



WHITTINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held on
Thursday 12th Jan 2023 at 7.15pm
in Goosnargh Village Hall – downstairs

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr Dave Hall - Chairman
Cllr Tony Brooks
Cllr Barbara Clarke
Cllr Bernard Huggon
Cllr Eddie Marginson
Cllr Michelle Woodburn

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Andy Pratt - Deputy Police Crime Commissioner.
City Cllr Stephen Whittam
2 Whittingham Lane residents and a representative
from Longridge Town FC (as detailed on the
attendance log)
Mrs Julie Buttle – Parish Clerk

APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded for Cllr Dave Price who also sent apologies that he can't present the draft copy of the Parish Plan which has been updated to reflect the public consultation comments.

Apologies were noted from County Cllr Sue Whittam and PC Rumandeep Takhar.

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

MIN 22/109 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

Members living in the Parish were reminded that they have a disclosable, pecuniary interest in setting the Precept but benefit from an exemption under paragraph 10(5)(vi) of the Code of Conduct. **MIN 22/110** Members have signed a dispensation form covering them until the May 2023 elections and it was **RESOLVED** that Members disclose their interest verbally.

There were no other declarations in relation to items on the agenda.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Andy Pratt, Deputy Police Crime Commissioner and Chairman of the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership had been invited to the meeting to discuss local policing and speeding / enforcement issues. Mr Pratt advised that he is also the Chairman of the Criminal Justice Board dealing with prisons, courts and the justice system.

He informed those present that 6000 people responded to a recent police survey with the key concerns being anti-social behaviour, sex offences, organised crime (relating to drugs, cyber-crime & terrorism) domestic violence and dangerous driving including speeding, use of mobile phones and driving whilst under the influence of drink / drugs.

He explained that the Road Safety Partnership ensures that all partners – police, highway agency, LCC highways, emergency services and car manufacturers - work together to create a safer road system. He acknowledged that a lot of work takes place in schools to educate youngsters on road safety but more needs to be done with elderly motorists and those aged 18+. He also stressed the importance of First Aid training as other motorists tend to be the first on the scene of an accident before the emergency services arrive.

In response to a question, it was confirmed that whilst drones are equipped with good technology and are used for large incidents along with the police helicopter, they are not used for speeding offences.

Mr Pratt stated that he has seen plenty of data confirming the speeding concerns in Whittingham however, as motorists tend to slow down for the SPIDs / police vans then speed up again, the emphasis needs to be on the long-term prevention of speeding. He added that of the 80,000 people caught speeding, 38,000 attended speed awareness courses and one in eight drivers checked for drink / drug driving offences were arrested – which highlighted the need to encourage motorists to change their driving habits.

He advised that whilst the SPID data is important, there are now more sophisticated ways of capturing data including automatic number plate recognition cameras and devices that clip on to lamp posts to photograph cars driving at an excessive speed.

He stated that the GATSO camera report is not available yet but he will forward it as soon as it is received. He explained that there are approx. 280 GATSO cameras across the County, many of which have been in place for over 20 years and as such, they are not located in areas where the amount of motorists / potential for incidents have increased due to new housing etc.

Mr Pratt stated that speeding motorists are often local to the area and highlighted the importance of working with the community to identify repeat offenders. He mentioned the Community Road Watch scheme where local residents can be trained to use hand held radar guns and explained that there are grants available from the Police Crime Commissioners office to apply for other preventative speeding measures. He made reference to a traffic calming scheme in Woodplumpton where the Parish Council had worked in partnership with the police and highway officers but acknowledged that as every area is different, a variety of measures are required.

Residents stated that the noise of some vehicles was also a problem and he confirmed that repeat incidents can be reported to local officers.

In response to a question regarding the reopening of police stations and the recruitment of more officers, Mr Pratt replied that the constabulary is in the process of recruiting 3,600 new officers but due to training etc, the posts won't come to fruition until the summer. He explained that the move away from graduate applicants means that there will also be a wider variety of recruits.

Reference was made to the March 2022 Minutes where the PCSO had stated that a police vehicle was not allocated to the rural area. Mr Pratt replied that a vehicle fleet review showed that the constabulary has access to over 1,000 vehicles and it is up to senior officers to ensure the right vehicle is in the right place for the right jobs. He stressed the importance of building up a good relationship with local officers and suggested that Members of the Parish Council should attend Preston police station to meet the new Chief Supt Stasia Osioy along with the dedicated rural officers who support the farming communities.

Mr Pratt was thanked for his attendance.

Longridge Town FC presented a report detailing a funding request for new floodlights. It was explained that the Club is run by volunteers and are keen to build networks and develop the youth team. Previously the Club secured a grant from the Football Association to improve pitch drainage but match funding was also required. The Club now needs to replace the floodlights. Currently there are 6 columns with 2 lights but as the bulbs need replacing frequently, the Club are hoping to change to LED lights. 2 quotes have been received ranging from £38,000 to £42,000. Cllr Marginson questioned the detail of the quotes and suggested that a more detailed lighting specification may be required. In response to a question, it was stated that the Club had not approached Longridge Town Council as they have helped with the finance of a PA system.

The Chairman referred to the Parish Council's proposal to provide a football pitch on the village green and asked if there was a potential for the Club to work in partnership with the Parish Council to provide coaching or equipment for the facility. In response, it was stated that the request could be referred to the Club.

Reference was also made to parking concerns at the Halfpenny Lane junction and it was confirmed that a parking attendant is directing traffic to the Club carpark on regular match days and for larger matches, the Civic Hall is being used.

The representative was thanked for attending and it was confirmed that the funding request would be discussed under the agenda item.

City Cllr Stephen Whittam expressed his support in preventing drug driving and speeding issues and endorsed Andy Pratt's comments for Members to meet with officers at Preston police station. Concerns were expressed that the Parish Council does not have an email or telephone contact for staff dealing with the football pitch licence as the member of staff dealing with the matter has left the City Council. Cllr Whittam stated he will follow this up and provide the contact details.

MIN 22/111 It was **RESOLVED** that the meeting be reconvened.

CIL BUSINESS PLAN – UPDATES AND ADDITIONS

Members **noted** the updated CIL Finance Report and CIL Business Plan which reflect the discussions and resolutions taken under MIN 22/94 of the November meeting.

Members referred to the presentation given by Longridge Town Football Club and stated that the Club provides a sporting amenity for local children and it would be a good use of CIL finances received from housing developments in the higher ward area. It was noted that the quotes may need to be updated and that the Club will need time to consider the request to work in partnership on the Parish Council's football pitch proposal.

MIN 22/112 Members **RESOLVED** to add the floodlights to category 2 of the business plan where further information is required.

CIL BUSINESS PLAN – FINANCE

a) The request for additional funds for the tennis club isolation unit was added to category 2 of the CIL business plan but the amount to allocate was **deferred** because confirmation of the cost was not available.

b) Members noted the email from Whittingham Environmental Working Group advising that they wish to donate approx. £1,100 from the sale of the original PROW walk leaflets.

MIN 22/113 Members **RESOLVED** to confirm their appreciation of the donation and acknowledge that the amount will be put towards leaflets and maintenance issues on the circular walks.

Members **noted** that the Cumeragh Canter walk details have not been checked yet as the walk passes a chicken farm where access may be restricted due to concerns about avian flu. It was confirmed that some more way markers may be required on the Pudding Pie walk and some minor maintenance is required on bushes and stiles. The Clerk and Cllr Marginson will meet to discuss further and confirm the measurements for the bus shelter sign promoting the walks.

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT REPLIES

Members considered the quotes provided in relation to the maintenance contract and noted that additional tasks under part C may be in addition to the contract cost. The Clerk confirmed that the 2023/24 budget includes provision for the contract and additional works.

MIN 22/114 Members **RESOLVED** to appoint Nurture (formerly Barton Grange) as the quote represents the best value for the community. The unsuccessful companies will be advised.

Members were advised of a concern that the bus shelter outside the Stag's Head needs disinfecting as it often smells of beer and urine. Members noted that a resident has volunteered to clean the shelter, providing the Council supplies the bleach etc.

MIN 22/115 Due to the health and safety implications of a resident cleaning the shelter, it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk contact Nurture to see if the problem can be covered under the routine maintenance / cleaning of Council assets. In addition, it was confirmed that a sign should be erected stating 'this area is covered by CCTV'.

CUMERAGH VILLAGE PLAY AREA

Members considered the annual inspection report relating to the Cumeragh play area and noted the suggested repairs which include the planters provided by Cumeragh Village residents.

MIN 22/116 Members **RESOLVED** to request that Playdale check the swing and roundabout fixings and quote for any repairs. Playdale will also be asked if they can address the rotten wood and treatment of the fungi, if not, Nurture will be approached under part C3 of the Maintenance Contract. The Clerk will also contact the residents' association regarding repairs to their planters.

REVIEW OF 3rd QUARTER ACCOUNTS 2022 / 2023

MIN 22/117 Members **RESOLVED** to note and approve the following accounts already paid in accordance with Standing Order 2020 15 (xii)

Cllr Rigby - acrylic sign	The Sign Maker	£47.61	BACS
Clerk Salary Dec	J Buttle	£602.36	BACS
Tax / National Insurance	HMRC	£150.40	BACS
22 nd Dec 2022	E-on electric bill	£17.71	DD

Members considered the 3rd quarter accounts from April to Dec 2022 and noted that invoices were outstanding in respect of the printing of the Autumn newsletter and the Parish Plan consultation. The Christmas tree invoice was also outstanding but was received in January.

MIN 22/118 Members **RESOLVED** to approve the 3rd quarter accounts.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1st – 31st Dec 2022

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

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – JAN 2023

MIN 22/119 Members **RESOLVED** to approve the following accounts for payment

Oct – Dec expenses	J Buttle	£39.00	BACs
Clerk Salary January	J Buttle	£602.36	BACs
Tax / National Insurance – employee	HMRC	£150.40	BACs
Erection, display and removal of xmas tree	Nurture	£564.00	BACS

SPID SERVICE AND REPAIR

As reported at the November meeting, data could not be downloaded from the SPID device on Whittingham Lane. Traffic Technology attended the sites and checked and serviced all 3 devices. The SPID on Whittingham Lane was removed for repair and one of the Halfpenny Lane SPIDs was moved to that location.

MIN 22/120 As the SPIDs were purchased through CIL and as the service is an unbudgeted expense, Members **RESOLVED** that the £660 service bill should be paid from CIL interest.

A further invoice has been received for the repair of the Whittingham Lane SPID which required a complete rebuild. As the invoice is equivalent to the cost of a replacement device, the invoice will be processed as a CIL expense.

MIN 22/121 Members **RESOLVED** that the Clerk query the invoice and make enquiries to see if Traffic Technology has a call out or maintenance package to cover future repairs.

SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS - MEMBERSHIP

SLCC Membership is based on the Clerk's combined salary for all parishes worked for. The combined membership for Whittingham and Woodplumpton equates to £118 each. Sole membership based on the Whittingham parish employment would be £146.

MIN 22/122 Members **RESOLVED** to renew the Clerk's membership jointly with Woodplumpton Parish Council.

PLANNING TRAINING COURSE

Cllr Price has indicated he wishes to attend a LALC training course on planning. Members noted that the 23rd Feb course is fully booked but places are available on the 25th April.

MIN 22/123 Members **RESOLVED** that the Clerk book a place at £40 as Cllr Marginson stated that he would be interested in attending if Cllr Price is not available.

CONSIDERATION OF 2023/24 PRECEPT

Based on the end of year estimates, the Council is likely to have Reserves of £35,299 at the end of 2022/23. Reserves should be assessed annually as part of the Audit regime and should be relevant to the Council's size, situation and prepared budget plans. The Practitioner's Guide states *the smaller the authority, the closer the figure may be to 12 months expenditure*.

The Precept report details estimated income of £5,150 and under MIN 22/106 of the November meeting, Members resolved to approve a draft budget of £32,098. Expenditure, less the estimated income, would require a Precept of £26,948.

MIN 22/124 Members considered the above information and **RESOLVED** to set the 2023/24 Precept at £24,000. This decision complies with JPAG guidance as it reduces the reserves by £2,948 and ensures that residents are not funding the full budget costs at a time when some residents may be experiencing financial hardship.

WHITTINGHAM FESTIVAL 2023/24 DONATION REQUEST

Members considered a letter requesting a £500 donation to the Whittingham Festival.

MIN 22/125 Members **RESOLVED** to approve the donation which will be awarded at the Annual Parish meeting in May.

LCC BUDGET CONSULTATION

Members considered a document detailing LCC's budget proposals and expressed disappointment that there will be service reductions in adult social care and education which will affect residents. Budgets cuts to gritting and grass flailing are also likely to impact on the Parish Council due to complaints by residents.

MIN 22/126 Members **RESOLVED** to reply that whilst the review of gritting routes is noted, LCC should make more grit bins available to assist rural areas where many roads are not covered by a bus route. In addition, where new estates are built which are not yet serviced by buses (such as Guild Park) grit bins should be placed at the entrance to the estate so that motorists can grit the access road themselves.

TULKETH SECONDARY & COTTAM HALL PRIMARY SCHOOL CONSULTATIONS

Members **noted** that LCC are consulting on the provision of new primary and secondary schools in NW Preston. LCC have stated that these are not instead of the proposals at Whittingham, however a date for the Whittingham consultation has not been confirmed yet.

MIN 22/127 Members **RESOLVED** to reply to the consultation by stating that LCC should ensure that school catchment areas reflect the amount of new housing in an area. For example, children in Longridge and Whittingham should be able to attend local schools without travelling to new schools in Preston. This will help to reduce the carbon footprint and will foster better community relations as children will develop together locally. Concern was also expressed that parents from St Francis primary school often struggle to secure a place St Celia's Roman Catholic school as attendance at the primary school is the 5th priority criteria when allocating secondary places.

LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION

Members **noted** that part one of the Preferred Options on the Local Plan is available for comments until 24th Feb 2023. Part one of the consultation focusses on the direction of emerging policies and part two (due to be released in the summer) will provide more detail on both the strategic and development management policies.

Members were informed that Preston Area Committee had tried to arrange a meeting for Parishes to consider a collective response, however the Local Plan team are busy hosting public consultation events. The event closest to Whittingham will be at the Norman Jepson on the 26th January between 4.00 and 7.00pm.

Relief was expressed that none of the housing appeal sites have been included in the current list of allocated sites and following a quick review of the document, the following points were noted.

Policy 1 (ii) states the *distribution of development addresses needs across the plan area, to ensure that growth is in proportion to size, character and setting of the area, whilst also meeting a known need*. It was suggested that this should be amended to state *whilst also meeting a known local need*.

Policy 3 confirms that *proposals for development within the Green Belt will be determined in accordance with national policy and guidance and the extent of Green Belt will be delineated on the policies map* – however, as the Green Belt does not currently include Preston, it is hoped that the extent of the Green Belt area will be reassessed.

Policy 4 states that *the 'settlement gap' between Preston and Grimsargh will be designated as an Area of Separation (AoS) to prevent coalescence* and it was questioned why a settlement gap is not proposed between Whittingham and Longridge – particularly as Longridge is in a neighbouring authority and has been identified as a key service area.

Policy 10 refers to 20 min neighbourhoods and states a need to demonstrate that criteria a - f has been considered in the rural area. However *convenient and attractive active travel routes* should be quantified as developers often refer to a convenient bus stop near the site – but no weight is attached to the duration and frequency of the bus service.

Policy 13 refers to sites for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpersons. Whilst sufficient sites have been identified to address the 5-year need, there would be a shortfall of 10 pitches in the longer term. It is noted that the Plan states that *additional pitches could be identified through engagement with private site owners*, however sites which have already been dismissed due to contentious issues – such as Clay Lane – should be afforded an exemption.

MIN 22/128 Members **RESOLVED** to respond to the consultation by referring to the above points and strongly emphasising that all Policies – particularly housing types and tenure - should be based on strong evidence of a **local** need, not a known need across the plan area.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS - CONSIDERED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

Members considered the delegated planning comments and added that the application to extend the use of a temporary home on Whittingham Lane should be questioned as the residents have already moved in to the property.

MIN 22/129 Members **RESOLVED** to approve the delegated planning representations.

NOTE NEW CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk referred to a query asking if a community hub could be funded through LCC's crowd funding initiative. A reply has been issued stating that the initiative does not cover speculative projects, it covers schemes where all the necessary consents are in place and there is a certainty that the scheme will go ahead.

Cllr Hall referred to a Community Trust which has been set up to refurbish a Church in Plungington. As the concept seems similar to the requirements for St John's Church, it was agreed that the Community Trust be invited to a future meeting.

Members noted that the Clerk will be taking annual leave in January. Emails will receive an out of office message however, the Clerk will endeavour to reply to or forward any urgent items.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was **noted** that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 9th February at 7.15pm in Goosnargh Village Hall.