



WOODPLUMPTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN SIMON'S LOUNGE
PRESTON GRASSHOPPERS
LIGHTFOOT GREEN LANE, WOODPLUMPTON

on MONDAY 15th NOV 2021 AT 7.00pm.

PRESENT: Chairman Cllr M Greaves
Councillors: P Bamber M Entwistle,
P Entwistle B Probin M Stewart.

PCSO Ayon & PCSO Shackleton, Mr Clempson Parliamentary assistant to Ben Wallace MP
Mr Daly – resident, Mrs J Buttle - Parish Clerk

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr B Dalglish and Cllr S Yates

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – of the meeting held on **19th Oct 2021.**

MIN 21/99 It was **resolved** that the Minutes be signed as a true record.

TO ACCEPT DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

MIN 21/100 it was **resolved** that the meeting be adjourned for public participation.

The PCSOs stated there had been no major incidents and the latest crime figures were on the police website <https://www.police.uk/pu/your-area>. LCC are aware that the traffic lights on Hoyles Lane keep getting stuck on red. It was also noted that problems have been reported with the lights on Tom Benson Way / Lightfoot Lane. Concern was expressed that safety at Broughton crossroads has not improved since the traffic lights were removed and the number of incidents is probably inaccurate as not all incidents are reported to the police. The PCSO's stated they had held a surgery in Broughton and of the 7/8 people attending, 6 mentioned the lights should be reinstated. Broughton Parish Council are aware of the concerns.

Mr Daly stated that more should be done to encourage people to complain about the lack of facilities in and around NW Preston. He cited an example regarding the closure of St Martin's Parish Centre and stated that Cllr M Brown, Leader of Preston City Council had promised to see what could be done to improve access to Drs and hospitals at a recent Health & Wellbeing committee meeting.

Members responded that the Parish Council had consistently objected to new homes being built until the infrastructure was in place but objections had been repeatedly stonewalled. In addition, the Parish Council had recently used the local press and social media to inform residents that an amended planning application would replace a proposed local centre with more houses but only 37 people objected. It was felt that in general, people don't get involved until the decision impacts on them – and by then it's too late.

It was noted that the planning application was deferred from the 4th Nov planning committee, but Members remain concerned that officers had recommended the amended plans for approval without ensuring the local centre would be safeguarded elsewhere. It was stated that it was remiss of the County Council and City Council to let developers wriggle out of building facilities by stating the plans were only indicative and a view was expressed that the City Council seems reluctant to take developers to appeal as it will cost taxpayers money, yet they accept the money new houses generate, with little evidence of service improvements. Members also expressed concern that if even a facility is included in future plans – there is no guarantee that it will be delivered.

A discussion took place on healthcare provision and it was reiterated that the NW Preston Masterplan originally included a Health Centre but this was dropped on the understanding that Ingol Health Centre would be extended – but as far as the Parish Council knows, nothing further has happened.

Public participation continued to include other concerns in NW Preston including the lack of connectivity between housing developments and the E/W link road and Members noted that in a letter to the Parish Council dated the 29th October, Mr Wallace MP had written to Mr Hayward Director of Development to reiterate that this was not what the Local Plan envisaged.

Views were also exchanged on the LCC / Taylor Wimpey realignment work at Hoyles Lane and the recent flooding of Cottam Post Office. As stated on the agenda, under LCC Highway concerns, it was noted that Cllr Whittam intended to contact LCC regarding the blocked drains and the capacity of the sewers. Mr Clempson updated Members by stating that LCC had de-silted the drains however, the Clerk recalled that the Parish Council had raised concerns with UU regarding the drainage proposals when the application was being considered but UU gave assurances that the situation was being managed. The Clerk will look for the correspondence which included UU's confirmation that they must allow new developments to connect to the existing network regardless of capacity concerns.

As the Council may not make decisions under public participation, the meeting was reconvened. Any actions resulting from further discussions held under public participation are recorded under the relevant Minute reference.

NW PRESTON DEVELOPMENT

Further to MIN 21/85 of the October meeting, a complaint was submitted to the City Council's Chief Executive highlighting the Parish Council's concern that emails were not being acknowledged and the Parish Council's comments on a planning application were not included in the officer's report to Committee. Replies received from the Director of Planning and the Head of Planning were forwarded to Members. In summary the replies state that

1. Officers are considering the recruitment of a temporary enforcement officer to process the backlog of enforcement complaints
2. The Parish Council needs to understand that it may take longer than **3 weeks** for the City Council to respond to an email if the matter is not urgent.
3. A virtual meeting will be arranged with planning and highway officers to discuss traffic concerns and deviations from the NW Preston Masterplan
4. The Taylor Wimpey application was deferred to the December planning meeting to allow officers more time to consider additional representations made by residents
5. Discussions will take place to safeguard the delivery of a Local centre.
6. Planning authorities may determine applications prior to receiving advice from statutory consultees

MIN 21/101 Members were informed of the dates and times of the proposed virtual meeting and it was RESOLVED that Cllr Greaves, Cllr P Entwistle and the Clerk would attend. The Clerk will bring a summary of the concerns raised to the meeting.

MIN 21/102 As stated under public participation, the Taylor Wimpey application has been deferred from the November planning committee meeting, and should it go to the 2nd December meeting, it was RESOLVED that Cllr P Entwistle would attend.

MIN 21/103 Further to the NW Preston comments made under public participation, it was RESOLVED that the Clerk would email Mr Clempson to request that Mr Wallace MP contact the relevant agencies to

- a. Continue to request that the E/W link road is used instead of existing roads
- b. question why planning officers have not secured the delivery of a local centre despite it being in the NW Preston Development Plan
- c. provide an update on the extension to Ingol Health Centre
- d. achieve a resolution between LCC and Taylor Wimpey to realign Hoyles Lane
- e. contact UU to check if the drainage conditions were discharged on the Taylor Wimpey site and establish if there is a link between the development and recent floods
- f. call for changes in government policy which state a) that UU must allow a connection to their infrastructure and b) Planning authorities may determine applications prior to receiving advice from statutory consultees

LCC HIGHWAY CONCERNS

Unfortunately, County Councillor Edwards was unable to attend the site meeting arranged to discuss various highway concerns in the Parish, however, Cllr M Greaves, Cllr P Bamber and Cllr P Entwistle met County Cllr S Whittam and City Cllr K Middlebrough to discuss the concerns on site. Both Cllr Whittam and Cllr Bamber issued a summary of the actions agreed as detailed on the agenda.

- **Hoyles Lane** – Cllr Whittam’s email confirms that a thorough investigation is needed into the re-alignment and the flooding and it was noted that this will be progressed by LCC and UU as the statutory agencies responsible.
- **The Orchard** – It was felt that damage to the verges could be avoided if the entrance is widened. Cllr Whittam will raise this with Highways but also questioned if it could be done as part of the traffic calming plans. This will be added to the traffic consultation comments. Cllr Whittam also requested details regarding the Parish Council’s proposals to provide parking at the top of the Orchard. These were forwarded on the 10th Nov. It was noted that Cllr Whittam and Cllr Middlebrough will liaise with PCC to see if the cost can be reduced.
MIN 20/104 Once a reply has been received, the scheme can be brought back to the Parish Council for consideration as a CIL expense.
- **Moorside Lane** – Cllr Whittam confirmed she would be contacting LCC to see if the 60mph limit can be reduced. **MIN 20/105** Once that is actioned, it was RESOLVED that the Parish Council could look at other measures involving the Road Safety Partnership. The limitations of Bellway Bridge as a listed structure could also be mentioned in planning replies.
- **Blackleach Lane** – Repeated damage to the canal bridge. A possible solution is to make the road narrower on approach. It was noted that Cllr Whittam will liaise with Highways and report back.

LCC CONFERENCE

Cllr P Entwistle provided a summary of the Lancashire Parish & Town Council conference which he attended on the 13th November. He reported that the Leader of the County Council mentioned improved collaboration, communication and working together with Parish Councils and Cllr Entwistle has put his name forward to be part of a working group to revisit LCC’s Charter with Parishes. The Director of Health referred to social disadvantages leading to Preston’s life expectancy being 6 years less than Penwortham. He also expressed concerns about Covid which could lead to hospitals being overwhelmed. County Cllr S Turner outlined LCC’s plans to be carbon neutral by reducing transport emissions and the use of fossil fuels. Better use of the canal tow paths was also referenced which may be beneficial to Woodplumpton. Andrew Snowden, Police & Crime Commissioner also outlined measures in the Police and Crime Plan to be released on the 9th December. Measures include targeting anti-social behaviour, improving neighbourhood policing with more ‘bobbies on the beat’, re-opening local police stations, improving grants to look at the prevention of crime, operations to target knife crime and seizure of assets obtained through crime. Members NOTED the measures with interest and hoped the resources will be made available to deliver them.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY RESPONSE - AMBROSE HALL FARM

As reported at the July meeting, a stalemate has been reached with the Environment Agency regarding the odour issues at Ambrose Hall Farm. The Clerk sent a letter to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food but a reply was not received, however the residents’ group have now advised that the City Council Environmental Health Department are investigating complaints at a local level. **MIN 21/106** It was RESOLVED that residents are now advised to contact Environmental Health by including an article in the winter Newsletter with reference to the be a ‘Good Neighbour’ notices.

WOODPLUMPTON STOCKS

A planning officer at the City Council has stated that Listed Building permission is required to change the stocks and it will only be given if the Council provides a specialist report on the condition of the stonework. Further to MIN 21/90 Cllr Bamber and Cllr Greaves met with Mr Scott, who carried out the specialist repairs to the War Memorial, but he stated he could not dig underground to check the condition of the stone as the stocks were listed. **MIN 21/107** as the stocks are a health and safety concern on LCC land, it was RESOLVED that Cllr Greaves would seek advice from LCC Heritage Officers.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

In order to keep the meeting as short as possible, to further reduce the likelihood of Covid infection, the Clerk is dealing with **routine** planning matters under delegated authority in accordance with Standing Order 2020 (15 xiv). **MIN 21/108** Members RESOLVED to note the delegated planning comments presented to the November meeting. Members were also requested to comment on 2 applications which were not considered to be routine.

An objection had been received regarding application **06/2021/1451** for an extension to a storage / distribution building at Blackpole Farm House on Lewth Lane.

The application is described as an extension to an existing storage building which will be used for the storage of insulation and energy saving goods. Members questioned whether the increase in stock would lead to an increase in the size and frequency of vehicles. In addition, the application form states the number of car parking spaces will be reduced from 12 to 4 to accommodate the extension - yet the number of staff will increase by 2.

MIN 21/109 Members RESOLVED to request more information to establish if the proposal would generate additional traffic and an increase in parking on Lewth Lane.

06/2021/1476 Change of use from existing farm building to indoor 4g artificial turf sports pitch (Use Class E(d)) at Singletons Farm, Brierley Lane, Preston.

Members noted the application was retrospective following an enforcement investigation.

In general terms, Members are not supportive of retrospective applications and consider that approval will encourage others to flout planning rules. It was stated that floodlights have been added to the site but there is no mention of this in the planning application.

With regard to access to the site, the access is narrow and Members do not feel passing places in field gates is a safe solution. It is unclear from the plans whether a one-way system will be used to improve safety and it is also unclear whether the car park - which can provide parking for 20 vehicles - will be surfaced or marked into parking bays. The building will be used from 09.00 – 21.00, 7 days a week, including Bank Holidays. The site is not accessible by bus making it unsustainable and entirely car dependent and the use and increase in traffic, has the potential to cause noise and disturbance to nearby residents.

MIN 21/110 Members RESOLVED to object to the application as they consider the rural location is unsustainable, the facility is not needed in a rural area and will increase traffic on rural lanes.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Members noted a **receipt** of **£500** in respect of the PROW grant and the October CIL **receipt** of **£60,801.71**. **MIN 21/111** Members RESOLVED to note the following accounts already paid under Standing Order 2020 /15 (b) xii

Lengthsman 26-29	£750.00	BACS	Ref 65
Printing of the Summer Newsletter	£218.92	BACS	Ref 66

MIN 21/112 Members RESOLVED to approve the following accounts for payment

Purchase of new Christmas tree	£384.00	BACS
Clerk's Nov Salary	£1160.11	BACS
HMRC PAYE	£101.94	BACS
Employer National Ins	£76.52	BACS
Preston Grasshoppers – room donation	£30.00	BACS
Shelly sign in Woodplumpton	Invoice not received	Delegated
Removal of tree and walled planter	Invoice not received	Delegated

COMMUNITY GARDEN - ADDITIONAL PLANTS

Members were informed that the Christmas tree had been planted in the community garden and a new stake has been added. **MIN 21/113** Members RESOLVED to approve the addition of new plants around the base of the tree at an approx. cost of £150.00.

Members noted that it will be necessary to replace the post and socket supplying electricity to the tree for the Christmas lights. **MIN 21/114** It was RESOLVED that an electrician be contacted to complete the necessary works.

CONSIDERATION OF 2022/23 BUDGET ITEMS

At the October meeting, Members were requested to identify new budget items for consideration and an increase to the Lengthsman's hourly rate was proposed. The draft budget was presented on this basis. Members noted that the draft budget no longer included maintenance to hedges / paths as this was already being carried out by the Lengthsman. It was queried whether the Lengthsman's hours should also be increased to reflect the additional work. **MIN 21/115** As the work is being carried out under the existing hours, it was RESOLVED that the £1200 maintenance estimate, remain in the 2022/23 budget so that additional hours can be paid on an adhoc basis. **MIN 21/116** With regards to the unspent amount for 2021/22 it was RESOLVED that the hourly increase will be paid from January 2022 with the amount being taken from the maintenance budget. A final version of the budget will be brought to the January meeting where Members will be required to set the 2022/23 Precept.

CIL FINANCE ANALYSIS

Members noted that as the October CIL payment has been paid into the bank account, the CIL amount in the bank is over £100k and transaction charges could be applied. **MIN 21/117** Members RESOLVED to transfer £100k to the CCLA account on the basis that it can be transferred back as soon as LCC request payment for the traffic calming scheme.

TRAFFIC CALMING UPDATES

Woodplumpton scheme – At the October meeting, the Clerk advised that LCC had provided the Bill of Quantities for the Woodplumpton scheme and had confirmed that a further round of consultation is required. Under MIN 21/96 Members expressed a preference to put the plans on the website and carry out their own consultation via the December Newsletter.

LCC have confirmed that they are agreeable to the consultation being managed by the Parish Council, providing they see a copy of the article prior to publication and receive a summary report of the replies. In response to the question regarding the 'weight' to be attached to any objections, LCC have replied that the parish led consultation will be used as a platform to identify any problems / amendments to the scheme as this will reduce the likelihood of formal objections being submitted at the TRO stage.

Despite the progress above, the Clerk informed Members that she had received a copy of a LCC letter, issued to a resident via Ben Wallace MP, which appeared to imply that the scheme was being held up as the Parish Council had not signed the Legal Agreement – however LCC have not issued the final copy for signature.

MIN 21/118 Members RESOLVED to send a copy of the Newsletter to LCC as requested, prior to putting the plans on the website. The Clerk will also contact the Solicitor to ask for the final version of the Legal Agreement.

Catforth scheme – LCC were requested to produce an update on the Catforth Scheme following the meeting on the 4th October. A revised cost has been provided but this does not include works in either layby. The email refers to additional street lights and a crossing – which is already including in the plans. The plans are still subject to a safety audit and no further action can be taken until this is carried out.

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

MIN 21/119 Members RESOLVED to approve the draft content of the winter Newsletter subject to any amendments by LCC in MIN 21/118 above.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at Preston Grasshoppers on **Monday 17th January 2022 at 7.00pm.**