



WOODPLUMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN
ST ANNE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL LIBRARY
WOODPLUMPTON ROAD, PRESTON
ON MONDAY 17th OCT 2022 at 7.00pm

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

City Cllr S Thompson, 1 member of the public and Mrs J Buttle - Parish Clerk

APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded for Cllr B Dalglish and Cllr S Yates

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26th Sept 2022.
MIN 22/76 It was **resolved** that the Chairman sign the Minutes as a true record.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS / WRITTEN DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations of interest.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

MIN 22/77 It was **resolved** that the meeting be adjourned for public participation.

A resident from Eaves Lane expressed concern that there is very limited infrastructure to support the new building work in the Parish despite the City Council benefitting from an increase in Council Tax. The Chairman stated that the applications were approved due to the Government's policy to build more housing. It was stated that there should also be a policy to build more reservoirs and deal with the increase of traffic on the roads. Reference was made to the Preston West Distributor Road and it was stated that good progress is being made. In response to a specific query relating to the re-opening of Bartle Lane, the Clerk referred to an email from the County Council which states *although the road looks complete, further works are required to ensure it can be used safely. Hopefully it will be open at the beginning of December.*

Cllr Thompson referred to the lack of sewage infrastructure which also affects Barton. He stated that he had voted against an application off Bartle Lane as the infrastructure isn't in place, but it was approved by the majority of planning members. He also stated that Broughton had produced a Neighbourhood Plan to improve / create community facilities but the plan was ignored in favour of a mosque which wasn't an identified need. He expressed concern that the ruling labour group had no interest in improving facilities in the more rural areas.

The Clerk stated that local community facilities should be funded by CIL monies, however the City Council passes the money to LCC under the City Deal agreement. Unfortunately, the amount 'handed over' is not known as the last CIL report on the City Council website relates to 2018/19. The Clerk asked Cllr Thompson to establish if the decision to pass the CIL money to LCC will ever be reconsidered. CIL expenditure is detailed on the Regulation 123 list and includes local health provision, but unlike the schools and train station, the plans are not on the City Deal Infrastructure Delivery Plan. The Clerk asked Cllr Thompson to establish who was progressing this item as it is understood that the S106 money attached to Ingol Health Centre must be spent by 2025.

A representative from Pringle Homes was invited to the meeting regarding the mud deposits associated with their development at Plumpton Field. They replied to say they were unable to attend but they advised that they had hired a road sweeper to ensure the road is cleaned and stated the situation will improve once the new road entrance is tarmacked.

Cllr Dalglish had emailed to confirm the situation had improved and the Clerk was requested to send a reply to say that whilst the improvements had been noted, monitoring will continue and the Parish Council will be back in touch if more complaints are received.

TRAFFIC CALMING SCHEMES

Woodplumpton – The scheme was approved at LCC's Cabinet meeting on the 6th Oct and is still on schedule to commence on Monday 24th Oct 2022. Members **noted** an email update from LCC dated the 14th Oct which referred to a concern regarding the traffic calming measure outside the School / West View Farm. LCC engineers have checked the concern on site and have re-run computer modelling assessments and have concluded that there is no advantage to be gained by amending the design.

LCC have also forwarded a copy of a letter issued to residents, informing them of the road closure, along with the **0300 123 6780** contact number for any concerns. The letter confirms access will be provided for residents and states the closure will be until the 5th Dec or until the works are complete, however members reported that the site notices state the 30th December.

Further to the Cabinet approval, LCC have issued an invoice for the works. The Clerk confirmed that the invoice was in accordance with the itemised breakdown emailed prior to the Cabinet meeting and includes fees to a landowner and BT in connection with the turning area at Whittle Hill.

Whittle Hill – Since the Cabinet meeting, further discussions have taken place with the landowner, who is concerned regarding the amount of land required by LCC. Cllr Greaves has agreed to attend a site meeting with LCC and the land owner on Thurs 20th Oct. If an agreement cannot be reached, the Whittle Hill element may incur additional costs or in a worst-case scenario, the turning area may have to be withdrawn. If necessary, an extra-ordinary meeting will be called to ensure Councillors can consider any additional costs or alterations to the scheme.

In a further complication, BT engineers will not visit the site to assess the removal of their apparatus until their fees are paid. Consequently, if the fees are paid upfront as itemised in LCC's invoice, there is a risk that the fees cannot be claimed back if the scheme is aborted. There is also a risk that the scheme will be delayed if the invoice is not paid in full.

As reported at the Sept meeting, some trees will need to be felled to make way for the turning circle. As suggested, LCC have approached the City Council to see if they can be planted at the Orchard – however they still need other locations.

MIN 22/78 Members noted the risks above and **resolved** that the BT fees should be paid as part of the LCC invoice so that the Woodplumpton Road element can commence on schedule.

MIN 22/79 Members **resolved** to withdraw £180,000 from the CCLA account which, when added to the CIL bank account money, will be sufficient to pay the invoice in full. Members noted that whilst the CIL bank balance will temporarily be depleted, the Council will receive a further CIL payment of approx. £93,000 in October. This will be sufficient to fund any unforeseen increases on the traffic calming scheme or pay for the parking works at the Orchard.

MIN 22/80 Members **resolved** to suggest replanting some trees near to Whittle Hill; planting on the Orchard away from the parking frontage and planting on LCC owned verges in the Parish.

Catforth – Further to MIN 22/59 LCC were informed that the costs to move the guywire were unacceptable. Cllr P Entwistle has requested a meeting with the safety engineers and County Cllr C Edwards to discuss alternative options but it was **noted** that these are unlikely to go ahead until the Woodplumpton scheme is more advanced.

Parking at the Orchard – Further to MIN 22/60, Preston City Council have been asked to draw up the plans so that the tendering process can commence, however, they have advised that work is unlikely to start until Jan / Feb, subject to the Parish Council agreeing to any of the quotes.

Furthermore, as LCC have advised that the area needed for their compound will be a different size and shape to the area required by the parking scheme, the City Council have decided it will be best if the land is reinstated by LCC prior to works commencing on the parking frontage.

MIN 22/81 Members expressed disappointment that the City and County Council could not progress the parking scheme together and **resolved** that the Clerk requests details of the tender drawings so that they can be considered at the November meeting.

Community Toolkit Road Signs - Under MIN 22/20 it was resolved that Cllr P Entwistle would contact the schools to see if they were happy to receive some signs depicting silhouettes of children to encourage motorists to slow down. Woodplumpton School have confirmed they are happy with the signs; however previous signs were removed as LCC considered they were a hazard due to the narrow pavement. Catforth school have stated that they would prefer bollards with the school logo.

MIN 22/82 Members had no objection to the provision of bollards at Catforth and as the pavement will be widened in Woodplumpton as part of the traffic calming scheme, Members **resolved** that the signs and bollards could be purchased.

PWDR REPLACEMENT TREE & PLAQUE

Members were reminded that a red oak tree was planted in Bartle Lane in Dec 1953 to commemorate the Queen's Coronation. Sadly, the tree was in poor health and was felled to make way for the Preston West Distributor Road, however, the Parish Council has been liaising with LCC to plant a replacement tree.

MIN 22/83 Members **resolved** to approve the location which is to the right of the junction of Bartle Lane and the Sitting Goose. To increase awareness of the tree's significance, Members stated that it should be surrounded by a fence with a plaque explaining that it is a replacement to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II's coronation, reign and recent death. Cllr P Entwistle will email the requirements to LCC.

2022/23 FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1st April – 30th Sept 2022

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

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT AND RECEIPTS

MIN 22/84 Members **resolved** to note and approve the following accounts already paid in accordance with standing order 15 (b) xii

LANPAC Membership (MIN 22/64)	£60.00	BACS	REF 55
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MIN 22/85 Members **resolved** to approve the following accounts for payment.

Clerk's expenses Apr – Sept 2022	£89.44	BACS
Clerk's Oct Salary	£1200.32	BACs
HMRC PAYE Sept	£82.06	BACs
Employer Nat Ins Sept	£83.70	BACs
Lengthsman weeks 25 - 28	£900.00	BACs

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

MIN 22/86 Members **resolved** to approve the purchase of 2 poppy wreaths under S137 of the LGA 1972 at a cost of £44.00. Members **noted** that the Remembrance service in Woodplumpton will still take place as LCC will not be working on the road over the weekend.

HALF YEARLY BUDGET ANALYSIS Apr 22 – Sept 22

MIN 22/87 Members noted the budget and expenditure variances and **resolved** to approve the Half Year budget report which was signed by the Chairman.

CONSIDERATION OF 2023/24 BUDGET ITEMS

Members were requested to identify new budget or CIL items so that an estimated cost can be brought to the November meeting which will focus on next year's budget.

Members noted that Mr Hill has advised that the wooden edging, around the notice board in the community garden, has rotted and needs replacing with stone setts.

MIN 22/88 Members **resolved** that as the edging is a health and safety matter, the item should be financed from this year's budget. Quotes will be brought to the November meeting.

It was also noted that the paving stones leading to the War Memorial are sometimes slippery due to the smooth surface. Sand will be added for Remembrance Day but Cllr P Entwistle will contact the contractor who laid the stones to see if the surface can be scarified.

Cllr M Entwistle requested that the donation to Catforth in Bloom be retained at £300.

It was noted that a resident had expressed concern that by funding the fete, the Parish Council was supporting the use of fireworks. Members disputed this as the management and running of the fete is down to the organising committee. Cllr Greaves stated that 'quiet' fireworks are used and reasonable precautions are taken. A local resident is also given assistance to stable her horses.

MIN 22/89 Members **resolved** there was no reason to remove support for the Fete and funding will be retained at £2,000.

FRACKING

The Parish Council is a member of the CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) and has received details of a petition asking the Government to rethink its plans on Fracking. Whilst Members may sign the petition as individuals, a request was received to consider the matter collectively as a Council.

MIN 22/90 Members objected to previous fracking applications due to the increase in HGVs which would need to access the site. Since then, fracking was suspended due to earthquakes in the local area. This fact represents a genuine concern for residents and as such Members **resolved** to support the CPRE campaign and oppose any plans to bring back fracking locally.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS BEFORE COUNCIL

MIN 22/91 Members **resolved** to note and approve the delegated planning representations.

Members considered the following application which is not routine.

LCC/2022/0049 construction of a new railway station at Cottam, including station building and forecourt, 2 platforms, footbridge over the railway, associated parking and infrastructure, new public highway access road, a bus gate at the junction with Lea Road, a change of use of Sidgreaves Lane to be a segregated cycle and pedestrian track and the construction of a new bridge over the Lancaster canal with cattle creep on land off Lea Road and Sidgreaves Lane.

Members noted that the application falls in Lea and Cottam Parish and the provision of a station was identified in the NW Preston Masterplan.

The scheme comprises a two-platform station with pedestrian overbridge, ticketing facilities and car park, east of the Preston Western Distributor Road. Highway access is likely to be via Cottam Link Road and the Preston Western Distributor Road involving a bridge over the Lancaster Canal.

The supporting documents state that the new station will improve travel connections between the Cottam and North West Preston developments to Preston, Blackpool, Manchester and London, and will remove traffic from the Strategic Road Network. Highway connections to / from the M55 and A583 via the Preston Western Distributor will also attract Park & Ride demand at the station.

The station will provide 234 parking spaces, 50 cycling spaces and 10 motor cycle places.

MIN 22/92 Members stated that the station will provide an alternative form of transport which may help alleviate congestion in and around Preston. Members **resolved** to leave to planning.

WOODPLUMPTON STOCKS

Members **noted** that the Planning Officer has granted an extension of time until the 31st October to progress the planning application to repair the Stocks.

PARISH & TOWN COUNCIL CONFERENCES

Members **noted** that the Clerk will be attending the conference on behalf of the Society of Local Council Clerks.

Cllr P Entwistle informed members that he had attended LCCs Cabinet meeting in October where County Cllrs S Whittam and C Edwards complimented the Parish Council on the partnership agreement to secure the traffic calming scheme in Woodplumpton.

The Cabinet meeting also received a presentation encouraging local communities to sign up to the Warm and Welcoming scheme detailed in an email to Members on the 15th Sept. In summary, a grant will be given to organisations who open their doors to provide a warm and welcoming space for those experiencing hardship. It was confirmed that local libraries will be involved in the project and they will help signpost vulnerable people to other agencies.

It was also announced that a licence is now required if Parish Councils or community organisations wish to attach bunting or lighting festoons to lamp posts. There is a £70 licence fee but providing the organisation applies to LCC 10 weeks in advance of the event taking place, the charge to inspect whether lamp posts are weight bearing will be waived.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Catforth School have stated that they have referred the Parish Council's request to hold meetings in the new school classroom to the school governors who meet on the 21st November.

Consequently, Members **noted** that the next Parish Council meeting will take place on **Monday 21st November 2022** in the Library, St Anne's Primary School, Woodplumpton.