



WOODPLUMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN
ST ANNE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL LIBRARY
WOODPLUMPTON ROAD, PRESTON
ON MONDAY 21st NOV 2022 at 7.00pm

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

1 member of the public, Mr Hill the Parish Lengthsman and Mrs J Buttle, Parish Clerk - via zoom due to a positive Covid test.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded for Cllr S Yates and noted from PCSO Julie Anyon.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th Oct 2022.

MIN 22/93 It was **resolved** that the Minutes were a true record. As the Clerk was not present in person, the official copy will be signed at the next meeting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS / WRITTEN DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations of interest.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

MIN 22/94 It was **resolved** that the meeting be adjourned for public participation.

Concerns were raised regarding the state of Sandy Lane and a resident expressed frustration that the road has been horrendous for months but nothing has been included in the Parish Newsletter. The Chairman explained that building works are causing problems all over the Parish and whilst updates on everything can't be included in the Newsletter, the Parish Council has been in regular contact with Lancashire County Council regarding the state of Sandy Lane.

Following a query in May, LCC informed the Parish Council that the surface issues would not be repaired at the public expense and they had instructed the contractor and developer to sort things out. On the 24th Oct, the Parish Council received a Traffic Regulation Order confirming that the road would be closed between 24/10/22 to 11/11/22 to enable A J Cornall Ltd to carry out emergency carriageway rectification works.

It was stated that the works had not been carried out and the developers should be held to account before more any new houses are allowed. It was agreed that it is in everyone's interests to repair the road as prospective buyers will also be put off by its current state.

It was agreed that the Clerk will contact LCC to ask why the works weren't carried out; why the Parish Council wasn't informed of the delay and to establish when the works will be rescheduled. Reassurances will also be sought that the road will be reopened and fit for purpose in January as LCC have already advised that Sandy Lane will be used as a diversion route when Sidgreaves Lane is closed.

In addition to the above, residents are encouraged to raise the matter with the County Councillors and the local press, copying the Parish Council in for information. If a site meeting is required, it was confirmed that a Parish Councillor would attend.

Mr Hill stated that work had recommenced on the semi-detached houses at Bay Horse Lane, Catforth, however it looks like the road has been narrowed by 4-5m. Cllr P Entwistle will visit the site and will send some photographs to the Clerk to check against the application plans.

Further to MIN 22/88, Mr Hill confirmed that he had sourced the materials to replace the edging in the Community Garden and he will forward the receipts to the Clerk for payment.

It was mentioned that the plants in the war memorial need replacing and a preference was stated for shrubs rather than annuals. Although shrubs are more expensive, they are less labour intensive and are hardier against drought. It was agreed that Mr Hill will source some replacement plants and reference was made to a new nursery in Catforth.

It was confirmed that the Christmas tree has been ordered for the Community Garden and Mr Hill will assist with planting it.

Mr Hill advised that the dropped kerb had been replaced with a junction table outside the gates to the Community Garden making access difficult. He also advised that the traffic calming works have churned up the grass at the Orchard and at Whittle Hill and the Clerk was requested to check that the areas will be reinstated.

It was stated that Woodplumpton residents had expressed concerns that the gradient on the raised platforms were not severe enough to slow traffic down. LCC had replied that the gradient had been determined with bus passengers in mind but Members stated that speed bumps on other bus routes such as Lytham Road and Cromwell Road were steeper. It was also stated that some of the platforms were steeper than others and it was questioned why they had different coloured tops.

As the above was on the agenda, it was **resolved** that the meeting was reconvened.

TRAFFIC CALMING SCHEMES

Woodplumpton – Works commenced on site w/c 24th October as scheduled and whilst a few access problems were outlined on the agenda, the works had progressed as planned.

MIN 22/95 Further to the concerns that the raised platforms are not severe enough to slow traffic, it was **resolved** that Cllr Greaves would ask LCC to check the gradient of the platforms in the hope that they can be increased. At the same time, access to the Community Garden will be checked.

As part of the works, LCC checked the roadside gullies and drains and found 16 defects including 4 stretches where the pipework had not been connected to the drain. The defects have been repaired with the costs coming from LCCs revenue budget.

MIN 22/96 It was **resolved** that the Clerk contact LCC to request a summary of the defects as this could be helpful with regards to any more flooding issues in the village.

Whilst Woodplumpton School have confirmed that they are happy with the pencil bollards, LCC have suggested that a planter could also be added to the buildout near the school. LCC may be able to provide one within the budget but anything specific will need to be financed by the Parish Council. Concern was expressed regarding the durability of a wooden planter and a preference for pre-cast concrete was stated.

MIN 22/97 It was **resolved** that as the size and space available can only be determined once the bollards are installed, further discussions regarding the style and cost will be required with LCC.

Whittle Hill – Further to the site meeting with the landowner, LCC have advised that BT have stated that it will be Jan – March before they can move their pole, which means the Whittle Hill phase isn't likely to commence until April, however a Traffic Regulation Order has been received stating that the prohibition notice will be operative from 5th Dec to 12th April.

MIN 22/98 It was **resolved** that the Clerk check the dates of the TRO and ascertain if the later start will have an impact on the commencement of the Catforth scheme.

Catforth – A meeting will take place on the 23rd Nov to discuss the Catforth scheme. The discussion will focus on the School Lane layby and experiences learnt in Woodplumpton such as the gradient of the humps and the need for a dropped kerb outside the village hall.

Parking at the Orchard – Further to MIN 22/81, Preston City Council telephoned the Clerk stating that legal discussions had taken place regarding the unadopted road along the frontage of the proposed parking spaces because the City Council may need to improve the surface. Whilst the City Council's email confirms that internal investigations have taken place, there is no indication that the review will delay the commencement of the scheme and the email states that a topographic survey is being prepared, along with a detailed drawing to be issued with the tender package. Tenders are likely to be returned by the end of January with an anticipated start date of the 10th April. The email questions if the Parish Council would prefer the works to start at the end of the summer term and whether the Parish Council will assist in any consultation process.

MIN 22/99 It was **resolved** that the Clerk reply stating that Members want the work to start as soon as possible and will be happy to assist in the consultation with residents.

Community Toolkit Road Signs

Members noted that a grant for the signs / cones has been secured from the Police Crime Commissioner's fund however it is on condition that LCC gives written consent for the signs to be located in the areas proposed. The Clerk has requested consent having explained that the signs were proposed following consideration of the Road Safety Partnership Toolkit.

MIN 22/100 Following the Clerk's advice, it was **resolved** that the purchase of the signs should not go ahead until LCC give their approval.

PWDR REPLACEMENT TREE & PLAQUE

Having clarified that the original plaque was mounted on a large rock, LCC have confirmed that their contractor will be able to provide and position an appropriate natural stone pillar / block in front of the tree facing the road so that a new plaque can be attached.

MIN 22/101 Members **resolved** to set aside £100 for the plaque and **resolved** that Cllr P Entwistle continue to liaise with LCC regarding the erection of the tree and plaque which will occur once the risk of damage by construction works has decreased.

CIL FINANCES

MIN 22/102 Members **resolved** to approve the CIL finance sheet, noting the October CIL payment of £92,778.77. The Clerk was requested to put new CIL expenditure ideas on the January Agenda.

WOODPLUMPTON STOCKS

Members noted that planning permission had been approved for the work at the Stocks.

MIN 22/103 Members **resolved** to approve the revised quote of £5,995.48 for the works which will be a CIL expense. It was also suggested that the Focus newsletter run an article on the renovation once the project has been completed.

2022/23 FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1st April – 31st Oct 2022

As the Clerk was not present in person, the accounts and bank statements will be emailed to the Chairman for verification and the documents will be signed at the next meeting.

INFLATIONARY PAY INCREASE

Members noted that the National Joint Council has agreed a flat rate payment of £1,925 on every pay scale point backdated to the 1st April 2022.

MIN 22/104 Members **resolved** to approve the adjustment to the Clerk's salary and confirmed the 7 months back pay had been correctly calculated.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT AND RECEIPTS

MIN 22/105 Members **resolved** to note and approve the following accounts already paid in accordance with standing order 15 (b) xii

LCC Traffic calming Invoice (<i>MIN 22/79</i>)	£252,345.12	CQ 1299	REF 61
Electrical works for Maxy Lane Defib (<i>MIN 22/70</i>)	£174.24	BACS	REF 62
Summer Newsletter printing	£304.00	BACS	REF 63
Poppy wreath (<i>note MIN 22/86 stated £44</i>)	£40.00	BACS	REF 64

MIN 22/106 Members **resolved** to approve the following accounts for payment.

Clerk's Nov Salary with 7 months back pay	£1672.61	BACs
HMRC PAYE	£299.98	BACs
Employer Nat Ins new rates	£172.48	BACs
Ink cartridges (half to be refunded from Whittingham)	£131.56	BACs
500 envelopes for winter Newsletter	£19.80	BACs
Postage of winter Newsletter	£363.80	BACs
Delivery of winter Newsletter	£156.60	BACs

Printing of winter Newsletter	£176.25	Awaiting Invoice
Parish Lengthsman weeks 29 - 32	£900.00	BACs

COMMUNITY GARDEN EDGING STONES

MIN 22/107 Further to the update given by Mr Hill during public participation, Members **resolved** that the receipts for the edging stones and war memorial plants should be forwarded to the Clerk for payment in accordance with the financial regulations.

PUBLIC REALM AGREEMENTS

Members noted LCC's consultation on the existing Public Realm Agreements between Lancashire County Council and the 12 District Councils.

MIN 22/108 Members **resolved** to question whether the X in the LCC function meant that LCC were not carrying out the works and make enquiries regarding how / if the Parish Council can apply for funding for the additional grass cutting, weeding and gateway works carried out by the Parish Lengthsman.

CONSIDERATION OF 2023/24 BUDGET ITEMS

MIN 22/109 Members **resolved** to approve the first draft of the 2023/24 budget and requested that it includes a community donation towards the cost of emptying the brown bins at the Village Hall.

Members noted that any additional budget items (with costs) should be emailed to the Clerk prior to the January meeting when the 2023/24 Precept will be set.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS BEFORE COUNCIL

MIN 22/110 Members **resolved** to approve the delegated comments presented to the meeting. Applications can be viewed at www.preston.gov.uk

Members considered the following application which is not routine

06/2022/1215 89-bed care home (Class C2) with access road and car parking on land off Sandy Lane and to the south of land off Sandy Lane, Lower Bartle, Preston

The Clerk explained that the site lies to the south of the M55 motorway and is bound by Sandy Lane to the west. The supporting papers explain that the site does not perform well in relation to housing policies due to the proximity to the motorway and a lack of connectivity to the wider development opportunity. Consequently, the application is for an 89-bed care home, providing a wide range of care services, including nursing care and specialist dementia care. All bedrooms will be single occupancy with a wet room. The facility will be permanently staffed with 90 employees many of which will be shift workers.

The building is mainly two stories in height with the administrative and housekeeping facilities in the roof space on the northern wing nearest to the motorway. The southern end of the western wing is single storey. Other social services spaces include a salon, tea rooms, cinema rooms, library and dining areas.

Access will be taken from the existing access point on Sandy Lane with car parking arranged in a central courtyard. The application form states there will be 18 car park spaces and the supporting material states that the site is within acceptable walking and cycling distance of residential areas and bus services, demonstrating that prospective staff will not be wholly reliant on the private car.

This statement was questioned as the closest bus stops are on Hoyles Lane, which falls outside of the typically accepted walking distances. It is also highly unlikely that public transport will be suitable for shift workers arriving and leaving at unsociable hours. There are no street lights in the area and any pedestrians walking to the facility after 4.00 in the winter will feel vulnerable.

Surface water will be stored in a 'pond' area and there will be a foul water pumping station which will pump to a pipe along Sandy Lane. United Utilities comments were not available when the application was considered by the Parish Council, however in light of recent flooding and drainage issues in the area, it was stressed that the drainage network must be checked robustly for capacity.

MIN 22/111 Members **resolved** to respond to the application by stating that the parking situation is wholly inadequate with just 18 parking spaces for 90 staff - not including any visitors to the facility. Unless the parking facilities are improved, cars will park on Sandy Lane obstructing the free flow of traffic in the area. Whilst the provision of a care facility is preferred to more housing, use of the social services amenities – particularly the salon and tea rooms – should be restricted for the use of residents only.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Members were reminded that Catforth School Governors were considering a request to use the new school classroom and as their reply has not been received, the next meeting is currently planned for **Monday 16th January 2023** in the Library, St Anne's Primary School, Woodplumpton.

RESIGNATION

Cllr Greaves advised that Cllr S Yates has tendered her resignation with immediate effect due to personal reasons. On behalf of the Parish Council, the Chairman has thanked Cllr Yates for her service. The Clerk will notify electoral services of the vacancy however, as it is less than 6 months to the May elections, it is understood, that the position may be filled by co-option.