

WOODPLUMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT WOODPLUMPTON PARISH ROOMS, REAR OF ST ANNE'S CHURCH, WOODPLUMPTON

on MONDAY 20TH JUNE 2016 AT 7.00pm.

- 16. PRESENT:** Chairman Cllr P Entwistle
Councillors M Entwistle S Yates M Stewart

3 members of the public

- 17. APOLOGIES** Cllr B Probin, B Dalglish, M Greaves, S Morgan

- 18. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of the meeting held on 16th May 2016.**

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

Members **noted** the draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting which will be approved in May 2017.

- 19. TO ACCEPT DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND TO CONSIDER ANY WRITTEN REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

There were no declarations of interest.

- 20. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

It was **resolved** that the meeting be adjourned for public participation.

Following the publication of last year's accounts, the amount paid to the Lengthsman was queried. It was confirmed that the amount covers 48 weeks of the year, not just the summer period.

Mr Hill a former Parish Councillor stated that he was still receiving calls from the agents representing the Travellers. He stated that the agent had said the Travellers had moved on to the site at the same time as the government released funding for authorities to provide new sites, and by not applying for funding or making sites available, the City Council had violated their human rights. He passed a paper to the Clerk with the headline 'High Court rules UK Government's planning process unlawfully discriminates against Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers'.

Following a discussion on the level of amenities available, the risk from traffic on the adjoining motorway and whether the Travellers were permanently based at the site, the Chairman concluded that any potential violation of rights was a matter for the City Council not the Parish Council. However, Mr Hill stated that as the Parish Council could have applied for funding, by supporting the City Council's decision to take enforcement action, the Parish Council was partly responsible for the current situation where, in his opinion, the Travellers now have a good case to remain on the land.

The Clerk replied that the Planning Inspector listed several reasons why Rosemary Lane was unsuitable, unsustainable and unlikely to be acceptable as a long term Traveller site and the Parish Council would continue to cite these reasons if a further planning application is submitted. With regard to funding, the applicant would need to supply information on where the new site would be located, the amenities to be provided and the level of funding required. Whilst it is acknowledged that there might be a need for an alternative site, the Parish Council does not have a duty to provide it or apply for funding.

Cllr Whittam referred to the agenda item regarding the Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan – Issues and Options. She suggested the Parish Council considers why Rosemary Lane would not be acceptable as a permanent site if it is put forward and also considers whether a rural exception policy would 'encourage' more sites in the rural area.

The Parish Council was asked if it would like a sign saying 'Welcome to Woodplumpton Community Garden'. A drawing of the sign and a quote was requested to be considered at the next meeting. Thanks were expressed for the work carried out in the community garden and a quote was requested to varnish the Notice Board at Catforth.

It was **resolved** that the meeting be reconvened.

21. TRAVELLER PROVISION

a) The temporary planning permission for the site on Rosemary Lane expires in July 2016 and the Travellers need to move to an alternative site or re-apply for temporary planning permission. At the Annual Parish Meeting, it was explained that the City Council has not identified any alternative sites and concern was expressed that this will lead to a further extension of the temporary consent – despite the inspector stating *this is not an acceptable site as the concerns about the sustainability of the development and the threat to highway safety are overriding*.

Members **resolved** to write to the Planning Inspector to express concern that despite his comments, the City Council has failed to identify an alternative site and has implied it will extend the temporary permission again. The letter will question whether this breaches the spirit in which the temporary consent was granted and ask if anything can be done to rectify the situation.

b) Notwithstanding the above, the City Council has advised that the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodations Assessment has identified a need for sites in Preston and has issued a consultation asking respondents to consider how the need should be met. Members **resolved** to reply to the consultation by

- questioning the reasons why Travellers feel there is a need for sites,
- stating that new sites should be allocated by the Council instead of re-designating existing multi-use sites already allocated in the local plan
- confirming sites should not be identified where a need has not been established
- agreeing that sites should comply with a design criteria in accordance with the housing policy and there should not be a rural exception policy
- suggesting that policy 8 should have more weighting towards the ability to access sustainable services – such as being on a frequent bus route.

22. POLICING PROVISION

At the Annual Parish meeting it was reported that staffing levels at Broughton police station may be reduced. It was acknowledged that there was a recruitment plan in place but it could be months until new appointments are made and until then the office will be understaffed particularly during holidays and periods of illness. Members **resolved** that the Chairman write a letter to the Chief Constable expressing concerns that the vacancies should be filled as quickly as possible.

23. FLOODING – GRANT APPLICATION

The Clerk presented a report to the Annual Parish Meeting explaining the measures taken by various agencies to avoid a repetition of the flooding experienced in December. The Parish Council has been approached by the District Council to make an application for a French Drain to be installed in the field to the rear of 80-90 Woodplumpton Road at an approximate cost of £5,000. The drain would intercept the run-off water from the adjacent field that was the main source of the flooding to the rear of the above properties. The District Council has also stated that it would be useful to seek a further £5,000, to improve the private land drainage system that runs through the village. Members **resolved** to approve the grant applications in support of the above. Members also noted that the Parish Council has powers under the Public Health Act 1936 to contribute to the expense of improvements to drainage works. As this work was considered to be an improvement to the drainage infrastructure in the village, Members **resolved** that CIL monies could be used to fund the schemes if the grant applications were unsuccessful.

24. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Parish Council is requested to consider the following applications and make representations to the City Council. Details of the applications will be available at the meeting and can be viewed on www.preston.gov.uk

06/2016/0367 Erection of 30no dwellings and new vehicular access off Sandy Lane, Cottam. Members were informed that the application is for 21 detached houses, 3 mews houses and an apartment block of 6no 2 bedroomed apartments in a cul-de-sac location. Members noted that a similar application for 14 dwellings had been refused as the cul-de-sac did not provide connectivity with the adjacent land.

Members also noted the comments from the City Council Parks section, which stated that the layout had an ‘undisguised car dependency’ which is contrary to the provisions of the NW Preston Master Plan. The Flood Risk Assessment states investigations are still ongoing regarding drainage. Given that United Utilities have highlighted issues with the sewer capacity on Hoyles Lane more drainage details need to be provided.

Concerns were expressed that the site is located next to a nursery school with no car parking facilities and cars park on Sandy Lane restricting the width of the carriageway. For the above reasons, Members **resolved** to strongly oppose the application.

06/2016/0396 Single storey rear extension following demolition of extension 8 Honiton Way, Cottam. Members **noted** the application was permitted development.

06/2016/0407 1no. dwelling following demolition of existing buildings on land at Benson Lane, Catforth. Although Benson Lane is in the open countryside, Members **resolved** not to object to the principle of a new dwelling as the site is not a ‘green field’ and the proposal will replace demolished buildings. However, concern was expressed that the supporting statement states that the proposal will result in the loss of industrial and commercial buildings which have the potential to be used at a more intensive level. This statement needs to be clarified as Core Strategy Policy 10 seeks to protect sites formerly used for employment purposes.

06/2016/0451 Single storey extension to rear of 82 Woodplumpton Road. Members **resolved** to leave to planning.

06/2016/0477 Single storey extension to front and rear and first floor extension to side at Homelands, Eaves Lane, Woodplumpton. Members **resolved** to leave to planning.

06/2016/0489 2no non-illuminated free standing signs and 4no pole mounted flag signs on Land at Connemara Lightfoot Green Lane Fulwood Preston. Members **resolved** to leave to planning.

25. LOCAL HERITAGE LIST

The Clerk explained that a local Heritage List is a list of buildings, structures and places of heritage value that the Parish Council and local residents wish to protect from future alterations or development. Members **resolved** to email the Clerk with suggestions of items to be included on the list which will be presented to the September meeting prior to submission to the City Council.

26. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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

27. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

Members noted that there were no matters arising from the internal audit. Members **resolved** to approve the report and pay the £85 invoice.

28. INSURANCE

Members noted that the insurance renewal had been received and was still considered appropriate to the Parish Council’s requirements. Members **resolved** to renew the policy at a cost of £339.81.

29. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Members noted that the Clerk’s salary had been adjusted in accordance with the agreement reached by the National Joint Council.

Members **resolved** to approve the following accounts for payment

L Slade – Internal Audit	£85.00	CQ 1158
Insurance renewal	£339.81	CQ 1159
Clerk’s June Salary	£1031.46	CQ 1160
HMRC	£104.02	CQ 1161
E-ON Electric xmas lights	£7.31	CQ 1162
Lengthsman Contract	£352.50	CQ 1163

30. CHRISTMAS TREE / LIGHTS AT THE ORCHARD

This matter was placed on the Agenda by Cllr Greaves. As he had sent his apologies to the meeting, Members **resolved** to defer the matter to the July meeting.

31. CIL MONIES AND WORKING GROUP UPDATES

Members noted the following updates relating to CIL expenditure.

Community Market – There have been no replies or interest expressed following the article printed in the newsletter and it was **resolved** not to pursue this item.

Admin – The Clerk's hours have been increased to reflect the additional CIL work relating to the monitoring of planning applications, the development of NW Preston, power of competence training and progression of CIL items. Members noted that 5% of CIL monies can be retained for administration purposes and subject to the Clerk passing the power of competence, Members **resolved** to fund the increase from CIL.

Play area – Members noted that PCC are yet to provide quotes for the replacement equipment due to procurement issues. Members questioned how much longer the project would be delayed. The Clerk will look at the City Council procurement policy to see if there are any guidelines in relation to the process. It was suggested that the Clerk contact some suppliers to obtain quotes and present them to the City Council but it was noted that the City Council are not obliged to accept them. It was **resolved** that the Clerk contact the City Council with a reminder that the equipment was promised for the summer.

Highways – Meetings took place with LCC who have promised to have draft plans ready for the 1st week of July. It was **resolved** that the Clerk confirm which dates LCC are available to discuss the plans and the Councillors will fit in accordingly.

Enhance maintenance – Members have **resolved** to increase the Lengthsman's hours and the matter is being progressed under the Lengthsman's contract.

Defibrillator – The Chairman confirmed he has carried out some research on defibrillators and cases and stated there were several decisions to be made in terms of power sources and whether the device should be automatic or semi-automatic. The device will also need to be checked to ensure it is charged and has not been vandalised. It was **resolved** that the information be circulated to all for further discussion at the July meeting.

War memorial – A quote has been received for the improvements, but due to the cost, 2 other quotes are required to comply with the financial regulations. Attempts will be made to secure these for consideration at the July meeting.

Dog / Litter Bins – discussions are still taking place with PCC to see if there will be a charge for emptying additional bins.

32. LCC SURVEY

Members noted that Lancashire County Council is running a consultation regarding changes to where the Council delivers some of its local services. Members **resolved** to respond expressing concern at the loss of Fulwood library and the lack of service provision in the rural area.

33. RENEWAL OF THE LENGTHSMAN'S CONTRACT

Members considered the terms and conditions of the Lengthsman's contract in private under the Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960.

It was **resolved** that new tasks need to be added to the work programme to reflect the increase in hours. Members **resolved** to approve the inclusion of the verges opposite Whittle Hill. It was further **resolved** that the work programme needs to be quantified and attached to the new contract to be amended and approved at the July meeting.

34. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Monday 18th July 2016** at 7.00pm at Catforth Primary School.