



WOODPLUMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN SIMON'S LOUNGE PRESTON GRASSHOPPERS LIGHTFOOT GREEN LANE, WOODPLUMPTON

on TUESDAY 19th OCT 2021 AT 7.00pm.

PRESENT: Chairman Cllr M Greaves
Councillors: P Bamber B Dalglish M Entwistle,
P Entwistle B Probin M Stewart,

Sgt M Hughes & PC A Caton, Mr Hill - Parish Lengthsman, Mrs J Buttle - Parish Clerk

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr S Yates

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – of the meeting held on 21st Sept 2021.

MIN 21/80 It was **resolved** that the Minutes be signed as a true record.

TO ACCEPT DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

MIN 21/81 it was **resolved** that the meeting be adjourned for public participation.

- Sgt Martin Hughes introduced himself and PC Annabel Caton who is on a 3-month secondment which may be extended. A further PC, Ruth Lloyd may also join the policing team in January. In response to a question, Sgt Hughes confirmed that the police car fleet is being shared out and rural officers have access to marked police vehicles. Sgt Hughes ran through the local incidents in the area and reminded Members that they can view them on the police website <https://www.police.uk/pu/your-area/>

A Councillor advised that several youths were seen using nitrous oxide in Catforth. Whilst the incident was reported to the Councillor, he was uncomfortable reporting the incident to the police as he hadn't actually witnessed it and those that had, were uncomfortable reporting it due to possible repercussions. Reassurances were given that incidents can be reported anonymously online and on the 101 police number. Concerned residents may also request that police officers do not attend their premises for further information. Reference was also made to the 'In the Know' email service which encourages residents to complete surveys relating to concerns in the local area. The data is analysed and is used to inform officers of any hot spot concerns.

Speeding appeared as an issue in a recent In the Know survey and the Road Safety Partnership are now monitoring various sites for motoring offences – including not wearing seatbelts or using mobile phones. It was confirmed that Fixed Penalty Notices will be issued and where appropriate, offenders may be required to attend a speed awareness course.

In response to a question, it was confirmed that the response times to the 101-telephone number has improved, however, if an incident is reported on-line, the mailbox is manned 24hrs and a log number is issued to help residents request any follow up action.

The officers were thanked for their attendance and the Clerk was requested to include anonymous calls, online reports and the In the Know service in the next Newsletter.

- The Parish Lengthsman gave an update on his workload and explained that as the grass cutting was coming to an end, he was clearing undergrowth from the pavements and working on Public Rights of Way (PROWs) Whilst Preston City Council cover the main roads, the amount of litter is still a problem and collection is time consuming. Thanks were expressed to volunteers who help on a Saturday. Asbestos was reported on the Tabley Lane motorway bridge but this has been removed by the City Council. Debris from vehicle collisions was noted on Moorside Lane and it was confirmed that this is one of the areas County Cllr Edwards will be visiting. The hedge along Woodplumpton Road has finally been cut but debris was left in the area causing damage to passing cyclists. 2 small areas of the community garden have been sown with wild flowers following requests from residents. The approach will be monitored as the area may look overgrown once the flowers come to an end.

A resident has set up a petition requesting that the City Council Environmental Health team investigate the odour issues at Ambrose Hall Farm as a stalemate has been reached with the Environment Agency. This was reported to Members at the July meeting and the Clerk was requested to put the matter back on the November Agenda.

The Lengthsman stated that LCC have asked him to walk the PROW's with a view to reporting any problems to them. Members felt this should not be additional to the work he already completes as LCC already have a backlog of problems which have not been actioned. Some of the faults include bridges which are in a very poor state a repair and it was stressed that LCC are legally responsible for the works if walkers are injured.

Residents have asked if there will be a consultation on the traffic calming proposal. The Clerk stated that an update would be given under the agenda item. The Lengthsman advised that concerns had been expressed that the chicane outside the school would lead to queuing traffic which could increase pollution. Members disagreed as complaints are already on file stating that people collecting children park with the engine running – so the levels would be the same – possibly less as modern cars switch off when in queuing traffic. Members also confirmed that the scheme has been designed by LCC and if retrospective complaints are proven, it would be LCC's responsibility to make any adjustments.

The Lengthsman was thanked for presenting his comments and those of local residents. It was **resolved** that the meeting be reconvened and the order of the agenda altered so that the Lengthsman could be present for the item on the community garden Christmas tree.

COMMUNITY GARDEN CHRISTMAS TREE

Further to MIN 21/69, Cllr Bamber presented 3 quotes to remove the existing tree and walled planter and replace with a new tree and edging. Members noted the differences between the quotes, including the ability to deliver the project before Christmas. **MIN 21/82** Members **resolved** to accept the quote from Livingstone Landscapes. An Abies con-colour tree with root ball will also be ordered and planted once the old tree has been removed. Reference was made to the electric supply and it was confirmed that those completing the works will be made aware of its location. It is anticipated that the project will be complete by the end of Nov.

LCC HIGHWAY CONCERNS

At the 21st Sept meeting, County Cllr S Whittam noted the Parish Council's concerns regarding poor road surfaces in Catforth, a lack of urgency to resolve **the road re-alignment issue** outside Cottam Post Office and speeding concerns on **Moorside Lane**. Damage to **Bridge 31** on Blackleach Lane was also recorded however, despite the obvious safety concerns, LCC have since advised that *the traffic team will not be able to visit the site for at least 4 weeks due to competing priorities*. Additional concerns have also been raised at **The Orchard**.

Cllr Edwards has been informed and has replied that he will attend the Parish to look at the concerns as soon as possible. **MIN 21/83** Members **resolved** that depending on the date and time, they would like to be in attendance.

PARISH & TOWN COUNCIL CONFERENCE

In addition to the site-specific concerns above, concerns were expressed that LCC do not provide named officer contact details or updates to ongoing projects. In addition, Highways District Lead have a 10-working day answer time. Members were informed that LCC will be holding a Parish & Town Council Conference on Sat 13th Nov to discuss how LCC can 'work better' with Parish Councils. **MIN 21/84** It was **resolved** that Cllr P Entwistle will attend the LCC conference and the Clerk will circulate the link so that other Members can attend if they become available.

NW PRESTON DEVELOPMENT

After the September meeting, the Clerk received an amended planning application **06/2020/1421** which proposes to remove the local centre element from the Taylor Wimpey / Bloor Homes site between Sandy Lane and Tabley Lane and adds a new vehicular access off Tabley Lane. The Clerk submitted an objection letter under delegated authority and following an exchange of emails with Members, also carried out the following actions

- Issued a press statement to the Lancashire Post
- Emailed M Hudson (LCC) to ask how the applications will impact on the NW Preston Masterplan proposal to reduce traffic on Tabley Lane

- Emailed C Hayward (PCC) to request that the NW Preston Stakeholder meetings are resumed so we can understand how policies can be applied differently i.e. 1000 homes approved at Bartle Village but refused in other locations because the City Council has an up to date 5 year supply
- Emailed Ben Wallace MP to invite him to the October meeting.

The emails were sent on the 4th October and Members expressed their frustration at the lack of replies, although it was noted that Ben Wallace's parliamentary assistant had replied stating that he may be able to meet Members at his surgery. In addition, it was noted that an LCC officer has replied to the application stating that *the access design to divert Tabley Lane traffic into the site, is in keeping with the NW Preston masterplan.* **MIN 21/85** Members confirmed that they would be willing to meet Mr Wallace and it was **resolved** that the Clerk also contact the LCC officer to request an explanation regarding his reply to the planning application.

SOCIAL MEDIA / COMMUNICATION

Members noted an email from a resident querying why the Parish Council does not have a social media page or issue regular leaflets when planning applications are received. Members responded by stating that the Parish Council has a website with links to the appropriate authorities and issues a quarterly newsletter to update residents of concerns. If residents wish to find out more information, they can register their own email address with planning or attend the Parish Council meetings. **MIN 21/86** Members **resolved** not to set up a social media page.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (NHP)

Members **noted** that the NHP has been sent to the Neighbourhood Plan Independent Examiner Referral Service (NPIERS) and an examiner should be appointed in 4 weeks. **MIN 21/87** it was **resolved** that the Clerk refer any queries to the consultant, with a copy to Members and any issues that can't be resolved by email will be added to an agenda.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

MIN 21/88 Members **resolved** to note the delegated planning comments for October.

Members noted that Cllr Borrow (Cabinet Member for Planning and Regulation at Preston City Council) has referred the lack of response to enforcement queries to the Head of Planning who is yet to respond, however Cllr Whittam has replied that the Toplands Farm investigation has been closed as there is no breach and an application has been requested for the unauthorised indoor football pitch at Eaves. **MIN 21/89** Members **resolved** to ask what the Topland's building is used for as the construction is over 30m long.

WOODPLUMPTON STOCKS

At the 21st Sept meeting, reference was made to the heritage specialist who carried out the works on the Woodplumpton War Memorial and it was resolved that Cllr Bamber and Cllr Yates would work together to sort out the required heritage statement. Cllr Bamber confirmed that progress had been made and a meeting has been arranged for the 29th Oct. **MIN 21/90** it was **resolved** that Cllr Bamber and Cllr Greaves would attend.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Chairman confirmed that the accounts and bank statements had been verified.

HALF YEARLY BUDGET ANALYSIS Apr 21 – Sept 21

MIN 21/91 Members considered the current expenditure against the budget and **resolved** to note the following points

- The £500 grant for the PROW work has not been received and has been chased up
- A contractor could not be found to remove hedge undergrowth from the pavements so the work is being completed by the Lengthsman. With this in mind, Members were supplied with a weekly summary of the type of tasks completed during 2020/21.
- It was confirmed that there would not be a carol service in Catforth this year due to the risk of holding a large gathering indoors just before Christmas. As the Woodplumpton service is held outside, a decision will be taken at the November meeting. If the event does go ahead, the proposed date is Thursday 16th Dec and the Clerk was requested to make a note for the December Newsletter.

CONSIDERATION OF 2022/23 BUDGET ITEMS

As the November meeting will primarily focus on the 2022/23 budget, Members were requested to identify any new budget or CIL items so that an estimate of the costs can be provided for further consideration at the November meeting. **MIN 21/92** Having considered the Lengthman's work analysis and his current rate of pay, Members **resolved** that the Clerk include provision for a pay increase - to be confirmed at the November meeting.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

MIN 21/93 Members **resolved** to **note** the following account already paid under Standing Order 2020 /15 (b) xii

Lengthsman 22 - 25	£750.00	BACS	Ref 59
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MIN 21/94 Members **resolved** to approve the following accounts for payment

Clerk's Oct Salary	£1160.11	BACS
HMRC PAYE	£101.94	BACS
Employer National Ins	£76.52	BACS

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

MIN 21/95 Members **resolved** to approve the purchase of 2 poppy wreaths under S137 of the LGA 1972 at a cost of £44.00. The wreaths were given to the Councillors to lay on Remembrance Sunday.

TRAFFIC CALMING UPDATES

Woodplumpton scheme – The Clerk advised that LCC had provided the Bill of Quantities for the Woodplumpton scheme and had confirmed that a further round of consultation is required. LCC are seeking legal advice to establish if this should be promoted by the Parish Council or LCC. Members expressed a preference to put the plans on the website and carry out their own consultation via the December Newsletter. **MIN 21/96** It was **resolved** that the Clerk will feed this back to LCC and will clarify whether replies will be processed by the Parish Council or LCC. In light of the comments expressed under public participation, the Clerk will also make enquiries regarding the weight attached to any objections bearing in mind the procedures followed when the original scheme was presented to Lancashire Locals.

Catforth scheme – A meeting took place at Catforth Village Hall on the 4th October to discuss the Catforth Scheme. LCC remain opposed to certain aspects of the scheme and Members expressed disappointment that LCC appear to be reluctant to propose any alternatives. LCC insisted that a new footpath at Catforth Road will need to meet the new design standards with regards to lighting and width – even though it is currently substandard – but no other options were put forwards. To make progress, Members suggested putting the path and lighting in the layby but LCC stated this will have to be considered by the road safety team. Frustrations were expressed that a member of the road safety team was not present so there will be another delay before the matter can be considered. **MIN 21/97** LCC stated it will take approx. 3 weeks for the plans to be drawn up and it was **resolved** that the Clerk will chase the reply.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members expressed a desire to continue to rotate the meetings across the Parish but noted that smaller rooms are not practicable due to Covid concerns and the Clerk advised that a provisional booking has been made to hold the next meeting at Preston Grasshoppers on **Monday 15th November at 7.00pm.** **MIN 21/98** It was **resolved** that the Nov, Jan and February meetings would be held at Preston Grasshoppers with the venue being reconsidered at the February meeting. As the meetings will cover the winter months, it was also **resolved** that a £30 donation would be made towards the caretaking, heating and lighting costs. The Clerk will contact the Club to confirm the bookings and confirm their bank details.