

## WOODPLUMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT WOODPLUMPTON PARISH ROOMS, REAR OF ST ANNE'S CHURCH, WOODPLUMPTON

on **MONDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2015 at 7.00pm.**

**129 PRESENT:** Chairman Cllr P Entwistle  
Councillors M Entwistle M Greaves S Morgan  
C Singleton M Stewart

5 members of the public and PCSO D Reid.

**130 APOLOGIES** Cllr B Probin and B Dalglish

**131 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** of the meeting on the **16<sup>th</sup> March 2015.**

It was **resolved** that the March Minutes be approved and signed as a true record.

**132 TO ACCEPT DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND TO CONSIDER ANY WRITTEN REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

Cllr M Entwistle declared a prejudicial interest regarding the grant to Catforth in Bloom as she is a member of the group.

**133 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

It was **resolved** that the meeting be adjourned for public participation.

A resident spoke against the planning application for a solar farm at Bilsborrow. It was noted that the application is smaller in size than a previous submission but it was felt that the size and scale was still not in keeping with the character of the area. Concerns included the impact on the countryside, loss of agricultural land and the increase in traffic on Moss Lane which is used by cyclist and walkers. It was alleged that the land may not be hard enough to support the panels as it is often flooded. The resident felt that the benefits of renewal energy don't outweigh the impact and as sites have not been in use for 25yrs, there is no evidence to confirm the land can still be used for agriculture once the panels have been dismantled.

Another attendee who stated she did not live in the area, said the fears were unfounded as the land can still be used for grazing both afterwards and whilst the panels are in use. In her opinion, the panels are quick to assemble and disassemble and the energy produced is nonpolluting and is preferable to fracking.

A resident made enquiries about City Deal. It was explained that City Deal is an agreement between the Government, Lancashire Enterprise Partnership, LCC, and Preston and South Ribble Councils. It involves the delivery of new infrastructure and roads throughout the area. It is envisaged that the improved road networks will support new housing and job opportunities at the Lancashire Enterprise zone, increasing economic growth across Lancashire. The Parish Council has not been involved with City Deal at a strategic level but has frequently commented on the local aspects such as the proposed road networks and new housing development.

With reference to the footpaths blocked by the construction of new development, it was noted that a diversion order is now in place but neither the ramblers association, or the Parish Council have been officially notified.

Concerns were again expressed regarding construction traffic and lorries blocking the pavements. The Clerk confirmed all objections have been forwarded to City Councillor John Swindells who is the cabinet member for the development of NW Preston. He has stated that discussions are taking place with the developers and the situation should improve as the development progresses. The Chairman suggested that photographs of the obstructions are sent to the LEP for additional publicity.

In response to a query the clerk confirmed that the brick structures at the Travellers site had been reported to planning but they consider the structures to be temporary and as such, they will need to be removed and the site restored to its former condition once the temporary planning consent has expired.

Mark Davies of the CCLA (Charities, Churches and Local Authorities) discussed CIL money investment opportunities in the public sector deposit fund and the local authorities' property fund. The key points are included under **Min 141**.

PCSO D Reid gave a police report which included an appeal for land owners to ensure trailers and horse boxes are secure. An increase in sheep thefts have been reported and the public were requested to note and report a dark Mitsubishi with an orange light. A car was reported stolen opposite the Bay Horse at Catforth and a burglary was reported at the lawnmower business at Carr Common. It was felt that the offenders had visited the premises and planned the burglary in advance. In response to a query, it was confirmed that the increased police presence on Blackleach / Roots Lane was due to a family dispute. PCSO Reid stated he would report the bright lights causing a distraction to motorists near Bellfold Bridge and he requested that the Parish Council contact LCC to request railings outside Catforth School. **Min 136**

The Clerk was asked to check whether a planning application had been submitted at Carrs Green for a water accelerator near Beesley Farm.

### **134 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**Note** - Members are advised prior to the meeting that planning applications can be viewed at [www.preston.gov.uk](http://www.preston.gov.uk)

**06/2015/0239** Erection of log cabin as ancillary granny annexe at Rolling Pin Farm, Lewth Lane. Members **resolved** to request a condition that the log cabin should only be used in connection with Rolling Pin Farm and should not be used as a separate holiday let.

**06/2015/0188** Mixed use development comprising retail (A1), cafe/restaurants (A3) and leisure development (D2) with associated parking, servicing, access and landscaping (Article 16 consultation) on land North of Barton Grange. Members stated that the facility would bring much needed evening activities to the area but concern was expressed regarding traffic and whether the application was premature in advance of the Broughton by-pass especially as the facilities could not easily be accessed by rural bus services. Members **resolved** to comment that if Wyre Borough Council are minded to approve the application, then CIL or S106 monies should be allocated to improved bus service provision to the surrounding rural parishes which might see an increase in traffic.

**15/00260/LMAJ** Erection of a 7 MW solar farm and associated works (re-submission 14/00558LMAJ) on land at Moss Lane, Bilsborrow.

Members reflected on the comments expressed during public participation and agreed that a solar farm was preferable to fracking and the principle of renewable energy should be supported. It was stated that solar panels should be installed on new housing developments, particularly the 5,000 homes in NW Preston, but it was noted that the solar farm was proposed in Wyre and the panels can be erected more quickly than houses. It was noted that the application site has been reduced in size, but concern was expressed that this application could be phase one, with another application being submitted if the application is approved.

Members **resolved** to comment that they did not wish to oppose the application but as the application was a resubmission of a more extensive proposal, a condition should be attached to restrict the immediate expansion of the site. Care should also be taken to ensure that the PROW remains accessible with additional screening and planting.

### **135 CPRE LIAISON**

Correspondence has been received from the CPRE stating that they may be able to assist Parish Councils in making their voice heard by Local Planning Authorities and central government. As NW Preston has already been identified as a strategic site for development, Members **resolved** to update the CPRE on the current development proposals with a view to contacting them if plans are received outside the strategic location. Members also **resolved** to renew the CPRE membership at a cost of £36.

### **136 SCHOOL BARRIERS**

Further to a request from the PCSO, explained further during public participation, Members **resolved** that the Parish Council writes to LCC Highways to request barriers outside the gates of Catforth School to prevent children running into the road. The Clerk was also requested to contact the school to see if the erection of a temporary barrier would help the situation.

### **137 20 MPH ZONES**

Members expressed their concern and disappointment that LCC do not have proposals to lower the speed limits to 20mph as they have done in more urbanised areas. Views were expressed that there was little point campaigning to reduce the limits further as they are not monitored or enforced but it was also stated that most motorists won't do more than 10mph over the limit – so a reduction to 20mph may mean that most motorists will not exceed 30mph. It was **resolved** to include the matter in the discussions with LCC when discussing the expenditure options for CIL monies.

### **138 DISTRACTING LIGHT AT BELLFOLD BRIDGE**

Following several complaints about a distracting light at a property near Bellfold Bridge, PCSO D Reid confirmed he would speak to the occupants of the property.

### **139 FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2014 / 2015**

The Chairman verified that the accounts verified with the bank statements.

### **140 2014 / 2015 ANNUAL RETURN**

Members noted the completion of the end of year accounts and considered the end of year balances. The Clerk presented an end of year financial summary and explained the completion of the Annual Return. Members **resolved** that Section 1 (Statement of Accounts) and Section 2 (Annual Governance Statement) be approved and signed by the Chairman and Responsible Financial Officer prior to submission to the auditors.

### **141 CONSIDERATION OF AN ADDITIONAL BANK ACCOUNT FOR CIL**

Following the presentation during public participation Members **resolved** to open a public sector deposit fund for the investment of CIL monies.

Members were informed that the public sector had invested money in the Icelandic banks and following their collapse, the Local Government Association had endorsed the CCLA for the investment of public funds as a low risk, short term investments. It was stated that high street banks may offer a slightly higher interest rate but the bank compensation scheme (awarded to investors if the bank collapses) does not cover public sector finance so the CCLA fund also meets the due diligence criteria. It was explained that the CCLA does not have external shareholders. Management fees are charged depending on the investment class. Balances below £5m are usually charged at 0.2% but as incentive to join, Early Investors will be charged the lowest management fee of 0.1% until the fund reaches £250m. Notice is not required for investments or withdrawals and these are not subject to additional charges.

A higher income can be achieved by investing in the CCLA property fund. The property fund is a higher risk strategy as property prices can rise and fall. The minimum investment is £25,000 and the fund is primarily for investments of 5years or more. Money can be withdrawn earlier, but there is a risk the capital will be reduced. There is some liquidity within the fund but a month's notices is preferred for withdrawals.

### **142 RENEWAL OF LALC MEMBERSHIP**

The Parish Council subscribes to the Lancashire Association of Local Councils who provide training, advice and information on local and national policies. Members noted that the cost of the service is increasing by £50 to £403.20. Members **resolved** to contact LALC to say they supported membership but would like an explanation of why the fees have increased. Payment will not be made until the explanation is provided.

### **143 FUNDING REQUEST – CATFORTH IN BLOOM**

Members **resolved** to donate £150 to Catforth in Bloom for summer planting and the replacement of some rotten wooden planters. Having declared a prejudicial interest in the agenda item, Cllr M Entwistle did not participate in the discussion or vote.

#### 144 FUNDING REQUEST – CATFORTH MEMORIAL HALL

Members **resolved** to donate £150 to Catforth Memorial Village Hall towards the printing and advertising of the Scarecrow Festival.

#### 145 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Members **resolved** to approve the following accounts for payment

Clerk's April Salary	£775.78	CQ 1066
HMRC	£32.40	CQ 1067
Lengthsman Contract	£352.50	CQ 1068
Data Protection Registration	£35.00	CQ 1069
Gateway renewal of land lease	£1.00	CQ 1070
2 year renewal of .gov web and hosting	£118.80	CQ 1071
Printing of the Winter Newsletter	£190.00	CQ 1072
Postage of the Newsletter	£424.44	CQ 1073
Envelopes and Ink cartridge newsletter	£65.97	CQ 1074
CPRE membership	£36.00	CQ 1075
LALC renewal (deferred for explanation)	£403.20	CQ 1076
Catforth in Bloom	£150.00	CQ 1077
Scarecrow festival	£150.00	CQ 1078

#### 146 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council is the Annual Parish Council Meeting scheduled for **Monday 18th May 2015** at 7.00pm in Woodplumpton Parish Rooms. The meeting will be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting.