

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held at Newburgh School, Back Lane, on Wednesday 11 December 2019 commencing at 7.30pm.

PRESENT Cllr Moore, Chair.

Cllrs Atty, Turner, Roughneen, O'Keefe, Baker, Casey and the Clerk, S Jones.
Borough Cllr Pope attended for part of the meeting.

137/19

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Citarella.

138/19

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Casey declared an interest in item 9c as she is Chair of the Fair Committee.

139/19

TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 27 NOVEMBER 2019

It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 27 November 2019 should be approved and signed by the Chair.

140/19

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION

The meeting was adjourned for public discussion.

Cllr Moore informed the meeting that there had recently been an amendment submitted to the Lancashire County Council planning application relating to Parbold Hill, to which the Parish Council had submitted a comment. There was some confusion over the deadline for any further comments relating to the amendment and enquiries were ongoing to confirm the deadline date.

The meeting was reconvened.

141/19

PLANNING

a) Applications to be considered:

There were no applications to be considered at this meeting.

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

There was no progress to report on the West Lancashire Borough Council Local Plan Review.

142/19

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 Bluebell Wood Working Group had met to consider the documents provided by the Parish Council solicitors. It was proposed that a letter should be sent to the Parish Council solicitors to enquire about indemnity insurance regarding the boundaries of the wood and adjoining field as the documentation did not clarify all the matters raised by the Parish Council. It was also proposed that a meeting should be held with the Sports Club to discuss the issues of parking and the boundary fence and that an email should be sent to the Appleton family to confirm the progress made to date. The budget for Bluebell Wood and the adjoining field still needs to be finalised. It was resolved to accept the proposals and to hold an informal meeting to discuss these issues early in the new year.

143/19

WORKPLAN

a) To consider a response to recent flooding problems in the village and agree any actions

It was confirmed that a resident had been in contact with the Parish Council regarding flooding problems on their property. A survey had been carried out on site and revealed that a blocked culvert could be the problem. It was agreed that this seemed to confirm the Parish Council's concern that culverts could be a large part of the flooding problem in the village as a whole. The Flooding Working Group will be looking into all the possible causes and will present findings at a future Parish Council meeting.

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

There was no progress since the last meeting. Councillors were asked to provide feedback on the draft report recently circulated by the Roads Investigation Working Group. Due to a busy schedule in January, when the budget for 2020/2021 will need to be agreed, it was agreed to defer consideration of the draft report until the February Parish Council meeting.

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

It was confirmed that work had been carried out on the hedge on Back Lane. The clerk confirmed that the School was still trying to get a date from Lancashire County Council for work to be carried out on some trees on the school field despite repeated efforts. It was resolved to contact West Lancashire Borough Council to see if they would be able to help progress the issue and also to ask Borough Cllr Pope for assistance if required. The Village Appearance Working Group were asked to provide details of tasks required during 2020, including frequency and whether a contractor may need to be employed to aid with the budget planning process.

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

The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council had been contacted by a resident regarding access of the footpath on Ash Brow. The information provided has been passed onto the relevant officer at Lancashire County Council who are currently investigating the matter.

144/19

TO NOTE THE PROPOSED LETTING OF THE STRAWBERRY FARM PREMISES AND TO CONSIDER ANY ACTIONS TO WELCOME THE NEW ENTERPRISE TO THE VILLAGE

The Clerk informed Councillors that the owner of the Strawberry Farm had confirmed that an agreement had been reached with an organisation to let the premises and it was hoped that the business would start in the near future. The proposed business is Eden Tearoom & Galleries, who plan to stock local art, jewellery and ceramics and hold workshops and pottery classes. Following discussion, it was agreed to speak to the owner early in the new year to find out further information for the new business and confirm a timescale for opening so that the details can be publicised to the village.

145/19

FINANCE

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

The Accounts Schedule for December 2019 was approved for payment.

Borough Cllr Pope arrived at this point.

b) To consider whether to submit a grant application to the West Lancashire Borough Council Capital Scheme 2020/2021 and agree any actions

Councillors were informed that it had been confirmed that Parish Councils would be invited to submit grant applications for the West Lancashire Borough Council Capital Scheme for 2020/2021. The deadline for applications is usually around the beginning of February, so Councillors were asked to consider possible capital schemes with a view to submitting suggestions at the January Parish Council meeting.

c) To consider possible items of expenditure relating to the West Lancashire Borough Council Concurrent Grant received for 2019/20 and agree any actions including contributing towards the cost of Newburgh Fair

Cllr Casey left the meeting at this point. The Clerk confirmed that there is currently £300 of monies to be spent on concurrent grant activities before the end of March 2020. Following discussion, it was resolved to spend the outstanding balance on supporting Newburgh Fair activities, as the event fitted the criteria for concurrent grant expenditure. Cllr Casey returned to the meeting at this point.

146/19

TO NOTE THE CLERKS REPORT (INFORMATION ONLY)

The Clerks report was noted.

147/19

TO NOTE THE DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 22 January 2020 at 7.30pm.

The meeting finished at 8.20pm

Schedule of Accounts for Payment December 2019

Chq No	Payee	Amount
n/a	1&1 - website charges	£ 5.99 *Direct Debit
0003	AMK Signs Ltd – new village sign	£ 216.00 *retrospective
0004	Mrs S Jones – December salary and expenses	£ 735.48
0005	Skelmersdale Prize Band – fee for village carols service	£ 100.00
0006	Flexipress – December newsletter and flooding leaflet	£ 70.00
0007	Mr J Horrobin – play area maintenance	£ 20.00
0008	Lancashire County Council – school hire Nov	<u>£ 9.00</u>
TOTAL		<u>£ 1,156.47</u>