

WOODPLUMPTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING
HELD AT WOODPLUMPTON PARISH ROOMS
on THURSDAY 9th JANUARY 2020 at 7.00pm.

19/103 PRESENT: Chairman Cllr M Greaves
Councillors Cllr B Dalglish, Cllr P Entwistle
Cllr M Entwistle, Cllr M Stewart.
Cllr G Walker

19/104 APOLOGIES: Cllr B Probin, Cllr S Yates

19/105 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of the meeting held on 18TH Nov 2019.

It was **resolved** that the Minutes be signed as a true record.

19/106 TO ACCEPT DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests.

19/107 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Agenda Notice advised the public that this was an extra-ordinary meeting called by the Chairman under Schedule 12, paragraph 9 of the Local Government Act 1972 solely to discuss the Parish Council's position on the proposed traffic calming schemes following various meetings and alterations put forward by Lancashire County Council.

A public consultation was held on the traffic calming schemes in March 2019 and following various amendments, Members are now required to debate whether to alter the scheme or enter in to a legal contract with LCC to deliver it.

The Clerk advised that it is desirable that the Council treats proposals and counter proposals in negotiations for contracts as confidential and to facilitate that, there is a legal provision to exclude the public under the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960.

Although no members of the public were present, Members **resolved** to exclude them under the above provisions of the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960.

19/108 RECAP ON THE TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES TO DATE

As the composition of the Council has changed since the traffic calming proposals were originally proposed, the Agenda updated all Councillors on the background to the decisions already taken.

In July 2015, LCC updated the Parish Council on the proposed changes to the road network due to the NW Preston development. Members detailed the current traffic concerns throughout the Parish and requested support for traffic calming measures.

In Feb 2016, the Parish Council consulted residents on the use of CIL monies and the replies indicated overwhelming support for measures to slow the traffic down. Several meetings took place with LCC to discuss traffic calming ideas, but these were rejected by the Parish Council as they did not include engineering works to slow the traffic down.

In July 2017 at the NW Preston Stakeholder meeting, it was agreed that the City Deal Team would support the Parish Council to produce plans for a traffic calming scheme.

In March 2018, a draft of the current scheme was presented to Members. The notes of the meeting - which explained LCC's rationale for including various measures - were circulated to all current Councillors prior to the Extra-Ordinary meeting.

In Jan 2019, following further delays with LCC, a meeting was held between the Parish Chairman, LCC officers, County Cllr Iddon and Ben Wallace MP. The plans were finally presented to the Parish Council and were approved for public consultation in **Mar 2019**. Several amendments were recommended, the most significant being that LCC proposed flat top tables which the Parish Council accepted.

In Nov 2019, LCC produced a final version of the plans which included street lighting. As street lighting had not been mentioned previously and as it increased the cost, Members met LCC on the **5th Dec 2019** to discuss the changes.

As the 5th Dec meeting was not a Parish Council meeting, Members were unable to formally discuss the addition of street lighting or the revised costs and these points were the focus of the Extra-ordinary meeting.

- 1) With reference to the meeting on the 5th Dec, Members were reminded that LCC stated they can't compromise on safety features which means the street lighting must go ahead if engineering features are introduced. However, the increased costs were based on LCC providing new lengths of LCC cables in new trenches but it has since been established that LCC can connect to the **23** existing street light connections provided by Electricity NW which means the Catforth costs have been reduced by **£68,150**.
- 2) Notwithstanding the above, the Catforth Councillors reconsidered the finer details of the Catforth scheme and submitted a proposal to remove 2 raised tables and 2 chicanes which are anticipated to reduce the number of additional street lights and reduce the costs even further. In addition, they proposed to explore further improvements to the crossing points on Catforth Road.
- 3) A concern was expressed that the Catforth scheme should be restricted to the 'village centre' with other phases being completed a later date. In response, it was stated that incidents occur along the full length of Catforth Road and the primary aim is to reduce the speed of traffic as it **approaches** the village centre which is frequented by dog walkers, pedestrians and children going to school and attending functions at the Village Hall. If the measures were concentrated solely on the village centre the risk of incidents will remain high as traffic will not have slowed down on the approach. Furthermore, due to the logistics involved, LCC have advised that the costs will increase if the work is completed in phases.
- 4) It was questioned whether the Catforth costs were proportionate to the number of residents. Members were reminded that they represent one Parish Council and the background papers clearly indicate the Parish Council's intention to provide traffic calming in the 2 most populated areas and residents had shown support for this approach during the consultation period. Whilst it was acknowledged that other areas are becoming more populated due to the developments in NW Preston, traffic calming proposals are coming forward as part of the development plans as evidenced on Hoyles Lane.
- 5) Cllr Entwistle summarised the amount of work put into the Catforth scheme and reminded Members that the proposal outlined in point 2) was to reduce the number of chicanes, reduce the number of calming measures on the outskirts of the village and reduce the number of street lights - the effect of which will be to further reduce the costs.

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As there were no further comments on the Catforth scheme, it was **resolved** that the Parish Council should fulfil its commitment to deliver a traffic calming scheme in Catforth in accordance with the LCC design. It was generally accepted that the Catforth scheme may be secondary to the delivery of the Woodplumpton scheme.

In order to facilitate the resolution, it was **resolved** that Cllr P Entwistle would arrange a meeting with LCC to discuss the proposals in point 2 and would report the anticipated cost reduction to the next available meeting.

All members voted in favour of the resolution with the exception of Cllr Walker who stated that he wished to reserve judgement until the reduced costs were known.

- a) With regards to the Woodplumpton Scheme, Members were advised that LCC have been unable to reach an agreement regarding the use of land at Whittle Hill to provide a turning head. If the turning facility can not be provided, Whittle Hill can not be closed. Members discussed various options which included a 20mph speed limit with junction tables, a 7.5 tonne weight restriction and an option to make the road one way. The latter suggestion would respect the narrow nature of the road and would create a safer environment for pedestrians.
- b) It was noted that the addition of a 7.5 tonne weight restriction would be difficult to enforce and may affect farm vehicles but it was stated that it would encourage HGV's not needing to go through the village to use other routes.

- c) It was confirmed that LCC will include double yellow lines around the school area and it was noted that the Parish Council may need to seek support from the Police or NSL to ensure these are enforced.
- d) Cllr Greaves summarised the work put into the Woodplumpton scheme and reminded Members that since the original plans were presented, 2 chicanes have been removed from the scheme including the chicane on the hill approaching the Church.
- e) A concern was expressed that the chicanes will still cause congestion. In response it was stated that Woodplumpton already suffers from congestion. Whilst the chicanes are still included - in accordance with LCC's recommendations - the distance between the chicanes is greater than the existing chicanes and there is no evidence that the level of congestion will increase. In addition, the whole scheme is designed to slow traffic down to **20mph** which means that drivers will either be more courteous about letting other drivers through or they will seek alternative, quicker routes.

19/110 As there were no further comments on the Woodplumpton scheme, it was **resolved** that the Parish Council should fulfil its commitment to deliver a traffic calming scheme in Woodplumpton in accordance with the LCC design.

In order to facilitate the resolution, it was **resolved** that Cllr M Greaves would arrange a meeting with LCC to discuss the alterations at Whittle Hill and would report any alterations to the cost of the scheme to the next available meeting.

All members voted in favour of the resolution with the exception of Cllr Walker who stated that he would only favour a scheme that stopped HGV's from entering the village.

19/111 Prior to the delivery of the final costs on both schemes, Members **resolved** that the Clerk contact County Cllr Iddon to see if additional funding could be secured from City Deal bearing in mind that this had been used to finance the Broughton improvements.

19/112 It was **resolved** that the Clerk would contact LCC to secure a draft copy of the works contract so that legal advice can be sought on the financial liability clause. Once the contract is received, the Clerk will make preliminary enquiries regarding legal advice from a contract specialist such as Napthans.

19/113 Members noted that once the schemes commence, the Parish Council should appoint a project manager to monitor the developments. It was **resolved** that Cllr Greaves would be the lead for the Woodplumpton scheme and Cllr Entwistle would lead on the Catforth scheme.

19/114 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be on **Monday 20th Jan 2020 at 7.00pm** at Woodplumpton Parish Rooms, rear of St Anne's Church, Woodplumpton.