



WHITTINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 13th March 2025 at 7.15pm

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr Dave Hall - Chairman
Cllr Martin Carefoot
Cllr Anthony Eccles
Cllr Tony Brooks
Cllr Barbara Clarke
Cllr Dave Price
Cllr Michelle Woodburn

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

City Cllr Stephen Whittam
approx. 40 members of the public objecting to
06/2025/0182 Swainson House Farm

Mrs Julie Buttle Parish Clerk

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from City Councillor Sue Whittam

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 13TH FEB 2025.
MIN 24/25.150 Members **RESOLVED** that the Chairman sign the Minutes as a true record.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

MIN 24/25.151 Members **RESOLVED** to adjourn the meeting for public participation.

Cllr Hall welcomed those present and reminded everyone that whilst the public participation session was time restricted, he would do his best to ensure everyone had an opportunity to comment on the Swainson House Farm planning application.

He explained that following the adoption of the revised National Planning Policy Framework, the City Council doesn't have a current 5-year housing supply and he requested that the Clerk summarise the tilted balance and the presumption in favour of sustainable development as detailed on the Parish Council website.

The Clerk added that whilst the application had been submitted to take advantage of the temporary dip in the 5-year supply, the City Council were confident it would be restored in April. Attendees were informed that the City Council had recommended an application for approval when the tilted balance was engaged previously and the Parish Council is obliged to take this information into account when commenting on the new submission. However, residents are less restricted and can submit objections based on their local knowledge of the site.

Concerns were expressed regarding the accuracy of the transport assessment, increase in traffic, width of the road, location of bus stops, absence of a footpath, lack of amenities and the impact on the surrounding countryside.

The Clerk advised that as LCC had not raised any previous concerns about the traffic, residents should ensure photographs or details of any accidents should be included in their individual objection letters. The Clerk was requested to circulate the previous committee report and appeal decision to Members so that they could see LCC's previous comments.

It was stated that residents had only become aware of the application due to leaflets circulating round the village as the official site notice had been erected when the road was closed with no footpath access. The Clerk will raise these points with the planning officer to see if the application needs re-advertising – however as the application will be determined at a planning committee – likely to be on the 29th April – residents will have until then to submit any objections. Those present were thanked for attending.

Prior to the meeting, a resident informed the Clerk and Cllr Whittam of a neighbour dispute. The planning department, police and LCC Highways will all be contacted to see if any measures can be taken to support the resident.

Cllr Carefoot raised a concern about the felling of trees at Gleadale on Cumeragh Lane. The site has planning permission for a new dwelling and the Clerk will ask the planning officer to check if the felling breaches any planning conditions.

A question was asked if there were any plans to commemorate 80 years since VE day. The Clerk stated that an event is being held at Whitechapel Village Hall. It was suggested that Whittingham Parish Council add an inscription to the Beacon Drive war memorial. The Clerk will make enquiries regarding the cost.

As there were no other matters raised, the meeting was reconvened.

PLANNING MATTERS

A stated during public participation, the City Council has acknowledged that it doesn't have a **current 5-year housing supply** however they are hopeful that it will be restored by April 2025. An explanation has been included on the Parish Council website.

A Regulation 19 Consultation has been issued on the **Central Lancashire Local Plan** which details the Planning Policy to be used when determining planning applications. Respondents replying to the Consultation, may be invited to attend the Examination in Public where housing numbers and the exclusion of housing sites may be questioned. More information will be given at the Preston Area Committee meeting on the 26th March.

MIN 24/25.152 Members **RESOLVED** that the Clerk submits a favorable response to the Regulation 19 Consultation to ensure the Parish Council remains fully and actively engaged in the decision-making process.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

06/2025/0182 95 dwellings on land to the east of Swainson House Farm, Goosnargh Lane.

Prior to the meeting, the Clerk circulated an objection letter which had been added to the Parish Council website, along with guidance to assist residents, if they wish to object.

MIN 24/25.153 Members **RESOLVED** to approve the letter which may be amended and strengthened by the Clerk, to take into account consultation replies and new reasons to object.

MIN 24/25.154 Members agreed that developers were seeking to take advantage of the temporary dip in the 5-year supply and **RESOLVED** to object to the following applications which are in the open countryside and are contrary to the Adopted Local Plan.

- **06/2025/0043** 2 dwellings at Highfield Cottage, 700 Whittingham Lane, Broughton
- **06/2025/0184** 4 dwellings on land south of Goosnargh Lane
- **06/2025/0223** up to 8no. dwellings on land off Langley Lane, Broughton
- **06/2025/0224** up to 9no. dwellings (Parcel 1) at Dean Farm, Whittingham Lane
- **06/2025/0225** up to 9no. dwellings (Parcel 2) at Dean Farm, Whittingham Lane

Members also **RESOLVED** to object to **06/2025/0142** which sought to transfer the storage space from an agricultural building to a dwelling, to allow a garage to be built.

Members had no objection to **06/2025/0215** for an agricultural building on land adjacent Oak House, Pudding Pie Nook Lane.

Members **NOTED** that the enforcement officer is investigating the erection of cabins at Clay Lane under reference **E/2025/00041** and the Clerk is in consultation with a resident regarding an alleged planning breach at Ashley Hall Farm.

LCC HIGHWAY PROPOSALS GOOSNARGH LANE

Further to the commencement of the Swainson House Farm development on Goosnargh Lane, LCC are consulting on 3 highway issues which are required to comply with condition 18 of the appeal consent.

- **A 20mph speed limit** - from Mill Lane, along Goosnargh lane to include Barnyard Way and Haymaker Way
- **Bus stops** - remove the existing bus stops on Goosnargh Lane near the junction with Oakleaf Close and introduce 2 new, relocated bus stop clearways, in a westerly direction to provide full mobility compliant bus stop clearways
- **Junction tables** - with a maximum height not exceeding 75 mm at the junction of Haymaker Way with Goosnargh Lane and on Goosnargh Lane before and after the Haymaker Way junction.

MIN 24/25.155 Members **RESOLVED** to respond to the consultation by requesting repeater signs and flashing lights to increase awareness of the 20mph limit and raised kerbs to improve bus access. The Clerk will also ask if the footpath, which is also a requirement of condition 18, will be provided.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1st – 28th Feb 2025

The Chairman verified that the bank and finance statements had been reconciled and included the £75,000 CIL transfer to the CCLA and the Co-Op bank switch to Unity Trust.

Members **NOTED** the following payments where invoices had been requested, but not received.

- Mowing of football pitch to the end of the 2024 season
- Installation of dog dispensers - Nurture = £150 + VAT
- Christmas tree and new lights - Nurture = £1,350 + VAT

UNITY TRUST SIGNATORY UPDATE - Unity Trust have confirmed that the account has been set up as dual authority, however, as 2 signatories are required in addition to the Clerk, the account needs to be set up as triple authority.

MIN 24/25.156 Members **RESOLVED** to sign a letter requesting the change.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT AND RECEIPTS

MIN 24/25.157 Members **RESOLVED** to authorise the following payments

February 2025 Maintenance	Nurture	£664.62	Online
Clerk Salary Mar	J Buttle	£1570.27	Online
PAYE	HMRC	£231.14	Online
Employer Nat Ins	HMRC	£151.36	Online
Nest Pension	NEST	£93.45	DD
Electric Bill	E-On	£14.11	DD

MICROSOFT 365 - MIN 24/25.81 confirms that the Council resolved to sign up to Microsoft 365 to ensure the Council records can be accessed if the Clerk is incapacitated for any reason. The storage incurs a monthly payment of £5.88 which the Clerk is paying by debit card.

MIN 24/25.158 Members **RESOLVED** to reimburse £23.52 to the Clerk to cover the period Dec – Mar 2025.

2024/25 E-ON ELECTRICITY CONTRACT

The Council has a one-year fixed price business plan with E-ON for the electric supply to Beacon Drive Christmas tree which needs renewing before the 12th April. E-ON's renewal cost has a standing charge of .65p The Clerk is searching to see if a cheaper contract is available.

MIN 24/25.159 Members **RESOLVED** to delegated the renewal to the Clerk.

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2024/25 END OF FINANCIAL YEAR - INTERNAL AUDIT REQUIREMENTS

Members noted the Terms of Reference and the following appendices which had been produced in preparation for the 2024/25 internal audit.

APP A - Risk Management Document

APP B - Risk Management Register

APP C - Council's Asset Register

Members confirmed that the above documents were up to date but requested that the Appendix reference letter be added to the documents.

MIN 23/24.160 Members **RESOLVED** to approve the documents and the Internal Audit Checklist **APP D** and appointed S Wiseman as the Internal Auditor.

LENGTHSMAN RECRUITMENT

MIN 24/25.161 Members **RESOLVED** that Cllr Eccles and Cllr Woodburn would interview the candidates w/c 17th March with the Clerk also in attendance to answer any questions relating to the administration of the contract.

CIL BUSINESS PLAN

Members **NOTED** the updates to the pending items on the CIL Business Plan

Gym equipment.

As stated at the February meeting, a resident has raised concerns that adding gym equipment will breach legislation relating to the use of the Village Green. The Clerk has issued an acknowledgement, advising that any dispute should be raised with the City Council as land owners - not the Parish Council.

The Clerk and Cllr Eccles met representatives from 2 Gym companies and asked their advice regarding the preferred location and type of gym equipment.

MIN 24/25.162 2 designs were presented to Members and it was **RESOLVED** to accept the proposal for the Proludic Ninja range which features an obstacle course rather than traditional gym equipment. The Clerk was requested to liaise with the City Council regarding how the scheme can be progressed. Details of the proposal will also be added to the Spring Newsletter to ascertain the views of other residents.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH COMMUNITY PROJECT

Members **NOTED** the updated Invitation to Quote document has been sent to the Procurement Officer and a telephone call is scheduled for the 18th March to confirm whether the document can now be added to the procurement portal.

NOTE NEW CORRESPONDENCE

Members **NOTED** the following matters

No Cold Calling – Trading Standards have delivered the letters asking if residents want a no cold calling area to be established. The Clerk will contact Trading Standards for an update.

Keep Britain Tidy – the Clerk has written to the City Council Cabinet Member for the Environment to request that they promote the Keep Britain Tidy Spring pledge. An article has been added to the Parish Council website.

Parish Councillor Vacancy - Regrettably, Cllr Brooks has decided that he needs to offer his resignation as a Parish Councillor in Lower Ward. The Chairman thanked Cllr Brooks for his time in office. **MIN 24/25.163** It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk contact Electoral Services so that the vacancy can be formally advertised.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on **10th April 2025** at 7.15pm in Goosnargh Village Hall.

Members **NOTED** that the Annual Council meeting will be held on the **22nd May** in the United Methodist Church on Whittingham Lane at 7.15pm.

END