



WOODPLUMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT
PRESTON GRASSHOPPERS
LIGHTFOOT GREEN LANE, WOODPLUMPTON
on MONDAY 17th JAN 2022 AT 7.00pm.

PRESENT: Chairman Cllr M Greaves
Councillors: P Bamber Cllr B Dalglish M Entwistle,
P Entwistle B Probin M Stewart
S Yates

18 Members of the public and Mrs J Buttle - Parish Clerk

APOLOGIES

None – all Members were present. The police attended but did not stay as additional seating was required due to an unexpected number of residents.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – of the meeting held on **15th Nov 2021**.

MIN 21/120 It was **resolved** that the Minutes be signed as a true record.

TO ACCEPT DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

All Members present declared a pecuniary interest in relation to the setting of the Precept and submitted a written request for a dispensation under S31 of the Localism Act 2011. The Clerk granted the requests under S33 of the Localism Act 2011.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

MIN 21/121 it was **resolved** that the meeting be adjourned for public participation.

Attendance was restricted to limit the risk of Covid however, as residents turned up unexpectedly, it was decided that they could stay providing Covid masks were worn. All attendees were requested to ensure they signed the attendance sheet so that they could be contacted if a positive case was reported.

A resident stated that the Post Office flooding had destroyed livelihoods and due diligence was not undertaken because developers had started work prior to planning conditions being discharged with no enforcement action taken for further breaches. In light of this, residents wished to know what the role of the Parish Council was and why it comments on applications when it has no powers to intervene.

Councillors replied that the City Council determines planning applications. They are also responsible for applying conditions and ensuring compliance. The City Council has a legal responsibility to ask the Parish Council's opinion but it will not refuse applications based solely on the Parish Council's objections. Enforcement queries and planning breaches are frequently raised by the Parish Council but there is only 1 enforcement officer processing complaints across the entire City. It was confirmed that the Parish Council shares the frustration of residents and although it doesn't have powers to intervene or change decisions, it expresses concerns and raises the profile of issues. It also does much more than comment on planning applications.

To communicate the concerns, it was confirmed that the Parish Council puts its Minutes and information on its website and in Newsletters. Residents can also progress matters by objecting to applications and referring concerns directly to the MP, County and City Councillors. Contact numbers are on the Parish Council website but information will also be emailed to those present.

A resident acknowledged that the Parish Council objected to the applications but once the developments had been approved, it was questioned whether action had been taken to address the drainage issues. It was stated that Hoyles Lane has not flooded in 20 years and it was questioned how the matter will be resolved as water is still running off the Taylor Wimpey site.

The Clerk explained that flooding concerns started at the Sidgreaves Lane end of Hoyles Lane and the Parish Council and other organisations approached United Utilities to request the drainage situation was improved. Lea & Cottam's Spring 2021 Newsletter confirms work is underway – however this may be separate to the Post Office flooding which may be caused by the Taylor Wimpey construction or the engineering works associated with the road re-alignment.

County Councillor Whittam's report - following a site meeting at the Post Office on the 8th Nov - confirms that a full investigation will take place. In addition, the Parish Council raised the matter with Ben Wallace MP and UU have confirmed that they will be providing funding to resolve the flooding issues. The Parish Council will continue to monitor any progress.

In reply to a question about the provision of sandbags should flooding occur again, it was stated that there has never been a need for the Parish Council to supply sandbags and the primary objective is to ensure the drainage issue is resolved, rather than provide a temporary solution which lets the statutory authorities off the hook.

It was stated that there is no forethought and the authorities don't appear to work together. Hoyles Lane was resurfaced, green tarmac was laid then it was dug up again and now it appears it will be dug up for a new sewer. A Councillor stated that LCC recently held a conference in which they promised to 'Work better with Parish Councils' so there are opportunities to improve communication and request more answers and support from LCC.

In reply to a question why can the houses be built when the developers and authorities are failing us, it was stated that the government wants more houses built and the City Council won't refuse the applications because it costs tax payers money if the appeal is granted.

A resident stated that more needs to be done as the flood water could have entered an electric substation and there is a public health risk due to sewage. In response, it was stressed that everyone has a role to play in bringing the matter to the attention of external agencies as well as County and City Councillors and the MP. Residents were reminded to write individual letters rather than a petition which is counted as one objection as far as the planning department is concerned. It was also suggested that residents write an impact statement which can be presented to LCC to request further action. The Parish Council has had some success in highlighting concerns with the press and residents could consider this option too.

Concerns were expressed regarding the felling of 2 trees on Broadstone Road. The Clerk confirmed the action was approved when the Taylor Wimpey application was determined in 2013 and as the City Council inspected the trees then, all concerns should be directed to them.

It was stated that plans had been produced to complete the re-alignment of Hoyles Lane. The Parish Council has not received a copy of the plans and will ask LCC to ensure a shield is placed on the toucan crossing to prevent it shining into an adjacent property.

Questions were asked regarding the provision of new infrastructure in NW Preston such as schools and a Health Centre. These were already detailed on the agenda but an update will be added to the Parish Council website along with details of who to contact to raise concerns and stress the need for the facilities to be provided as a priority.

Concerns were expressed that the 20mph zone on Hoyles Lane is not being adhered to and an enforcement camera is needed. It was also stated that the mini roundabout at Kingsley Road is in the wrong place. The Chairman stated that the Parish Council is working with LCC to address traffic concerns across the Parish. LCC have stated that they want traffic to use the EWLR and once this happens, problems experienced by residual traffic will be reassessed with additional calming measures if necessary.

A resident stated that he wished to discuss the Woodplumpton traffic calming scheme. The Clerk apologised that the agenda item was for Members to approve a date to look at the replies, not discuss the individual content, however, the matter would be on the February agenda.

It was **resolved** that the meeting be reconvened and most members of the public left.

Members reflected on the comments and the fact that some residents from the Hoyles Lane area do not feel as though they 'belong' to the Parish. Consequently, it was questioned if and how a new Parish Councillor vacancy can be created to represent the new development areas. The Clerk was requested to make further enquiries.

NW PRESTON DEVELOPMENT

The agenda included a detailed summary of the 22nd Nov meeting with LCC and PCC officers to discuss the Parish Council's complaints regarding development in NW Preston.

Local Centre – Members noted that the local centre had been approved in outline at the Taylor Wimpey site, but to make the application viable, Taylor Wimpey had been allowed to reduce the number of affordable homes and contribute less to the East West Link Road.

Members stated that 'tweaking' applications in this manner increased the level of distrust in the planning process but they accepted that consultants were used to ensure the viability issues were genuine. No further action was proposed.

Lack of connectivity to the EWLR – MIN 21/122 although LCC have verbally stated that the use of Tabley Lane will be discouraged once the EWLR is open, Members **resolved** that the Clerk obtain the comments in writing.

Realignment of Hoyles Lane – Members referred to the comments made in public participation and noted that revised plans may have been produced. **MIN 21/123** it was **resolved** that the Clerk request a copy and add them to the website.

Lightfoot Lane – Members noted that the priority of the junction at Lightfoot Lane / Mayflower was being looked by the City Deal team. No further action was proposed.

Enforcement concerns – MIN 21/124 Members agreed that an information session on enforcement powers would be helpful and it was **resolved** that a training session be arranged.

Bartle Garden Village – Members noted that LCC have stated that additional traffic generated by the development had been taken into account in the traffic assessment. It is acknowledged that traffic may use the PWDR and EWLR but local traffic will still travel to local amenities. Unfortunately, problems will only be evident once the estate is built – at which time any concerns can be addressed along with those in NW Preston.

Ingol Health Centre – Members noted that the NHS and have until 2025 to spend the funding received from the S106 Agreement at Cottam Hall. This will be kept under review.

Stakeholder meetings – Members noted that there are no plans to re-start the NW Preston Stakeholder meetings however, as stressed under public participation, Members are of the opinion that as the City Council is more responsive to local objections and articles in the press, no further action was proposed.

FLOODING CONCERNS

Members reflected on the comments expressed during public participation which included some speculation on why the flooding occurred. It was noted that County Cllr Whittam has requested a full investigation and United Utilities have stated that funding is available to deliver the upgrade works. **MIN 21/125** Members **resolved** to wait for the outcome of the investigation and include contact numbers for flooding concerns on the website. The Clerk will produce a report into the flooding concerns and the drainage history of the Taylor Wimpey site. This will be forwarded to Mr & Mrs Brown to assist with any action they are contemplating.

Members considered the request to provide sandbags and the difficulties associated with them as itemised on the agenda. **MIN 21/126** Members repeated the need for the statutory authorities to address the flooding issues permanently and **resolved** not to purchase them.

UPDATE ON TRAFFIC CALMING

Comments have been received on the Woodplumpton traffic calming consultation however, they are not numerous in nature. **MIN 21/127** it was **resolved** that the Clerk would forward the comments in full and Members would decide if a virtual meeting was necessary to make any amendments. The replies will also be sent to LCC in case they have any recommendations.

Cllr P Entwistle stated that he had 'bumped into' the safety auditors checking the Catforth scheme on the 11th January. He mentioned LCC's comments and highlighted the Parish Council's objectives which were met with a positive response. He questioned why the auditors were not involved at the planning stage and it was explained that they had to remain independent. Hopefully they will produce their report soon.

Members noted that the final Legal Agreement has been received from the Solicitor. **MIN 21/128** it was **resolved** that the relevant pages be signed by the Clerk as the Proper Officer of the Council with the Chairman signing as the witness.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT – Dec 2021

MIN 21/129 Members **resolved** to note and approve the following invoices already paid in accordance with Standing Order 2020 15 (xii)

DETAILS	PAYEE	AMOUNT	REF
Removal of old xmas tree & wall	Livingstone Tree Care	1330.00	NOV 73
Garden lease of land 2019/20	Community Gateway	1.00	NOV 74
Garden lease of land 2020/21	Community Gateway	1.00	NOV 75
Information sign Woodplumpton	Shelley Signs	1572.00	NOV 76
Lengthsman wks 30 - 33	B Hill	750.00	NOV 77
Community Garden plants	B Hill	137.87	NOV 78
Electrical work for Lights & Fountain*	Greenway Electrical	238.72	DEC 79
Delivery Dec Newsletter	J P P Media	162.00	DEC 80
Postage Dec Newsletter	J Buttle	353.10	DEC 81
Dec Salary	J Buttle	1160.11	DEC 82
PAYE	HMRC	101.94	DEC 83
Employer N Ins	HMRC	76.52	DEC 84
Dec Pension	Nest Pension	51.59	DEC 85

*Electrical works included unplanned works to the fountain to rectify a health and safety issue.

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

REVIEW OF 3rd QUARTER ACCOUNTS 2021 / 2022

Members noted that the Clerks expenses were not claimed for July/Sep or Oct/Dec but are included in the January accounts for payment. **MIN 21/130** As there were no other variances between the budget and expenditure Members **resolved** to approve the quarterly statement.

SLCC MEMBERSHIP

MIN 21/131 Members **resolved** to renew the membership to the Society of Local Council Clerks. As the Clerk works for 2 Parishes the membership cost of £215 will be shared by both Parishes at £107.50 each.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

MIN 21/132 Members **resolved** to note and approve the following invoices already paid in accordance with Standing Order 2020 15 (xii) Whittingham Parish Council will contribute £21.50 towards the stationery expenses.

DETAILS	PAYEE	AMOUNT	REF
Lengthsman 34 – 37 (December)	B Hill	750.00	JAN 86
By-Election cost	Preston City Council	2535.25	JAN 87
Stationery inc Newsletter Envelopes	Viking	80.38*	JAN 88

MIN 21/133 Members **resolved** to approve the following invoices for payment in January

DETAILS	PAYEE	AMOUNT
Jan Salary	J Buttle	1160.11
PAYE	HMRC	101.94
Employer N Ins	HMRC	76.52
July – Sep & Oct – Dec expenses	J Buttle	76.00

AUTHORISATION OF ACCOUNT CHANGES

Under MIN 21/117 Members resolved to transfer £100,000 to the CCLA account. The transaction has not been completed as the CCLA require Members to authorise the Clerk's new address before processing the transaction. **MIN 21/134** Members **resolved** to sign the appropriate authorisation forms.

2022 / 23 BUDGET AND PRECEPT SUBMISSION

Members noted that the draft budget had been updated to reflect the changes proposed under MIN 21/115 and account for the invoice for the 2021 by-election.

MIN 21/135 Members **resolved** to approve the budget expenditure of £43,575.

MIN 21/136 Members noted that reserves were decreasing whilst the number of residents was increasing. Members **resolved** to balance the income and expenditure by setting the 2022/23 Precept at £42,069.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS BEFORE COUNCIL

MIN 21/137 Members **resolved** to note the December planning representations and approve the January planning comments.

MATTERS CARRIED FORWARD

Due to the number of items on the agenda and the statutory requirement to consider and set the 2022/23 Precept, Members were requested to **note** the following matters which were not included on the agenda.

LCC HIGHWAY CONCERNS - MIN 21/104 **The Orchard** and MIN 21/105 **Moorside Lane**
Further responses are required from PCC and LCC.

AMBROSE HALL FARM ODOUR ISSUES – Mr Wallace’s letter of the 15th December confirms he has written to Mr Phillips, CEO of Preston City Council, to request more details from Environmental Health.

WOODPLUMPTON STOCKS – MIN 21/107 confirms that as the stocks are a health and safety concern on LCC land. Cllr Greaves is seeking advice from LCC Heritage Officers and the matter will be added to a future agenda once LCC’s advice is received.

Queens Platinum Jubilee - In December, the Clerk circulated an email from the City Council regarding the Parish Council purchasing a tree for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. All the costs would need to be met by the Parish Council including the cost of a specimen tree, tree protection measures and planting by a professional contractor. As the City Council does not own any land, the tree would probably be erected on land owned by the City Council at the Parish Council’s expense. A reply was required by the 21st December and Members confirmed they did not wish to proceed.

Canal towpaths - Members stated that the canal towpaths at Lea had been surfaced and requested that the Clerk make enquiries to see if the towpaths can be improved in the parish.

Traveller site - Members stated that more static vans had arrived at the temporary traveller site on Rosemary Lane. The Clerk was requested to ask planning enforcement to query the situation.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on **Monday 21st February 2022 at 7.00pm.**