

WHITTINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

An ordinary meeting of Whittingham Parish Council took place on **Monday 14th Oct 2019** at 7.15pm at Whittingham Sports & Social Club

Members:

Cllr Dave Hall - Chairman
Cllr Margaret Rigby
Cllr Bernard Huggon
Cllr John Worrall McBride

Members of the public

PCSO Vicky Shackleton
Lindy King – Heritage Group
Mrs Julie Buttle – Parish Clerk

APOLOGIES – Cllr Alex Meades gave apologies due to work commitments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MIN 19/57 As the September meeting was not quorate, it was RESOLVED that the July Minutes and Sept actions be signed as a true record.

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

Those present did not have any declarations to make in relation to items on the Agenda but NOTED that the City Council may commence ‘dip sampling’ of Member interest forms.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

MIN 19/58 It was RESOLVED that the meeting be adjourned for public participation.

The Clerk explained that Stagecoach have taken the decision to withdraw Bus Service 4 from the 3rd Nov as it is not commercially viable to operate, however, discussions are taking place with Lancashire County Council for a replacement bus service to be provided from 4th November. Obviously, the operator and exact details of the new service are not yet known but they will be added to the Parish Council website as soon as they are received.

It was stated that it was premature to axe the existing service, as its viability should improve given the amount of new housing proposed for the area. It was also stated that the new service should be run at times suitable for school children - although it was noted that the Service to Preston College is not affected.

The Clerk replied that LCC receives developer contributions to support the bus service and for some considerable time, the Parish Council has been pressuring them to explain how much money is held and when the bus services will be upgraded. To date, their response has always been that there is insufficient demand until the houses are built and people move in.

Notwithstanding this, LCC have appointed a Travel Plan Monitoring Officer and although he has sent apologies for this meeting, he has agreed to meet with Councillors in early November and the above points will be added to the list of items to be discussed.

PCSO Shackleton ran through the latest crime figures for the area which included public order offences, harassment and an assault – all of which could be explained by domestic disputes. There were also logs in relation to attempted thefts from cars and residents are again urged to ensure vehicles are kept locked. It was confirmed that the Police have access to a drone which can be used to detect heat sources such as missing persons or lamps used in cannabis farms. It was also stated that the PCSO's have received training to carry out speed monitoring for education purposes where offenders will be issued with a warning letter.

Members of the Council requested monitoring on the Longridge border at Whittingham Road near the new Aldi; Halfpenny Lane in both directions; Whittingham Lane as you pass the Stags Head and Post Office heading towards Broughton and further along Whittingham Lane where the 40mph reduces to 30mph. A request was also made for a Gatso Camera (police speed enforcement camera) on Whittingham Road due to the amount of new development proposed and it was suggested that LCC be invited to a future meeting to discuss safety concerns, current speed limits and how they can be reduced and enforced.

A request was made for more information on the proposed Energy Recycling Facility at Grimsargh and it was suggested that residents contact Grimsargh Parish Council or the ERF Action Group as they are more knowledgeable on the subject.

As this concluded public participation, members of the public were requested to adjourn outside whilst Members discussed the co-option application with the candidate.

APPLICATIONS FOR CO- OPTION

The Clerk stated that the City Council had advised that they can only intervene with the co-option of a Councillor if the Council is not quorate due to insufficient numbers being elected, not due to absence via any other means, however, since the September meeting, a written application has been received for co-option to Lower Ward. Members considered the application which was circulated with the Agenda and questioned the candidate on his application.

MIN 19/59 It was RESOLVED that Cllr John Worrall-McBride be co-opted to Lower Ward and he duly signed the declaration of office. The Clerk will arrange for his Member Interest form to be signed at an Induction meeting to be arranged.

Members of the public were invited back in to the meeting.

PLANNING CONCERNS

a) Motion of no confidence re development.

Members NOTED that the Goosnargh applications are still on hold due to the call in by the Secretary of State. Notwithstanding this, the Clerk and Chairman met with the Clerks and Chairs of Longridge and Grimsargh Councils with the aim of

- Increasing awareness of the number of new homes on both sides of the boundary,
- Identifying the cross-boundary issues and problems that the new development will bring
- Looking at ways to work together to campaign for - and finance - infrastructure improvements.

Goosnargh Parish were invited but had to send their apologies. Hopefully they will be present at future meetings. At the Meeting, Longridge Town Council stated that NHS England have approved a £1.3m extension at Berry Lane Surgery and improvements of £100k have been approved to Stonebridge surgery. Hopefully these decisions will alleviate some of the concerns regarding healthcare.

During the course of the meeting, it was suggested that a local company be commissioned to undertake an independent traffic assessment to consider the cumulative impact of traffic to be generated by the planning applications. It is hoped that the assessment can be used to challenge LCC's opinion that the local network will cope.

MIN 19/60 Members agreed in principle to the work being commissioned - subject to the costs and scope of works being presented back to the Council. The Clerk was also requested to ask LCC what traffic monitoring is being carried out in Preston due to the black 'counting markers' across many of the roads.

b) Holme Fell – Community Charter

Members attended a meeting with Onward Housing on the 4th July to discuss the Holme Fell development. At the meeting it was agreed that Onward / Seddon's would release site contact details, hold a meeting for residents, set up a Facebook page / website to disseminate information and set up a Stakeholder Group to ensure work progressed in accordance with the Charter. Apart from the release of some contact details, there has been no further progress.

MIN 19/61 Members noted that the number of complaints regarding the development have dropped and as such, Members RESOLVED not to proactively initiate a further meeting.

c) Whittingham Hospital

06/2019/0365 Outline planning application seeking approval for access from Henry Littler Way and Cumeragh Lane for the development of up to 750 dwellings; the redevelopment of the Whittingham and Goosnargh Sports and Social Club and associated outdoor facilities; approximately 1.5 hectares of land reserved for the delivery of a primary school, redevelopment of the former waste water treatment works for up to three dwellings; landscaping, public open space and other on-site infrastructure (all other matters reserved) at Former Whittingham Hospital Site, Whittingham Lane, Whittingham.

Members noted that the Clerk and Chairman met with the Planning Officer to discuss the application which is likely to go to committee in November. As a result of the meeting, the Agenda included a briefing note highlighting the application points in blue and points to be carried forward with other partners in red. Given that 650 homes are already included in the Local Plan, Members agreed to the principle of development but wished to acknowledge several other concerns with the application – even though they are not necessarily relevant to the outline planning application.

MIN 19/62 Members RESOLVED that the Clerk submit a response covering all aspects of the application so that it can be used to fully update residents on the development including the Parish Council's intention to progress concerns in other forums.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Members NOTED the following applications which were considered by the Clerk under delegated authority as replies were needed prior to the meeting.

06/2019/1027 Detached outbuilding, following demolition of existing outbuilding (part retrospective) at Roselea, 814, Whittingham Lane, Goosnargh.
This is a retrospective application to erect a garage and workshop / garden store on the site of an existing pre-fab sectional garage which has been demolished.

MIN 19/63 Representation – leave to planning.

06/2019/1028 1no. dwelling and new vehicular access at Dean View, 173, Whittingham Lane. Although this is a new dwelling in the open countryside, the application is within the garden of Dean View and as such, it can be classed as an infill plot. LCC Highways have raised no objections to the new access.

MIN 19/64 Representation – leave to planning.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS BEFORE COUNCIL

Note - Members are advised prior to the meeting that applications can be viewed at www.preston.gov.uk

06/2019/0970 24no. dwelling houses with associated works on land South of Whittingham Road, Longridge, Preston.

Members noted that the outline application proposed residential care apartments which would have provided long term employment and a facility for an ageing population. Consequently, Members expressed their disappointment that the application is for 24 x 3 and 4 bedroomed properties - in an area which is already being heavily developed with housing not included in the Local Plan. Members feel that weight should be given to the loss of the care facility along with the local employment opportunities it would have brought.

Members note that access to the site was granted under the previous planning consent but since then, several other developments have come forward resulting in the creation of 5 junctions in close proximity to each other. LCC highway comments appear to suggest that the access is acceptable - simply because it had permission under the extant planning permission - but the Parish Council remains concerned that the cumulative impact of additional vehicles stopping and emerging from so many junctions in a short stretch of road will have an adverse impact on the safety record of Whittingham Road.

Members also feel that the application should be accompanied by a Sustainability Report confirming that Longridge's services and facilities can meet the ever-growing demand sparked by the unexpected amount of new development on the Longridge, Preston boundary.

MIN 19/65 Members RESOLVED to oppose the application for the above reasons.

EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2018 / 19

Members NOTED that the external audit has been completed with no issues raised. In accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/234), the Notice of Conclusion of Audit and the Certified AGAR were added to the Notice Boards and Website.

MIN 19/66 Members RESOLVED to approve the 'Notice of conclusion of audit'.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Chairman confirmed that the accounts and bank statements had been reconciled.

HALF YEARLY BUDGET ANALYSIS Apr 19 – Sept 19

Members considered the current expenditure against the budget and assessed the progress on items outstanding. Members noted that the election expenses budget is in credit, but there is a deficit in the subscriptions due to the increased LALC subscription.

MIN 19/67 Members RESOLVED to approve a virement of £150 from elections to subscriptions and RESOLVED to use the Insurance surplus, combined with the future funding provision and asset repair budget, to carry out the top up off the bark surfacing in the play area.

CPRE MEMBERSHIP

MIN 19/68 Members RESOLVED to renew the Membership to the Campaign to Protect Rural England at a cost £36.00. CQ 1435.

When the Local Plan reaches the next consultation stage, Members requested that the Clerk makes a note to request that the CPRE consider and comment on the document.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

MIN 19/69 Members RESOLVED to approve the following accounts for payment

DETAILS	PAYEE	AMOUNT	CHEQUE
Oct salary	Mrs J Buttle	£536.24	1436
Tax / National Ins	HMRC	£134.00	1437
½ yearly expenses Apr – Sept	Mrs J Buttle	£49.15	1438
Envirocare Grounds Maintenance	Envirocare	£354.00	1439
Paper & Stationery ½ to Woodplumpton	Woodplumpton PC	£21.59	1440
E-on Electric bill	E-On	£40.90	1441
Children playing sign Cumeragh play area	Viking Signs (J Buttle)	£13.13	1442
Cutting of Cumeragh hedge	Mr MR Hayes	£220.00	1443

CUMERAGH PLAY AREA RISK ASSESSMENT

Members referred back to the annual inspection report on the Play Area at Cumeragh Village and approved the Countrywide quote to top up the bark in accordance with MIN 19/67.

Members considered a quote of £1,376 to thin and crown the trees to the south of the play area and noted that additional quotes are being sought to comply with Financial Regulations with a view to completing the works from the 2020/21 budget.

BEACON DRIVE MEMORIAL SERVICE

Members noted that the Church service will be at 10.30 at St Mary's Church, Goosnargh on Remembrance Sunday. As Revd Stephen Cooper is unavailable on Monday 11th Nov, it was RESOLVED that the poppy wreath will be placed at the Memorial on Beacon Drive after the Church Service. **MIN 19/70** Members RESOLVED to approve the purchase of 2 poppy wreaths.

ORDERING OF 19/20 CHRISTMAS TREE

Members noted that the budget includes provision for the purchase of a Christmas tree at Beacon Drive. **MIN 19/71** Members RESOLVED to approve the quote from Barton Grange.

CIL FINANCE REPORT & UPDATE

Speed cameras – LCC have approved the locations for the speed cameras and a quote has been received for them to install the poles and devices, however, Traffic Technology have stated they are happy for LCC to install the poles but they will install the devices and provide the training on the data recording. **MIN 19/72** Members considered both options and RESOLVED that LCC install the poles and Traffic Technology will erect the devices and provide the training on the equipment.

Circular walks – It will be necessary for Members to sit down with the contractors to discuss the scope of works and contractual arrangements for the walks to be upgraded. The Clerk will arrange a meeting as soon as time allows.

CONSIDERATION OF 20/21 BUDGET ITEMS

The November meeting will primarily focus on the 2020/21 budget requirements. Members noted the reply from the City Council which states that whilst they appreciate the Parish Council's concerns, they do not agree to the erection of a post and rail fence or any other barrier to deter vehicles from entering Goosnargh Village Green, however they have no objection to a replacement Notice Board.

MIN 19/73 Members RESOLVED to seek further quotes for

- Village Green replacement community board – no horses, no dogs in play area
- painting the lamp posts along the new path by the play area in Goosnargh
- Tree thinning & crowning at Cumeragh play area
- Contribution towards a Speed assessment report - CIL

The Festival Committee approached the Parish Council to ask if there would be any objections to a bench being erected on the Village Green in memory of Stephanie Butters as it is understood that the Parish Council had resolved not to erect any further benches. As the Village Green belongs to the City Council, the Clerk referred the matter to them. Members were informed that the City Council had no objections and agreed the bench could be erected opposite the play area facing the Village Green. The matter is being taken forward by representatives of the Festival Committee.

Members noted that Grant applications have been received from the Whittingham Festival Committee and Longridge Agricultural Show. **Min 19/74** Members RESOLVED to advertise the grant policy in the Newsletter to encourage other local grant applications.

LALC TRAINING

Members received email notification of a Chairmanship Workshop on Thurs 10th Oct and noted the Finance Workshop on Thurs 14th Nov. Members also noted LALC will also be hosting an Annual General Meeting on Saturday 23 November 2019 at 10am at Howick House, Penwortham.

NEWSLETTER

MIN 19/75 Members RESOLVED that the following articles should be included in the Autumn edition of the Parish Council Newsletter

- Details of the Remembrance Memorial service
- Parish Councillor vacancies
- Request for volunteers to weed communal areas and assist with litter picking
- Update on the planning application at Whittingham Hospital
- Partnership working with Longridge Town Council

NOTE NEW CORRESPONDENCE

Members NOTED that

- PCC have ordered mulit-waste stickers for the bin at Halfpenny Lane.
- PCC have reported that Mares Tail (an invasive weed) is present in the Village Hall carpark. The Clerk has referred the information to the Village Hall Committee. In response to a question, the Clerk also confirmed that Village Hall grant information has been passed on to Cllr Meades as the Parish Council's representative on the Village Hall Committee.
- Ribble Valley have issued a consultation on their future housing requirement. The item will be on the November Agenda but as comments are required by the 18th November, Members were requested to look at the information in advance,

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council is scheduled to take place on **Monday 11th November 2019** at 7.15.pm.