



## WHITTINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

An ordinary meeting of Whittingham Parish Council took place on **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> Oct 2021** at 7.15pm in Goosnargh Village Hall.

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr D Hall - Chairman  
Cllr T Brooks  
Cllr B Clarke  
Cllr B Huggon  
Cllr M Woodburn

### MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Mrs Julie Buttle – Parish Clerk  
2 residents

### APOLOGIES

All members were present so there were no apologies for absence.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** of the meeting held on **9<sup>th</sup> Sept 2021**.

**MIN 21/67** it was RESOLVED that the Chairman sign the Sept Minutes as a true record.

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

There were no declarations of interests.

### CO-OPTION

The Clerk advised that electoral services have confirmed the Parish Council may fill both vacancies in Higher Ward by co-option. An email was sent to an interested resident on the 12<sup>th</sup> Oct but he was not present at the meeting.

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

**MIN 21/68** It was RESOLVED that the meeting be adjourned for public participation.

2 Members of the public attended as observers and expressed an interest in the Council vacancies. The Clerk explained the process for applying and will issue a confirmation email. The Chairman reiterated the need to bring the Council back up to full strength.

The Clerk referred to an email requesting that Short Lane be re-instated to 2-way traffic. As the resident didn't attend, the Chairman suggested the email be discussed under the agenda item.

It was questioned when the 20mph limit will be introduced on the Taylor Wimpey estate. The Clerk advised this can't happen until the roads are adopted by LCC. Taylor Wimpey are in touch with LCC regarding this, however, once the roads are adopted there is likely to be a 6-8 week consultation on the 20mph Traffic Regulation Order.

It was confirmed that CIL expenditure and support for the scout hut will be on the November Agenda.

### UNITED UTILITIES ROADWORKS / DIVERSION

As previously discussed, Whittingham Lane is temporarily closed whilst new water pipes are laid by United Utilities. (UU) The works are likely to continue to 18<sup>th</sup> November. Traffic from Broughton is being diverted along Langley Lane, however, motorists used Short Lane to cut back on to Whittingham Lane and avoid the lengthy diversion. Following several incidents on Short Lane, Highways and UU amended the Traffic Regulation Order to make Short Lane one way with priority given to traffic exiting Whittingham. Members acknowledged that the alteration was unpopular, however the decision was taken on safety grounds. Members also acknowledged that as traffic can still use Langley Lane / Goosnargh Lane / Church Lane to access Whittingham Lane, traffic on Church Lane is particularly bad due to parked cars and School traffic. **MIN 21/69** In the absence of a named officer / contact details for Highways, it was RESOLVED that any concerns should be referred to Highways via County Cllr Whittam who has confirmed that she has been liaising with Highways and UU regarding the diversions.

Reference was made to a letter from Highways announcing a temporary closure of Inglewhite Road / Carron Lane / Bilsborrow Lane for resurfacing. Concerns were expressed that this is the diversion route for HGVs affected by the Whittingham Lane closure. Cllr Whittam was informed of the letter and has referred the matter to Highways. **MIN 21/70** It was RESOLVED that the Clerk would request an update as the works are due to start on the 25<sup>th</sup> October.

Whilst the new water pipes will provide enough water to serve around 90,000 homes across Lancashire, no mention has been made regarding sewer capacity. Cllr Huggon referred to UU's attendance at a Parish Council meeting in 2018, where UU explained that they do not object to planning applications as they cannot legally refuse connection to a sewer, however, they were commissioning Developer Impact Reports to look into the amount of new development across Lancashire. **MIN 21/71** it was RESOLVED that the Clerk contact UU for an update.

### **SPEEDING TRAFFIC**

Members NOTED the Clerk has contacted County Cllr Edwards (Cabinet Member for Highways) who will look at specific areas of concern, however as he is busy - and as the UU works are distorting traffic flows - it is likely to be the New Year before he can attend a meeting.

Members were informed that a mobile enforcement camera was in use on Whittingham Lane on the 4<sup>th</sup> October. Members NOTED that the Clerk has submitted a Freedom of Information request to establish the number of vehicles, percentage speeding and number of tickets issued.

With regards to the Community Tool Kit, **MIN 21/72** it was RESOLVED that the Tool kit suggestions should be mentioned in the Newsletter and added to the website to see if residents wish to engage in any of the community campaigns. The Clerk will also make enquiries about the Community Road Watch Scheme - where volunteers are trained to use a speed gun - as this is not mentioned in the Community Toolkit.

Members were informed of LCC's comments regarding the need for an 'anti-race' feature on the Speed Indicator device. **MIN 21/73** This has been added to the device on Whittingham Lane, but Members RESOLVED not to add it to the devices on Halfpenny Lane unless there is a marked reduction in speeding incidents on Whittingham Lane. It was also noted that there has been a significant increase in traffic speeding out of Whittingham towards Broughton, probably due to the Whittingham Lane diversion at Broughton.

When reflecting all of the above points, Members stated that whilst the measures may help, their preference is for an enforceable Gatso camera to be erected as they have in Grimsargh **MIN 21/74** It was RESOLVED that the media should be kept informed of any campaigns initiated through the Toolkit and the Community Road Watch scheme in the hope that the published action, combined with the SPID data, can be used to support the Gatso request.

### **LCC PARISH & TOWN COUNCIL CONFERENCE**

There will be a LCC / Parish & Town Council Conference on Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Nov from 09.45 – 14.00 which includes a session on 'working together better' As this will be an ideal opportunity to raise the Parish Council's concern that named officer contact details are not provided and it takes LCC 10 working days to reply to an email, **MIN 21/75** it was RESOLVED that Cllr Woodburn and Cllr Brooks would register to attend.

### **BUS SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Reference was made to LCC's duty to publish a Bus Service Improvement Plan by the end of Oct 2021. A user survey was circulated for residents to complete individually and concern was expressed that there was very little time for residents to reply. It was questioned if there was a need to set up a local Bus Service User Group to identify issues with the current bus service but this may duplicate the work being done by LCC and to be successful, the Parish Council would need to initiate the group or be represented on it.

**MIN 21/76** It was RESOLVED to wait for the publication of the Bus Service Improvement Plan and comment on any recommendations or shortfalls. The Clerk reminded Members of the legal agreement to provide a bus service through the Whittingham Park estate and further enquiries will be made regarding when this will be triggered.

### **PLANNING APPEALS / 5 YEAR SUPPLY**

Members NOTED that there has not been an update on the process to be followed if the Planning Inspectorate fail to reach a decision on the Whittingham appeals.

### **PLANNING APPLICATIONS - CONSIDERED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY**

**MIN 21/77** Members RESOLVED to note the delegated planning representations submitted in September. Members also noted that Gateway have appealed the refusal of 32 dwellings at Dean Farm, Whittingham Lane. A public Inquiry will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov. As the Parish Council's objections will be available at the Inquiry, Members RESOLVED not to attend.

The Clerk also informed Members that an application to convert an agricultural building to a dwelling at Swainson House Farm had been resubmitted. The original application was refused as the plans included alterations to the footprint and height of the original structure and the glass link did not conform to the prior notification criteria. The new plans alter both aspects and the application is likely to be approved.

#### **FINANCIAL STATEMENT – to end of Sept 2021**

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

#### **HALF YEARLY BUDGET ANALYSIS Apr 21 – Sept 21**

Members considered the half yearly expenditure against the budget and noted that no progress has been made on the appointment of a maintenance person to carry out odd jobs in the Parish. **MIN 21/78** In light of the Parish Council’s desire to enter the best kept village competition it was felt there were enough tasks to advertise a role and it was **RESOLVED** that an advert be placed in the next edition of the Newsletter.

Members also noted a surplus in the grants and donations budget and confirmed that new funding requests could be paid from this year’s budget. Members noted a request from the Whittingham Festival committee for £500 towards the June 2022 festival. In response to a query, the Clerk confirmed that a donation could be made to a charity, providing it would bring direct benefit to the area or its inhabitants.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF 2022/23 BUDGET ITEMS**

Members **NOTED** the request to identify any new budget items so that cost estimates can be brought to the November meeting which will also include a summary of the CIL projects and expenditure to date. In addition to a suggestion to refresh the Beacon Drive Garden for the platinum jubilee, the Clerk noted the suggestion for a Lengthsman and publication of a refresh of the Parish Plan as a precursor to the possibility of a Neighbourhood Plan. It was felt that it was too early to include any revenue costs associated with future sports provision especially as the initial costs may be funded via CIL.

#### **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT AND RECEIPTS**

**MIN 21/79** Members **RESOLVED** to approve the following accounts for payment and the Chairman signed the electronic printout confirming the on-line totals.

<b>DETAILS</b>	<b>PAYEE</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>METHOD</b>
Contribution to Ink costs	Woodplumpton Parish	£42.28	Online
Play area Inspection	Barton Grange	£402.00	Online
Grounds maintenance	Barton Grange	£1530.00	Online
‘Anti race’ upgrade	Traffic Technology	£72.00	Online
Clerk Salary Oct 2021	J Buttle	£551.07	Online
Tax / National Insurance	HMRC	£137.60	CQ 1510
E-On bill	E-On	£12.38	DD

Members **NOTED** the following amounts where invoices are expected and may need paying before the next meeting.

Play area Annual Inspection	Wicksteed Leisure	£72.00
Commemorative Tree	So Plants	£35.00
Perspex window – bus shelter	Chris Holden	TBC

#### **COMMEMORATIVE TREE**

Members noted that Highways have issued a licence to plant a commemorative Rowan Tree (Sorbus Eastern Promise) on Halfpenny Lane next to the Parish Council bench. Members considered the quotes for a wooden base and wording for the plaque to include the Parish Council emblem. It was felt that the cost was justified as Cllr Rigby had passed away whilst still a serving Councillor, who had been on the Council for 42 years. **MIN 21/80** Members **RESOLVED** to proceed with the wording proposed by the Chairman. The Clerk will order the plaque and base and will make arrangements for them to be planted. Once in place, arrangements will be made for the unveiling of the plaque.

### **TREE PLANTING INITIATIVE**

Members NOTED that the City Council will be replacing the diseased Ash Trees with Sessile Oak Trees. At the Sept meeting, Members discussed planting trees to be supplied by the Woodland Trust however concern was expressed that the trees would take a long time to grow. **MIN 21/81** In light of the above, it was RESOLVED that fruit trees would be presented to the Cumeragh Village Residents Association and the Community Gardening Hub who applied for a grant in 2017. A discussion also took place regarding the possibility of creating a community Orchard at Whittingham Park.

Reference was made to the absence of any timescales to provide a School at Gott Fields and this was identified as a good location for an Orchard if the plans for a school do not go ahead. Members also reflected on the absence of any allotments and custom build homes and questioned Homes England's commitment to climate change and creation of wildlife corridors.

**MIN 21/82** It was RESOLVED that the Clerk contact Homes England to ask them to attend a future meeting to address the above points which could also be included in the refresh of the Parish Plan. A need for additional parking facilities in the village was also noted.

### **GOOSNARGH VILLAGE GREEN SPORTS FACILITY**

**MIN 21/83** Members RESOLVED to adopt the Terms of Reference to set up a Working Group to look at improving the Sports Facilities on Goosnargh Village Green. Cllrs Brooks, Clarke and Woodburn will arrange the initial meeting.

### **AUTUMN EDITION OF THE PARISH NEWSLETTER**

A few minor tweaks were submitted and suggestions for an additional article were proposed during the meeting. **MIN 21/84** it was RESOLVED that the Clerk would amend the draft Newsletter and email a final copy to all.

### **NOTE NEW CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no new items of correspondence.

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was NOTED that the next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021 at 7.15pm** – in Goosnargh Village Hall.