



WOODPLUMPTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE REMOTE ZOOM MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 15th FEB 2021

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr M Greaves

Councillors: Cllr B Dalglish Cllr M Entwistle. Cllr P Entwistle
Cllr B Probin Cllr M Stewart Cllr S Yates

Public: City Cllr K Middlebrough,
3 residents regarding application **06/2021/0058**
Head Teacher, Chair of Governors and a pupil from Catforth School

CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION, SOUND CHECK AND VOTING INFORMATION

The Chairman 'hosted' the meeting and ensured that everyone could be seen and heard. He informed the public that whilst they may only participate during public participation, they may stay and observe the rest of the meeting if they wished to do so.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence as all Councillors were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Cllr Yates stated that 'Cllr' had been omitted from her attendance details on the 25th Jan Minutes. This will be amended by the Clerk. **MIN 20/116** It was **resolved** that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 25th Jan 2021 and the Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary meeting on the 4th Feb 2021 were a true record.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS / WRITTEN DISPENSATIONS

Cllr B Probin declared a personal interest in Catforth School's request for funding as he is a Governor at the School.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

MIN 20/117 It was **resolved** that the meeting be adjourned for public participation.

The Chair of Governors at Catforth School gave a presentation detailing a proposal for a 4th classroom. It was explained that new build properties have led to an increased demand for school places and the number of children has doubled from **40** in 2010 to **82** in 2021. Class 3 which is intended to accommodate 22 older pupils will be required to accommodate 29 older pupils. The 4th classroom will help with increasing numbers and will allow provision for up to 13 nursery places. The classroom would be sited with minimal impact on existing outdoor space and a Section 77 request has already been submitted to the DfE.

Emails exchanged with the headteacher prior to the meeting state that LCC have responded to the school's request by stating that whilst they acknowledge there is a demand for places at Catforth, Ingol schools (which they consider to be in the area) have surplus spaces. In view of this - whilst they are happy to support the school's decision to improve accommodation – they are unable to financially support the expansion plans.

Prior to the meeting, the Clerk contacted LCC to request details of the long-term strategy for school places in NW Preston and establish how much money has already been collected through S106 Agreements which are intended to provide new school places following planning approval.

3 residents addressed the Council with regards to application **06/2021/0058** for a storage and distribution building at Lewth Farm. They stated that there are 3 businesses operating from the site and the resultant traffic is a "nightmare". Due to the layout of the land the traffic goes past their gardens – not the front of the house - resulting in very little privacy. The lane looks a mess and the verges are often churned up by vehicles. The application states that 5 trucks will access the premises but residents stated that this amount is already being far exceeded.

Concerns were also expressed about floodlighting and that an unauthorised gym was open to the public on Boxing Day despite lockdown restrictions. In response to questions, it was confirmed that the police had been informed but the gym is still in use on weekday evenings and the person operating the gym was the same person who submitted the planning application.

Members stated that as action had been taken against City Centre businesses for not following Covid regulations, action should be taken in this instance and the Clerk was requested to follow the matter up with the police.

All the speakers were thanked for their contributions and it was **resolved** that the meeting be reconvened.

CATFORTH SCHOOL CIL FUNDING REQUEST

Members reflected on the presentation provided under public participation and the financial information provided by LCC. Members felt that the school's presentation clearly outlined why a new classroom was needed and expressed disappointment that LCC had stated that the priority for school places lies elsewhere. Members supported the school's belief that parents and children have a right to attend a local school as this helps to build local communities and reduces the need to travel. **MIN 20/118** Members **resolved** that the Parish Council should support the school by writing to LCC, highlighting the school's situation, along with a request that a portion of the S106 funds be released immediately as the school is in a position to expand in Sept 2021 and it will be several years before a new school comes to fruition.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS BEFORE COUNCIL

Due to the time constraints of a remote meeting, the Clerk is dealing with routine planning matters under delegated authority in accordance with Standing Order 2020 (15 xiv).

MIN 20/119 Members **resolved** to approve the representations for February but queried whether the 2 additional dwellings on the site west of Sandy Lane will increase the total to 53.

06/2021/0058 Change of use from agricultural building to storage and distribution building (Class B8) (Retrospective) at Lewth Farm, Lewth Lane.

As stated on the Agenda, Policy EN1 of the Local Plan allows for uses which help to diversify the rural economy and enable the re-use of existing buildings, however, as with any application, Members need to consider the site history and whether the policy can be successfully applied to the site. When the agricultural building was originally proposed, concerns were expressed regarding its real purpose, however Members respected that the application had to be assessed as submitted. With this in mind, Members expressed their extreme annoyance that the change of use is retrospective, as this confirms the applicant has already 'broken the rules' by not following planning procedures.

Members noted that an earlier application **06/2019/1172** was refused and dismissed at appeal, with the Planning Inspector stating that *the main issue is whether safe and suitable access to the site can be achieved by for all users*. The application has been resubmitted along with a swept path analysis which will be assessed by LCC Highways – however their comments were not available at the time of the meeting. Members also noted that the applicant has stated that if the application is approved, the number of HGVs can be restricted by condition – however, Members felt that as the site is already being used for other unauthorised purposes, any confidence that the conditions will be adhered to, is severely undermined. Concerns were also expressed that the refused application **06/2019/1172** referred to 15 parking spaces for 8 staff – but the current application form states there is no existing or proposed parking.

MIN 20/120 Given the number of alleged unauthorised uses, the concerns regarding the increase in traffic, the discrepancies in the current application and the fact that the application is retrospective, Members **resolved** to object to the application.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Members confirmed that the accounts and bank statements had been emailed and reconciled.

The Clerk informed Members that the Information Commissioner's Office has advised that they have not received our renewal payment. As our records confirm that the cheque was cashed, the ICO have been requested to re-check their records.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

MIN 20/121 Members **resolved** to approve the following invoice already paid in accordance with Standing Order 2020 15 (xii)

DETAILS	PAYEE	AMOUNT	REF
Replacement DEFIB box	Wel Medical	£557.94	87

Members noted that Cllr P Entwistle has installed the replacement box at no cost to the Council.

Members noted that Catforth School have replied that they would like the NW Ambulance 'Save a Life' billboard. The item will be purchased in accordance with **MIN 20/87**. Cllr Stewart will follow up the request for Woodplumpton School.

MIN 20/122 Members **resolved** to approve the following accounts for payment

DETAILS	PAYEE	AMOUNT
Feb salary	Mrs J Buttle	£1157.13
PAYE	HMRC	£103.54
Employer N Ins	HMRC	£77.21
Lengthsman wks 43- 46	B Hill	£750.00

DEFIB DEVICES

Cllr P Entwistle advised that Cottam Post Office have verbally confirmed their agreement to have a DEFIB device installed outside the property. **MIN 20/123** Members **resolved** to confirm the purchase at £1,428 which includes a £60 discount due to the replacement box already ordered from the same company. Members confirmed the expense should be funded from CIL like the other devices already purchased. Members noted that the Clerk has applied for a £500 grant from the County Council Parish Champion. This will be processed in April 2021.

PARISH LENGTHSMAN

Members noted that the lawn mower has been booked in for its annual service. **MIN 20/124** Members **resolved** to approve replacement magnetic signs for the Lengthsman's vehicle as the existing signs are 10 years old.

AMENDED FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Members noted that the Parish Council Financial Regulations were last updated in June 2018. **MIN 20/125** As the Parish Council version is now 3 years old, Members **resolved** to adopt the NALC model version. As part of the resolution, Members approved an Appendix detailing minor changes to bring the model version in-line with Woodplumpton's requirements. The Clerk referred Members to para 7.4 which includes provision for the Clerk's salary to remain confidential. Members noted the Clerk's preference to continue with the current reporting systems but the provision will remain in the Regulations in case a change is required in the future.

PRESTON CITY COUNCIL BUDGET PROPOSALS

Members **noted** that the City Council Cabinet has recommend a **1.99%** increase in Council Tax.

TRAFFIC CALMING LEGAL AGREEMENT

Following the extra-ordinary meeting on the 4th Feb, Members **noted** that LCC's reply was received too late to be included on the Agenda. The reply will be circulated and Members will be requested to consider arranging an additional meeting to discuss the content.

ONGOING ISSUES

Members **noted** the following updates on ongoing matters

- a) **Ambrose Hall Farm** – A virtual meeting between the Farm and the Environment Agency was held on the 5th Feb. The Farm has been requested to submit a plan detailing how they intend to bring the farm back into regulatory compliance. An update will be provided when submitted.
- b) **Neighbourhood Plan** - Members noted the grant application was successful and the consultant is working on the Consultation Statement.
- c) **Flooding Complaint** – Cllr Iddon has replied stating *there is little that can be done due to the topography of Catforth*. Enforcement action is only taken against landowners as a last resort but the flooding concerns will be discussed at the Making Space for Water meeting in March.
- d) **Councillor Vacancy** – the closing date to call an election is 25th February 2021

NEW ISSUES

Canal bridge 34 – The Canal and River Trust are trying to establish who is responsible for the damage. Repairs will take some time as masonry needs to be salvaged from the canal.

Fly tipping has been reported at a derelict property off Newsham Hall Lane however, the owners contact details are on a planning application form. Members agreed to send a letter advising the owner of the problem.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Monday 15th March 2021 at 7.00pm.