been felled by the City Council as it was suffering from Ash Die Back.

MIN 24/25.62 Members **RESOLVED** to replace it with a commemorative tree in memory of serving Councillor Eddie Marginson - subject to approval from the City Council and Cllr Marginson’s family. Members further **RESOLVED** to set a budget of £200 for a tree and £50 for a plaque. As this is an unbudgeted item, any expense will be financed from accrued bank interest.

2023/24 CONCLUSION OF AUDIT

Councillors noted that annual Audit has been concluded with no matters arising and that the Clerk will arrange for the conclusion of the Audit to be advertised by the 30th Sept deadline.

MIN 24/25.63 Members **RESOLVED** to approve payment of the Audit invoice of £756.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1st – 31st August 2024

The Chairman verified that the finance and bank statements have been reconciled.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT AND RECEIPTS

MIN 24/25.64 Members **RESOLVED** to note the following invoices already paid in accordance with Standing Order 2023 15 (xii)

DETAILS	PAYEE	AMOUNT	METHOD
Pitch - Repairs to goal post	J Cummings	£58.37	Ref 49
July Grounds Maintenance	Nurture	£664.62	Ref 50
Delivery of Summer Newsletter	JPP Media	£156.00	Ref 51
Printing of Summer Newsletter	City Council	£276.25	Ref 52
Clerk Salary Aug	J Buttle	£1,522.11	Ref 53
PAYE	HMRC	£212.37	Ref 54
Employer Nat Ins	HMRC	£141.74	Ref 55

Pension	NEST	£88.55	Ref 56
E-On bill	E-On	£18.23	Ref 57
Pitch - Mowing 23/24 + 24/25	L Walling	£1584.00	Ref 58

MIN 24/25.65 Members **RESOLVED** to approve the following accounts for payment

DETAILS	PAYEE	AMOUNT	METHOD
Aug Grounds Maintenance	Nurture	£664.62	BACs
SPID solar panel, repairs & install	Traffic Technology	£2,298.00	BACS
Clerk Salary Sep	J Buttle	£1,522.11	BACs
PAYE	HMRC	£212.37	BACs
Employer Nat Ins	HMRC	£141.74	BACs
Pension	NEST	£88.55	DD
E-On bill	E-On	£18.23	DD

GOOSNARGH IN BLOOM

Members **noted** that Goosnargh in Bloom went through to the second round of the Best Kept Village competition but did not make the final. Results for Individual entries - Tennis Club, Village Hall, Memorial Gardens, Trinity Methodist Church, Whittingham Bowling Club, Goosnargh Village Green and the bus shelters – will be announced in October.

Members noted that a donation of £500 had been set aside in the 2024/25 budget to allow the group to continue their work.

MIN 24/25.66 Members **RESOLVED** to approve a donation of £300 to allow the group to replace bedding plants with hardy plants over the winter months.

As Cllr Woodburn did not take part in the decision having declared a non-pecuniary interest.

BEACON DRIVE – CHRISTMAS TREE

Members noted that last year's Christmas tree lights were very dim and the tree was not a "feature". Nurture, with whom the Council has a package to supply, erect, dress and remove a Christmas tree in accordance with health and safety standards and risk assessments had suggested 2 options. A leave the tree where it is but add new LED lights and B move the tree into the grassed area so that a bigger 'feature' tree can be erected each year.

MIN 24/25.67 Members **RESOLVED** to pursue Option A, purchasing lights at a cost of £840 and a 16ft tree at a cost of £510 both with VAT.

Note - Option B was not dismissed. Members requested more information on cabling etc with a view to planting a slower growing, living Christmas tree in the future.

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY - BUSINESS PLAN

a) Update on existing issues

GOOSNARGH VILLAGE GREEN – DRAINAGE / GYM EQUIPMENT

Members **noted** that the City Council have resolved to use funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF) to upgrade drainage on the Village Green. As stated under public participation, Cllr Whittam will find out exactly what is proposed, so that a meeting can be requested to cover both the drainage and the proposed. new gym equipment.

WOODLAND WALK ON WHITTINGHAM LANE

Members **noted** that Homes England had not replied to any emails over the summer and that the Clerk will continue to raise the issue with them.

PROW LEAFLETS

Members noted that Cllr Eccles had checked the Pudding Pie Nook walk and sent additional information to the Clerk. He has also walked the Cumeragh Canter walk and advised that the leaflet information needs updating.

MIN 24/25.68 Members **RESOLVED** that the Clerk and Cllr Eccles update the information and arrange for the signs and leaflets to be printed.

b) New Suggestion

CUMERAGH PLAY AREA

Following a risk inspection at Cumeragh play area, the balancing logs need replacing and the willow tunnel needs pruning. Both items are being actioned by the Clerk.

Members were advised that the play area has approx. half a dozen concrete benches with wooden slats which were last repaired in 2017. The slats are beginning to rot and the benches are well past their lifespan. In addition, the Council considered a proposal to 'wet pour' the surface under the play tower, however, due to drainage concerns, bark chippings were used instead. These also have a short life span and will eventually need topping up.

MIN 24/25.69 Members **RESOLVED** to add new benches, drainage and a wet pour surface under the play tower to category 2 of the CIL Business Plan so that quotes can be obtained.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Under MIN 24/25.41 of the June meeting, Members resolved that the Council delegate the fine tuning of the 'Invitation to Tender' to the Clerk and Cllr Price. As stated at the July meeting, the Clerk contacted several Councils to seek advice on the document and how to progress it.

Members **noted** that the Procurement Officer at Preston City Council has suggested a few tweaks to ensure the document is aligned to the RIBA cycle and has also suggested that the evaluation of any submissions is broadened, so that an unsuccessful bidder can't challenge a decision to appoint. Following his suggestion, the documents have been sent to the CEO of Preston City Council with a request that the Officer is granted some capacity to work on the project. If the request is granted, the final document may be advertised on the City Council procurement portal which will give bidders the assurance that it is compliant from a procurement perspective. The Officer has also offered to assist Members with the evaluation process and formalising a contract to be issued to the successful bidder.

MIN 24/25.70 Members **RESOLVED** to take up the offer of professional support and advice from the Procurement Officer if the offer is confirmed by the CEO of Preston City Council.

GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION – HOUSING DEMAND

Members were reminded that the Parish was at risk of new housing applications being approved, when the City Council could not deliver a housing supply of **507** homes pa, however the applications were refused, when the Government decided that Councils could use the standard methodology for calculating housing need which brought the requirement down to **269** homes pa. The newly elected Government's proposals are to put the figure up to **662** homes pa.

MIN 24/25.71 Members **RESOLVED** to respond to the Government's proposals with the following points

- The Government's proposal is for 1.5 million houses to be built in 5 years. This will result in a large number of additional houses to be built in the parish but this is considered to be a political decision which is not based on local need. How was the number of houses and the timescale identified?
- New homes planned at the former hospital site will double the size of the village, so the Parish Council would object to any further increase. It is the Local Plan which should identify local housing need and concerns are expressed that this consultation will further delay the development of the Local Plan.
- The existing infrastructure is insufficient and the proposals do not take into account any additional required infrastructure.
- There is a significant amount of derelict housing in Preston which could be brought back into use. Brownfield development should always take priority over greenfield.
- The Parish Council wishes to retain the standard methodology giving 269 new homes per annum as it is based on local need.
- The Government should listen to local people.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS - CONSIDERED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

MIN 24/25.72 Members **RESOLVED** that there were no objections to the delegated representations on the following applications.

06/2024/0775 removal of affordable housing due to policy change and

06/2024/0776 addition of garages to 5no. dwellings on land to the north of Inglewhite Road,

06/2024/0821 single residential dwelling at North Lodge, Guild Park, Cumeragh Lane, Preston

06/2024/0845 Extension to rear of Goosnargh Methodist Church, Whittingham Lane, Broughton.

06/2024/0848 vary the walled garden and add a greenhouse to a manor house at Langley Lane,

06/2024/0875 vary the approved plans for 4 dwellings at Civil Aviation, Whittingham Lane

Members noted that there is no update on the enforcement investigation for the portacabins on Halfpenny Lane and **06/2023/1091** for 7 dwellings on the frontage of Ashes Farm at Halfpenny Lane has still not been determined.

NOTE NEW CORRESPONDENCE

Members **noted** the following updates.

During August, the Clerk copied Members into correspondence from Electricity NW who wished to enter into a Wayleave Agreement to lay a cable under the Parish Council owned land at Cumeragh Village. The cable will now be laid under the access road.

Following the increase in scam emails purporting to come from Councillors, the Clerk has suggested that email signatures could include the Council logo and be standardised to increase authenticity. Members agreed in principle and requested that an example be emailed for adoption at the October meeting.

Due to the absence of the Clerk for compassionate reasons and the number of items on the Agenda, consideration of the new Financial Regulations was deferred to the Oct meeting.

DATE OF NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

The next scheduled meeting will be on **Thurs 10th Oct 2024 at 7.15pm** in Goosnargh Village Hall.

END