



WOODPLUMPTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN
THE LIBRARY, WOODPLUMPTON PRIMARY SCHOOL
WOODPLUMPTON ROAD, PRESTON
ON MONDAY 19TH JUNE 2023 at 7.00pm

PRESENT Chairman Cllr M Greaves
Councillors: P Bamber P Entwistle M Entwistle
J Green D Guise B Probin M Stewart

City Cllr S Thompson, B Hill Parish Lengthsman, 1 member of the public.
Mrs J Buttle (Parish Clerk)

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from County Cllr Susan Whittam.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on **15th May 2023.**

Cllr M Entwistle proposed that page 4 of the May 2023 Minutes be amended to read that it cost £9,500 a year to run the Village Hall not £12 to £15,000 as stated in the Minutes.

MIN 23/24.26 Members **resolved** to approve the amendment and the 15th May Annual Council Minutes were signed as a true record. Members **noted** the draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting which will be signed in May 2024.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS / WRITTEN DISPENSATIONS

Following advice from the City Council, Members updated and amended their member interest forms. No interests were declared for this meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

MIN 23/24.27 It was **resolved** that the meeting be adjourned for public participation.

City Cllr S Thompson queried the expense for altering the humps in Woodplumpton village. Members explained that the humps are different gradients and although LCC consider the humps to be within the tolerance levels for the scheme, Members believe that a steeper gradient will make them more effective at slowing the traffic down.

Concerns were again expressed regarding the give way priority outside Woodplumpton school and it was stated that verbal exchanges had happened between motorists which were inappropriate outside a primary school. Attendees were reminded that LCC had stated that the priority is correct because vehicles have to drive on the 'wrong side of road' to get past the build out on the north side outside the school. If the priority was changed, south bound traffic would not slow down.

It was questioned if the 'give way' sign could be repositioned to give motorists more notice of the priority. Cllr Greaves and Cllr Stewart will check where the sign could go. It was also questioned if an additional sign could be erected asking motorists to be courteous due to the presence of school children. It was agreed to ask the PCSO to attend the area to monitor any problems.

Concerns were expressed that Sandy Lane and Tabley Lane would be closed at the same time due to United Utility works. The Clerk will check the closure details and diversion routes and will contact LCC if the works appear to overlap.

It was stated that the Redrow connection to the new link road off Discovery Drive had not been built in accordance with the plans as a pedestrian refuge has not been provided. The Clerk will check the details with the planning application. In addition, it was stated that several Public Rights of Way are no longer in use due to the creation of the new roads but the stiles and gates have not been removed. The Clerk and the Lengthsman will query this with the public rights of way team.

It was questioned if the Parish Council will provide another training session on the defibrillators and the Clerk was requested to add an article in the next Newsletter.

Mr Hill (Parish Lengthsman) explained the need to remove and repair some of the benches on Catforth Road. He also reminded Members that whilst the wheelbarrow had been planted out on Whittle Hill, more planters were required. It was confirmed that the planters were on the CIL expenditure list to be discussed later. He reported that branches had been snapped off some trees on The Orchard playing field and he referred to vandalism problems in the community garden. The actions to be taken are recorded under the Lengthsman's report.

It was stated that the hedge needs cutting as you turn right into Newsham Hall Lane. Members were reminded that if this is reported on the Love Clean Street app, the exact location can be recorded with photographs.

As there were no other matters, it was **resolved** that the meeting be reconvened.

LENGTHSMAN'S REPORT

MIN 23/24.28 It was **resolved** that Mr Hill should remove the bench next to the bin on Catforth Road and clean and paint the remaining 2 benches. Materials for the repairs can be reclaimed from the budget as usual.

MIN 23/24.29 It was **resolved** that the Clerk and Mr Hill work together to provide a sign to go on the garden entrance gate stating "Please respect the Community Garden - No ball games". Cllr P Entwistle will also work with Mr Hill to lift and clean the water feature and add a metal mesh to prevent stones being inserted into the water outlet.

2022/23 INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

MIN 23/24.30 Members **resolved** to note and approve the Internal Audit Report confirming that all of the control objectives have been met.

MIN 23/24.31 In accordance with a recommendation from the Internal Auditor, Members **resolved** that the Clerk contacts the Insurance company to increase the Fidelity Guarantee to £700,000 to cover the Council's total balances from loss or fraud.

REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

MIN 23/24.32 Members **resolved** to approve and adopt the Financial Regulations which were last approved in February 2021.

2022/23 FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1st April – 31st May 2023

The Chairman verified that the accounts and bank statements had been reconciled and Members noted that the 2021/22 VAT refund and PROW grant have been credited.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT AND RECEIPTS

MIN 23/24.33 Members **resolved** to note and approve the following accounts already paid in accordance with Standing Order 2023 15 (b) xii

Insurance Policy renewal	£400.76	BACS	REF 26
Internal Audit fee	£150.00	BACS	REF 27
Lengthsman 15hrs + 4hrs litter x £ x 4 wks	£1,216	BACS	REF 28

Members noted that the £2005 maintenance transfer to the Community Garden bank account, has not been actioned because the Clerk has still not received the bank statements from Barclays.

MIN 23/24.34 Members **resolved** to pay the garden maintenance invoices from the Parish Council bank account with the totals to be deducted from the transfer once the bank administration is sorted out.

MIN 23/24.35 Members **resolved** to approve the following invoices for payment

March & April Garden Invoices & bird seed to Mr Hill	£456.49	BACS
Clerk's June Salary	£1259.87	BACs
HMRC PAYE June	£105.74	BACs
Employer Nat Ins June	£88.71	BACs

TRAINING COURSES

Members were informed that Cllr Green has requested to attend 3 LALC training courses – 2 web link courses at £15 each (Introduction to Planning and Understanding Precepts) and a full Planning training course at a cost of £40.

MIN 23/24.36 Members **resolved** to approve the cost. The Clerk will add the invoices to the appropriate agendas as and when the courses are completed.

THE ORCHARD VERGE AND YELLOW LINES

As detailed on the agenda, LCC Highways have reluctantly agreed that the yellow lines at the Orchard could be reduced at the Parish Council's expense - however, it was made clear that the verge will continue to be damaged as larger vehicles navigate the junction.

The verge is owned by Community Gateway who have stated that whilst they won't agree to the verge being surfaced, they won't raise any objections to the Parish Council placing an obstacle on the verge - again at the Parish Council's expense.

MIN 23/24.37 Members stated that they were unhappy that the alterations will be at a cost to the Parish Council however, as a solution needs to be found as soon as possible, Members **resolved** that the Clerk inform LCC Highways that Members want the lines reduced to 12m in length. LCC Highways will also be advised that the Parish Council will enter in to further discussions with Community Gateway to place a robust obstacle on the verge - set back by 450mm - as advised by LCC Highways.

WOODPLUMPTON HUMP GRADIENTS

Members have expressed concerns that the hump gradients on Woodplumpton Road are not as steep as expected and Members were informed that during discussions regarding the Catforth scheme, LCC stated that the Catforth humps would be at a consistent height as they 'had learnt from the Woodplumpton scheme' which implies that the works could have been done differently.

Notwithstanding the above, LCC have stated that the humps are within the approved tolerance levels however if the Parish Council wants them to be steeper, the 'ramp' between the road surface and the hump could be altered – at an estimated cost of £9,347.

MIN 23/24.38 As the estimate is dependent on the alterations taking place whilst LCC attend to other works in the area, Members **resolved** that the cost should be approved and funded as part of the CIL expense, however it was also **resolved** that the additional charges across the whole scheme should be questioned and challenged at the highest level.

CATFORTH TRAFFIC CALMING PLANS

As advised at the May meeting, final plans for the Catforth scheme have been produced and checked by the Catforth Councillors. It was confirmed that the plans and associated costs were correct and will now be subject to a formal TRO process.

MIN 23/24.39 Members **resolved** to add the plans to the website and approach the Solicitor to progress the S278 Legal Agreement.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS BEFORE COUNCIL

Members considered 2 planning applications on land to the west of Sandy Lane, Cottam - **06/2023/0587** Reserved matters for a convenience store and **06/2023/0599** for a care home.

The Clerk explained that the proposals comply with Policy MD2 of the NW Preston Masterplan which permits a mixed-use development of approx 5,300 dwellings and associated local centres. The site has outline approval for a multi-use proposal under application 06/2020/0966 to include a local centre, takeaways, public house with hotel, medical centre and retirement apartments.

The site is situated on the junction of the E-W link road and the NW Preston Masterplan confirms the site should be a focal site for a local centre. Consequently, Members expressed concerns that both applications would 'scale down' the community facilities to a convenience store and care home and would not deliver a medical centre or any other community facilities.

MIN 23/24.40 Members **resolved** to object to both applications on the grounds that neither provide the variety of facilities associated with a mixed-use local centre site. Furthermore, the car parking proposals are inadequate for both proposals.

MIN 23/24.41 Members **resolved** to approve the delegated comments for June.

CONSIDERATION OF CIL ITEMS

Prior to the meeting, Members were emailed a list of suggestions for CIL expenditure. The list needs to be analysed to filter out any suggestions which do not comply with the CIL regulations and are not within the Parish Council's statutory responsibility to deliver. The list also needs to be assessed against existing facilities with quantities and approximate costs to be added.

MIN 23/24.42 Members **resolved** to form a Working Group to meet at Catforth Village Hall to discuss the suggestions in detail. The Clerk will not be required to attend, however, prior to the Working Group meeting, the Clerk will identify any proposals that the Parish Council can't finance and will also add comments regarding whether there are any restrictions or limitations to the suggestions or if any have already been authorised as a planning condition.

MEETINGS WITH RESIDENTS

MIN 23/24.43 Further to comments that residents can't always attend a Parish Council meeting which has a time restricted public participation section, Members **resolved** to arrange 3 'coffee' mornings to be held at Catforth Village Hall, Woodplumpton Parish rooms and Woodplumpton Bowling Club on Bartle Lane. The venues will be checked for availability and the dates will be added to the Parish Council Newsletter.

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Members **noted** that the summer edition of the Newsletter will be issued after the July meeting. It will include the Chairman's annual report, the 2021/22 finance report, new Cllr details, updates on the traffic issues, dates of future meetings and a reminder of the summer fete date - in addition to the items suggested during the meeting. Any further articles should be emailed to the Clerk.

NEW CORRESPONDENCE / UPDATES

Members were informed that some of the Sandy Lane pot holes have been filled in. In addition, Cllr Whittam be holding a surgery in Catforth Village Hall. It is assumed the dates will be advertised.

Following the Preston Area Committee meeting, the Clerk will check if there are any more details regarding the proposed consultation on the Road Safety Partnership strategy.

Members **noted** that Cllr P Entwistle will attend the Neighbourhood Plan meeting with the Clerk on the 17th July to ensure that any changes are in keeping with the Parish Council's aspirations.

Members were informed that Catforth School is celebrating its 150th anniversary.

An anti-social behaviour video involving a cyclist in Catforth has been referred to the police who were requested to attend the meeting. As they weren't present, the Clerk will ask for an update.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Members are requested to note the next meeting will be held on **Monday 17th July 2023** in Woodplumpton Primary School.