

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held at Newburgh School, Back Lane, on Wednesday 25 September 2019 commencing at 7.30pm.

PRESENT Cllr J Citarella, Chair.

Cllrs Moore, Turner, Roughneen, Baker, Atty, O'Keefe, Casey and the Clerk, S Jones.

Borough Cllr Pope attended for part of the meeting.

John Herbert, Chair of Scarisbrick Parish Council and Nicola Makin, Scarisbrick Parish Councillor, also attended for part of the meeting.

095/19

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

096/19

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

097/19

TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 31 JULY 2019 AND THE EXTRA-ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 27 AUGUST 2019

It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 31 July 2019 and the minutes from the Extra-ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 27 August 2019 should be approved and signed by the Chairman.

098/19

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION

The meeting was adjourned for public discussion.

John Herbert, Chair to Scarisbrick Parish Council, highlighted his Parish Council's concerns over a planning application for a mushroom farm in Scarisbrick and asked for the Parish Council's support in opposing the application. Concerns included the size of the proposed site and its likely impact on traffic in the Borough as a whole, the permanent loss of grade 1 agricultural green belt land and the sustainability of the project. The meeting was reconvened.

The Chair indicated that the planning application for the Scarisbrick mushroom farm would be moved up the agenda and considered as the next item.

099/19

PLANNING

a) Applications to be considered:

2019/0747/FUL - Construction of a mushroom farm in conjunction with the agricultural business, Smithy Mushrooms Limited, to include portal frame buildings, car parking, hardstanding and sustainable drainage system at Bungalow Farm Heaton's Bridge Road Scarisbrick Lancashire L40 8JQ

A report was presented by the Planning Working Group and explained that the planning application contained proposals for the construction of a mushroom farm in conjunction with the agricultural business, Smithy Mushrooms Limited, to include portal frame buildings, car parking, hardstanding and sustainable drainage system on Heaton's Bridge Road Scarisbrick. It was recognised that this is a large scale installation but in the absence of local knowledge it was proposed to restrict any comment to the potential increase in traffic which will affect Newburgh. Following discussion, it was resolved to submit the following comment:

Newburgh Parish Council has reviewed this application in terms of its potential impact on the village. We are concerned about the additional HGV traffic that may be generated. The A5209 is used as a major transit route from Burscough and beyond to the M6 and recent HGV counts have shown a weekly total of around 1750 vehicles a week. We see this volume as already far too great for this village and would not want to see it further increased with its implications for public safety. For this reason Newburgh Parish Council objects to this application.

100/19

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION

The meeting was adjourned for further public discussion.

John Herbert, Chair of Scarisbrick Parish Council, gave details regarding the forthcoming Annual General Meeting of the Lancashire Association of Local Councils (LALC), due to take place in November. Newburgh Parish Council has been invited to attend and John informed the meeting that he had put forward a resolution which he was hoping that Newburgh Parish Council could support. At present, all Parish and Town Councils have a different number of votes depending on the level of precept and subsequent subscription to LALC – the larger the subscription, the higher the number of votes given to each Council. John Herbert has proposed a resolution asking members to agree to one council one vote – the principle being that all Councils have to abide by the same rules and regulations and carry out the same basic functions.

The meeting was reconvened and John Herbert and Nicola Makin left the meeting.

101/19

PLANNING

a) Applications to be considered:

2019/0846/LBC & 2019/0847/FUL – Listed Building Consent and planning application: Replacement timber windows, rebuilding of chimney stacks, replacement roof to rear (single storey building) incorporating roof lights, removal of internal wall (single storey building) at 1-3 Cobbs Brow Lane, Newburgh, Wigan, Lancashire, WN8 7ND – no comment

2019/0864/PNH - Application for determination as to whether prior approval of details is required -Extension of dwellinghouse. Dimension from rear wall of the original dwellinghouse - 6m. Maximum height of the extension - 4m. Height to eaves of the extension - 2.5m at 2 Giants Hall Cottages, Culvert Lane. As this was an application for determination, Councillors felt that this was a technical issue and that no comment was appropriate at this time.

2019/0694/FUL - Single storey rear extension at Lynfield, Course Lane, Newburgh, Wigan, Lancashire, WN8 7LA – no comment.

b) To receive an update regarding the West Lancashire Borough Council Local Plan Review and agree any necessary actions

It was confirmed that West Lancashire Borough Council had announced that the original Local Plan Review had been cancelled in full. A new working group will be set up and will look at a new Local Plan which will last for a shorter period of 15 years.

102/19

TO CONSIDER THE OFFER FROM THE APPLETON FAMILY TO GIFT BLUEBELL WOOD AND THE ADJOINING FIELD TO THE VILLAGE AND AGREE ANY ACTIONS REQUIRED

It was confirmed that the solicitors had completed the searches required but were still waiting to hear from the solicitors representing the Appleton Family with regard to their costs and the contract for transfer of the land. Responsibility for all boundaries still needs to be clarified and a review of plants growing on the land will be undertaken as there are likely to be budget implications for both areas. A detailed budget will be put together once these details are known to ensure that any expenditure incurred by the Parish Council is kept to a minimum to avoid additional pressure on next year's precept. Councillors were informed that planning permission for the change of use for the wood and the adjoining field had been received from West Lancashire Borough Council. An update on progress will be provided at the October Parish Council meeting.

103/19

WORKPLAN

a) To discuss and arrange a date for the next meeting of the Work Plan Priming Group with a view to drafting a list of suggestions for the Parish Work Plan for 2020

The Work Plan Priming Group will consist of Cllrs Citarella, Moore, O'Keefe, Roughneen and Atty. A meeting will take place with a view to presenting proposals for the Parish Work Plan to the October Parish Council meeting. The process is taking place earlier than in previous years due to possible major budget implications relating to the cost of the proposed Bluebell Wood and adjoining field transfer. In addition, it has been noted that the company responsible for repairing speed indication devices may no longer be making spare parts for the older models. The Parish Council speed indication device is 12 years old so this may also have budget implications if a new speed indication device has to be purchased. The Clerk has been in contact with the relevant officer at Lancashire County Council and will report back to the October Parish Council meeting once the details have been clarified.

b) To receive an update from Roads Investigation Working Group and agree any actions

Residents had raised concerns about HGV traffic in the village, primarily incidents where HGVs were having to mount the pavement to pass each other and also HGV's appearing to be using an incorrect route through the village to access developments in Whalleys, Skelmersdale. The Roads Investigation Working Group is currently working on producing a report which will detail all the concerns together with evidence to strengthen the case for increased safety measures in the village. A recent post on the Parish Council Facebook page, replicating the paragraph from the September newsletter asking residents to report all traffic concerns to the Clerk, has proven to be a success as the Clerk has started to receive additional information and evidence. An update will be presented at the October Parish Council meeting.

The meeting was adjourned to allow Borough Cllr Pope to provide an update on how neighbouring Parishes are dealing with traffic issues. It was confirmed that Borough Cllr Pope has joined a group which has been set up to look into traffic issues in the Borough, especially the increase in HGV traffic and the problems caused. The group currently consists of representatives of Rufford, Parbold and Hilldale Parish Councils and the next meeting is due to take place on 22/23 October. All evidence obtained by the group will be provided to help strengthen the case for a bypass. It is hoped that a bypass could help to reduce the level of traffic currently travelling through the rural Parishes and will feed into the greater scheme of Transport for the North.

The meeting was reconvened and Borough Cllr Pope left the meeting at this point.

c) To receive an update on the village clean and maintenance plan and agree any actions

No group sessions have taken place since the last meeting. It was agreed to contact members of the volunteer group with a view to drafting a plan of tasks to be undertaken throughout the year including any tasks which will require work carried out by a contractor. The plan should help to ensure that all areas are covered and will assist with budget planning for 2020/21.

The proposed design of the new village sign has been sent to the West Lancashire Borough Council planning department to inquire whether planning permission will be required. It is hoped that a decision will be made in the near future and that planning permission will not be required.

d) To receive an update on the village footpaths and agree any necessary actions

It was confirmed that the Canal & River Trust had finally been in contact regarding the proposed Parbold to Newburgh canal improvement project. However, there has been no further progress on what level of support, if any, the Parish Council can expect from the Canal & River Trust.

The required maintenance of the footpath running alongside the East side of Bluebell Wood has been carried out. The footpath close to Spencer's Bridge has also been cleared to improve access to Tawd Vale Scout Camp. In order to aid budget planning in future years, it was resolved that a plan would be made to cover the village footpaths and will include any known regular maintenance required in addition to likely timescales.

d) To agree a timescale for a website content review and agree any actions

It was agreed that everyone would check the information on their respective parts of the website and let Cllr Moore know of any changes before the end of October.

e) To review Christmas 2019 arrangements and agree any actions

It was resolved that Cllrs Turner and Casey would liaise with members of the School and Church regarding this year's arrangements for the Village Carols event. The Clerk was asked to get quotes for the provision and decoration of the Christmas tree on the village green with a view to presenting the quotes received for consideration at the October Parish Council meeting.

104/19

TO CONSIDER ATTENDANCE AT THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (LALC) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD AT HOWICK HOUSE, PENWORTHAM ON 23 NOVEMBER

Cllr O'Keefe will attend the Annual General Meeting of LALC on 23 November

105/19

TO CONSIDER A RESPONSE TO THE WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL DRAFT LICENSING POLICY AND AGREE ANY ACTIONS

The Clerk confirmed that the Licensing Policy is reviewed every five years and the next review needs to be completed before February 2020. The main aim is to ensure that any changes to legislation are included in the revised policy. Following discussion, it was resolved not to make a comment.

106/19

FINANCE

a) To agree Accounts for Payment for September 2019, Schedule attached

The Accounts Schedule for September 2019 was approved for payment.

b) To Receive an update regarding the Parish Council bank account and agree any necessary actions

The Clerk informed the meeting that the process to switch the Parish Council bank account from RBS to Clydesdale and Yorkshire Bank was still ongoing. An update will be presented at the October Parish Council meeting.

107/19

TO NOTE THE CLERKS REPORT (INFORMATION ONLY)

The Clerks report was noted.

108/19

TO NOTE THE DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 23 October at 7.30pm.

The meeting finished at 8.45pm

Schedule of Accounts for Payment September 2019

Chq No	Payee	Amount
n/a	1&1 - website charges	£ 5.99 *Direct Debit
2059	Mrs S Jones – Salary and expenses	£ 752.44
2060	Lancashire County Council – July school hire	£ 13.50
2061	Flexipress – September newsletter	£ 35.00
2062	West Lancashire Heritage Association	£ 5.00
2063	Mr J Horrobin – footpath maintenance	£ 20.00
	TOTAL	<u>£ 831.93</u>