



WHITTINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
on Thursday 11th July 2024 at 7.15pm
in Goosnargh Village Hall – downstairs

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr Dave Hall - Chairman
Cllr Martin Carefoot
Cllr Anthony Eccles
Cllr Dave Price
Cllr Michelle Woodburn

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

PC Takhar and PCSO Alcock

Mrs Julie Buttle – Parish Clerk

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from and Cllr Barbara Clarke and Cllr Tony Brooks

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of the June Parish Council meeting.

MIN 24/25.46 Members **RESOLVED** that the Chairman sign the Minutes as a true record.

TO ACCEPT DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

MIN 24/25.47 Members **RESOLVED** to adjourn the meeting for public participation.

The police were welcomed to the meeting. Latest policing incidents relate to 5 road traffic accidents, 1 anti-social behaviour, 1 burglary, a potential child kidnapping which is being investigated by CID and a stolen bicycle. The officers advised that they are arranging a bicycle marking event to be held at the Village Hall or the Stags Head on the 21st July. Confirmation will be sent to the Clerk so that the event can be advertised on the Parish Council website.

Speed enforcement has been carried out on Halfpenny Lane. Monitoring was requested on Church Lane and Goosnargh Lane however, as these roads are 20mph, they may not meet the monitoring criteria. Speeding concerns were also mentioned at the Camforth Hall Lane / Cumeragh Lane bend leading to Guild Lodge and the Whittingham Lane / Langley Lane junction. The Clerk will report that the 30mph sign is obscured.

The police confirmed that anyone wishing to help with the speed checks should volunteer through Community Road Watch.

An issue was reported with a homeless person using the bus shelter. Police are aware of the matter and advised that any non-urgent incidents should be reported on 101.

An ongoing dispute at Rogerson Gardens is still rumbling on and it was confirmed that Community Protection Notices have been issued.

The Chairman referred to the Police & Crime Commissioner consultation that has been issued to residents and stated that given the amount of traffic and speeding concerns, he hoped the local officers would support the Parish Council's request for GATSO enforcement cameras. The public consultation will be added to the Council's website.

It was acknowledged that Whittingham has a low rate of crime and that the police have limited resources. With that in mind, the attendance of the officers was welcomed and appreciated.

Cllr Woodburn asked if anything can be done about the amount of 'cold calling'. The Clerk will make enquiries to see if new signs can be displayed.

A tree on the Village Green has signs of Ash die back. The Clerk will report it to the City Council and will request a replacement.

Cllr Carefoot advised that an advertising sign for David Wilson Homes was obscuring visibility for pedestrians wishing to cross Halfpenny Lane. The Clerk has taken photographs and has reported the sign to David Wilson Homes and LCC.

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The Clerk advised that the dog bag dispensers had been erected on Halfpenny Lane (Cllr Carefoot) and Cumeragh Village (Cllr Eccles). 2 more will be installed on Goosnargh Village Green. (Cllr Woodburn & Cllr Brooks) Once these are erected a key and a supply of bags will be distributed to the named Councillors.

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

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1st – 30th June 2024

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

REVIEW OF 1st QUARTER ACCOUNTS

Members **noted** that the supplier of the Banner does not want a donation MIN 24/25.29 and the £150 for installing the dog bag dispensers MIN 24/25.18 has not been paid as the Village Green bins have not yet been installed.

It was clarified that Goosnargh & Whittingham in Bloom have not yet applied for funding from the 2024/25 accounts.

MIN 24/25.48 Members **RESOLVED** to approve the 1st quarter statement April to June which detailed expenditure progress against the budget

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT AND RECEIPTS

MIN 24/25.49 Members **RESOLVED** to note and approve the following invoices already paid in accordance with Standing Order 2023 15 (xii)

DETAILS	PAYEE	AMOUNT	METHOD
3,200 dog bags for the dispensers	JRB Enterprise	£130.26	Ref 38

MIN 24/25.50 Members **RESOLVED** to approve the following accounts for payment

DETAILS	PAYEE	AMOUNT	METHOD
June Grounds Maintenance	Nurture	£664.62	BACs
Apply weedkiller to football pitch	Danvic turfcare	£270.00	BACs
Ink cartridges, paper & stationery	Viking	£143.83	BACS
Clerk Salary July (revised tax code)	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	£17.64	DD

Members **noted** that following a review, the website account, fees will be reduced from £58.08 to £48.84 from August 2024.

The Clerk advised that NEST pensions have issued a letter stating that the account will be referred to The Pension Regulator as payments are in arrears. The Clerk has double checked the payments and the issue appears to date back to January when the payment was not deducted because the direct debit didn't commence until February. This has been explained to NEST who are investigating the matter. The letter has not been cancelled; however, 2 emails have been issued stating the account is not in arrears.

CPRE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It was noted that CPRE membership may be beneficial if the new Government updates the National Planning Policy Framework and if support is needed in relation to Preston's Local Plan.

MIN 24/25.51 Members **RESOLVED** to renew the CPRE membership at a cost of £36.

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY - BUSINESS PLAN

MIN 24/25.52 Members **RESOLVED** to approve the quarterly CIL Finance report which shows a balance of £582,274.

Members considered the CIL Business Plan detailing projects identified for CIL funding and **noted** an email advising that the Scouts were no longer progressing a joint facility with the tennis club and the new roof for the existing tennis club building has been put on hold.

MIN 24/25.53 It was **RESOLVED**

- a) that the Clerk make enquiries to progress the gym equipment on the Village Green.
- b) that new scout hut and the repairs to the tennis club roof be moved from category 2 to category 3 pending actions from other. The Clerk will also write to the Scouts to ask if they are considering any other options.
- c) that the additional lights proposed for the path around the rear of the tennis courts be moved to category 4 as an electric supply is not available.
- d) The Clerk re-opens discussions about the Woodland Walk following the submission of a new agricultural access in to Gott Field from Tansy Road.

PROW – Information boards.

Members noted the draft of the walk leaflets and information signs. It was confirmed that the final version will include a QR link to the Parish Council website and the addition of a disclaimer to use an Ordnance Survey map.

MIN 24/25.54 Members **RESOLVED** that the sign boards will be an illustrative map and quick start guide and the leaflets will contain the detailed text information. Councillors were requested to walk the routes to identify any concerns before the leaflets are published.

SPID repairs

The Clerk met the SPID engineer who confirmed that the Bluetooth connection on the Whittingham Lane SPID is not working. As the Halfpenny Lane SPID (damaged in the road traffic accident) is still operational, it has been relocated to Whittingham Lane.

Unfortunately, a connector has also failed on the Halfpenny Lane solar panel nearest the Alston Arms. The panel has been removed for repair – leaving no working devices on Halfpenny Lane. Traffic Technology have advised that it will cost £174.00 for the pre-inspection checks to ascertain the extent of the damage to both connectors.

MIN 24/25.55 Members **RESOLVED** to pay the pre-inspection costs. The Clerk will circulate the repair quote to Members for authorisation by email. If the repairs are too costly, the purchase of replacement devices will be added to the Sept meeting.

Members noted that regardless of the existing SPID repair costs, a new solar panel is required to replace the one damaged by the vehicle on Halfpenny Lane.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Under MIN 24/25.40 of the June meeting, Members resolved that the Council engages with Homes England to get them to **1)** carry out remedial work to prevent further deterioration and **2)** progress a redevelopment initiative of their own to secure the long-term future of the church.

Members **noted** that the Clerk has summarised the concerns identified in the Inspection Report to be passed to Homes England but has not requested that Homes England progress their own redevelopment initiative, as this may impact on the time available for the Parish Council to find a company prepared to work with the Council to progress its own ideas regarding the building.

The Clerk also stated that a reminder has been sent to the NHS regarding the Hermitage building as they initially said an update would be issued in June.

Cllr Price stated that it was important to put continued pressure on Homes England to redevelop the building and as this should run simultaneously with the Council's aspirations, the Clerk was requested to contact Homes England on both points.

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 who were requested to seek advice on the content of the document, the process to follow and where to advertise the document.

Members **noted** that the Clerk has sent the draft document to Preston City Council, the CEO of Morecambe Town Council and a Cllr at Rossendale Borough Council who have been active on similar projects.

It is hoped that their comments / feedback will lead to the document being issued in August so that the Working Group can meet and discuss the replies in September.

LCC have advised that they can't comment on how the Council approaches the proposal to renovate the building but they will be able to assist with grant applications and engagement events once the Council is in a position to take any proposals forward.

SPEED HUMPS AND JUNCTION TABLES – CUMERAGH LANE

Members noted the proposals to introduce speed cushions and junction tables on Cumeragh Lane as a condition of the Barratts planning application. The proposals to reduce the speed of traffic were welcomed, however, concerns were expressed that LCC are not being proactive about other highway concerns such as replacing the chevrons / addressing the bad bend on Cumeragh Lane or resolving congestion / parking at Church Lane and outside the Post office.

MIN 24/25.56 Members **RESOLVED** to support the proposals but requested that the Clerk remind LCC of the above highway concerns which will not benefit from developer funding.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS - CONSIDERED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

MIN 24/25.57 Members **RESOLVED** not to make a formal representation on the following applications

06/2024/0635 Dormer extension to front of 17 Beacon Drive

06/2024/0655 Removal of glass porch screen and alterations at 21 Churchgate

Members **noted** that an enforcement case has been opened regarding the portacabins on Halfpenny Lane – E/2024/00152.

NOTE NEW CORRESPONDENCE

Members **NOTED** the following updates

The Clerk requested an update on the proposed new primary school in Whittingham and has received the following reply

We can confirm that the proposal to establish this new school for September 2026 was included in the 2023 Basic Need Delivery Plan(2024 to 2026) and we are progressing this project. A further consultation engagement is planned for later this year. I appreciate that it might appear that progress on the proposal is slow, however I would mention that the timeline for the establishment of a new primary school is 3+ years. We remain on track to have a new school in place by September 2026.

Lancs County Council have escalated the Parish Council's request to include a 'date of issue' on Traffic Regulation Orders.

Instead of maintaining access by using a metal plate to cross the repairs associated with a water leak on Goosnargh Lane, United Utilities closed the road. Concerns have been expressed to LCC, along with a request to provide temporary access during the next planned closure on the **23/07/24** to **25/07/24** whilst a new customer connection is installed.

Members **noted** Whittingham Lane, Grimsargh will be closed on **14/08/24** to enable Openreach on behalf of British Telecom to carry out pole replacement works. In response to the Clerk's email not to use Brabiner Lane, LCC have replied

We have considered the valid points raised, and we are currently in negotiations with the utility company about a suitable diversion route that will also accommodate HGVs. Our street works team will notify you of the agreed diversion route as soon as possible.

DATE OF NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

The next scheduled meeting will be on **Thursday 12th Sept 2024 at 7.15pm** in Goosnargh Village Hall.

END

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