



WHITTINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

An ordinary meeting of Whittingham Parish Council took place on **Thursday 9th Sept 2021** at 7.15pm in Goosnargh Village Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr D Hall - Chairman
Cllr B Clarke
Cllr M Woodburn

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Mrs Julie Buttle – Parish Clerk
County / City Cllr S Whittam
City Cllr H Landless

APOLOGIES

Apologies were noted for Cllr B Huggon and approved for Cllr T Brooks.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of the meeting held on 8th July 2021.

MIN 21/50 it was RESOLVED that the Chairman sign the 8th July Minutes as a true record.

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

There were no declarations of interests.

DECLARATION OF VACANCY

As explained at the July meeting, the Local Government Act 1972 s.85 states that if a Council Member fails to attend a meeting for six consecutive months, he/she ceases to be a member of the authority, unless the Council accepts a reason for the failure to attend, before the six months period expires. Members noted that Cllr A Meades' attendance would fall into that category in August but as a meeting would not be held, Members resolved to wait until September before declaring the vacancy. **MIN 21/51** As Cllr A Meades was not present and no apology had been received, Members RESOLVED to notify electoral services of the vacancy. The Clerk will advertise the vacancy and write to Cllr A Meades.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

MIN 21/52 Members RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting for public participation.

County Cllr S Whittam explained that in addition to her role on the City Council, she had been elected to serve Preston Rural division on the County Council and was also lead member for health. The Chairman thanked her for attending, adding that it had been a long time since a County Cllr had done so. He also stated that the Parish Council was encouraged by the stronger stance taken by the City Council in contesting the recent planning appeals and he requested an update on the decisions. Cllr S Whittam informed Members that the planning appeal decisions had been delayed as the Inspector was unwell. An action to this news is included under the agenda item.

Cllr H Landless added that having an active representative on the County Council would be beneficial as many issues affecting the Parish tend to be County Council issues such as the speeding and road diversions itemised on the agenda.

Cllr H Landless stated that he had joined the litter picking group and hoped that his role as Shadow Cabinet Member for the Environment would benefit the village. He informed Members that the City Council have commenced a weedkilling programme in the village and he is looking at ways to tidy up the area outside the shops – although this may be the responsibility of the landowners, rather than the City Council. He had also reported that the play area fence was broken. It was noted that the WI wish to plant bulbs around a commemorative bench near to the play area and it was suggested they approach the City Council as landowners.

Members thanked Cllr H Landless for his actions and hoped that the improvements will support the Parish Council in its quest to enter the Best Kept Village competition. The Clerk informed Members that Seddons had installed the benches on the Green, however it had been noted that a perspex window in the bus shelter had been vandalised. It was suggested that Holdings be approached for the repair.

When replying to the Parish Council's survey on CIL expenditure, residents had stated that they would like to see more sports facilities on Goosnargh Village Green, consequently, the Clerk had contacted the City Council about adding a football pitch and adult gym equipment.

The City Council have replied that any proposals would require a landscape plan and an accompanying specification to ensure good design and construction. Arrangements would also need to be in place for maintenance and it was noted that an agreement has recently been drawn up for the use of Grimsargh Green.

The reply was received too late to be included on the agenda, however before any decisions are made, further discussions need to take place to establish exactly what is required and look at how such facilities are being managed elsewhere. Consequently, when circulating the reply, the Clerk had suggested that Members form a working group to progress the matter. As Cllr Landless has previously been involved with 'grass roots' football, he confirmed his willingness to be co-opted on to the working group, which would also include Cllr Woodburn, Cllr Clarke and subject to his acceptance, Cllr Brooks. It was stressed that any proposals will need to be brought back to the Parish Council for consideration - before consulting with the wider community.

Cllr Landless left the meeting following the conclusion of public participation but County Cllr Whittam stayed for the discussion on speeding traffic and road closures.

SPEEDING TRAFFIC

Under MIN 21/44 of the July meeting, Members had RESOLVED to send the Speed Indicator reports to the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership and County Cllr Edwards (Cabinet Member for Highways). The Lancashire Post printed an article on the concerns and County Cllr Edwards stated that a temporary, Variable Message Sign could be located on private land. This has been actioned. An email was also received from LCC explaining that temporary speed signs were erected on Halfpenny Lane between April and June 2020 and these would be re-erected Jan – March 2022. Reference was also made to a Community Tool Kit where Councillors and residents can get involved in advisory speed enforcement measures.

Members stated that the replies did not address the request for a GATSO enforcement camera nor did they answer the question regarding whether the speed limit can be lowered before it reaches the village. It was noted that parking outside the Post Office slows the traffic heading towards Broughton and it was questioned if traffic calming measures could be installed on the approach to the village as occurred in Woodplumpton. The Clerk explained how the Woodplumpton measures were introduced and it was noted that Woodplumpton Parish Council are currently revising the measures using CIL money as LCC were unable to finance the works as the need was not evidenced by the number of people killed or seriously injured.

County Cllr Whittam stated that LCC were moving away from the KSI approach and informed Members that County Cllr Edwards would attend a meeting if invited and before the meeting, he would carry out a site visit to see the problems first hand. Whilst this news was welcomed, unfortunately, the timing is inappropriate due to the number of roads closed / diverted due to the installation of a UU water pipe.

MIN 21/53 It was RESOLVED that the Clerk send the latest SPID reports to County Cllr Edwards along with a request to attend the November meeting. County Cllr Whittam requested to be copied in to the email. She also stated that she was in contact with an officer from the Road Safety Partnership and would send further information regarding the Community Tool Kit.

DRAINAGE AND ROAD CLOSURES

During August the Clerk received several complaints regarding roadworks and diversions in the Longridge area which had a significant impact on Halfpenny Lane and Inglewhite Road. Whilst roadworks can be checked on the LCC MARIO online system, there are no contact details of a named officer to progress any concerns and emails to Highways District Lead - LCC's preferred contact point for Parish Councils – have a 10-working day lead time.

It was also noted that United Utilities are installing a water main and have issued a leaflet regarding road closures at the Langley Lane / Whittingham Lane junction which will divert traffic down rural roads not suitable for large volumes of traffic. In addition, parking outside Longridge football club will be an issue as traffic is being diverted past the Club and down Halfpenny Lane. Concerns were expressed that complaints about the roadworks will be directed at the Parish Council and we have no means to pass them to an appropriate person. **MIN 21/54** it was RESOLVED that the Clerk email the UU diversion to County Cllr Whittam along with a summary of the concerns and she will do her best to provide LCC contact details.

PLANNING APPEALS / 5 YEAR SUPPLY

Members have previously noted that the planning appeal decisions may not be announced until early autumn and during public participation, Cllr Whittam stated that a decision may not be received until October as the Inspector was ill. **MIN 21/55** Members queried the procedure if a decision was not forthcoming and it was RESOLVED that Cllr Whittam would raise the query with senior officers at the City Council.

TREE WORKS AT THE WHITTINGHAM HOSPITAL DEVELOPMENT

Worked has commenced on the Barratt application at the Whittingham Hospital site which has resulted in the closure of various access routes and the removal of several trees / hedgerows. Following intervention by Cllr Woollam, the City Council have stated that Barratts have not breached any regulations and as such, nothing more can be done. Further concerns regarding the tree works will be forwarded to Cllr Woollam. The Clerk has contacted Barratts to request a plan of 'safe routes' through the site but this has not been received. **MIN 21/56** it was RESOLVED that the access plan be re-requested.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS - CONSIDERED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

To reduce the time spent in meetings post Covid, the Clerk is dealing with routine planning matters under delegated authority in accordance with Standing Order 2020 (15 xiv).

MIN 21/57 Members RESOLVED to note the delegated representations submitted in August and also noted that the application **06/2021/1003** – 21 homes of Henry Littler Way - has been amended to include 4 new junctions off Henry Littler Way. Highways are yet to reply to the amendment but as the amendment differs significantly from the original proposal, an objection will be submitted by the Parish Council.

ACCOUNTS ALREADY PAID – During August

MI 21/58 Members resolved to note and approve the August accounts already paid in accordance with Standing Order 2020 15 (xii)

DETAILS	PAYEE	AMOUNT	METHOD	REF
Grounds Maintenance & litter	Barton Grange	£1,932.00	BACS	31
Clerk Salary August	J Buttle	£551.07	BACS	32
Tax / National Insurance	HMRC	£137.60	CQ 1507	33
Village Hall windows - CIL	LEF Grant	£1322.00	CQ 1508	34
E-On bill	E-On	£18.77	DD	35

FINANCIAL STATEMENT – to end of Aug 2021

The Chairman verified that the accounts and bank statements had been verified.

2020/21 EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

Members noted that the external audit has been completed with no issues raised. A notice of Conclusion for the Audit has been added to the noticeboards and website. **MIN 21/59** Members RESOLVED to approve the Annual Return / Certificate and pay the invoice of £240.

CPRE MEMBERSHIP

MIN 21/60 Members RESOLVED to renew the membership to the Campaign to Protect Rural England at a cost £36.00.

VICTIM SUPPORT DONATION

Members noted a donation request from Victim Support advising that the coronavirus pandemic has had a profound effect on victims of crime. Members reflected on the grant policy which seeks to support local groups and it was questioned how many local people would benefit from any donation. **MIN 21/61** Members RESOLVED that although the charity was a worthy cause, the request did not comply with the Parish Council's grant policy.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT AND RECEIPTS

Members noted that the online banking system has been activated but new beneficiaries take 24hrs to be added to the system. Members also noted that E-ON have changed to E-ON next and correspondence was received advising that the account had been cancelled. The agenda included a direct debit payment of £15.04 but when the account was queried, the amount was adjusted to £12.79 which will be collected by direct debit.

MIN 21/62 Members RESOLVED to approve the following accounts for online payment.

DETAILS	PAYEE	AMOUNT	METHOD
Clerk Salary Sept 2021	J Buttle	£551.07	BACs
Tax / National Insurance	HMRC	£137.60	CQ 1509
Cumeragh hedge cutting	M Hayes	£220.00	BACs

TREE PLANTING

At the June meeting Members were informed that the Woodland Trust has launched a campaign for communities to plant trees to help the UK reach its 2050 carbon net-zero target. Following an article in the Parish Newsletter, Cumeragh and Goosnargh Village Green were suggested. The number of trees can be split between the sites, but Members noted that the City Council are still considering the request to plant trees in Goosnargh. The item will remain pending until they make a decision.

So Plants have provided details of a commemorative tree for Cllr Rigby which can be planted at Halfpenny Lane. **MIN 21/63** Members RESOLVED to approve the £35 cost which will increase to include a stake and plaque. LCC have been contacted to approve the planting request and although a reply has not yet been received, arrangements are continuing to plant the tree in October.

LALC AGM (Lancashire Association of Local Councils)

MIN 21/64 Members noted the LALC AGM will be held on Saturday 20 November 2021 and RESOLVED not to attend or submit any motions.

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

Members noted that a donation is usually made for 2 wreaths for the Remembrance Day services in St Mary's Church and the Parish Council Memorial at Beacon Drive. **MIN 21/65** It was RESOLVED that the 2 wreaths could be ordered and it was confirmed that the Chairman will attend the Church Service and will also lay a wreath at the Beacon Drive memorial. Residents will be invited to attend via the Autumn edition of the Newsletter.

ORDERING OF 2021 CHRISTMAS TREE

Members noted that the budget includes provision for the purchase of a Christmas tree at Beacon Drive. **MIN 21/66** Members RESOLVED to order the tree from Barton Grange with the same specifications as last year.

NOTE NEW CORRESPONDENCE

Members noted that the Chairman has been invited to attend a post Covid Thanksgiving Service on the 26th Sept and say a few words on behalf of the Parish Council. Lunch will be served and other members can attend at £5 per person.

Members noted that the Village Hall now has a password protected WiFi connection.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Members confirmed the date of the next Parish Council meeting as **Thursday 14th Oct 2021 7.15pm** - down stairs in Goosnargh Village Hall - subject to any revised Covid regulations.