



WOODPLUMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING HELD IN THE LIBRARY
ST ANNE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
WOODPLUMPTON ROAD, PRESTON
ON MONDAY 20th FEB 2023 at 7.00pm

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

Mr J Green (co-option applicant), Mr D Guise (co-option applicant),
2 members of the public as detailed on the attendance sheet.
Mrs J Buttle (Parish Clerk)

APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded for Cllr M Entwistle and Cllr B Dalglish and apologies were noted from Police Sergeant Hughes.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th Jan 2023.

MIN 22/140 It was **resolved** that the Minutes be signed as a true record.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS / WRITTEN DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations of interest.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

MIN 22/141 It was **resolved** that the meeting be adjourned for public participation.

Members were informed that a Preston Area Committee meeting had been organised with Chief Insp Sue Bushell, to discuss local police cover following the news that PCSO Julie Anyon was no longer covering the rural area. The meeting was attended by Cllr P Entwistle who informed Members that Lancashire Constabulary have recruited over 300 new officers with 120 due to finish their training in April.

Once the teams are fully operational, local police queries can be directed to Inspector As Khan, Sergeant Martin Hughes, Community Beat Manager Rumandeep Takhar and 2 PCSOs - Chloe Pearson and another, yet to be appointed. In addition, a police vehicle will be used as a 'mobile police surgery' for the public to attend and report any concerns. The vehicle will visit all the rural parishes and a rota will be advertised in advance. It was suggested that the car parks at Catforth Village Hall and Preston Grasshoppers would be good locations. It was also suggested that residents should sign up to 'Lancashire Talking' which emails residents with information relevant to where they live. The Clerk was requested to add more information to the next Newsletter.

CO-OPTION OF CATFORTH CLLR

Further to the vacancy in Catforth ward, 2 further co-option applications were received. In response to a question, the Clerk explained that the Council has a statutory duty to advertise the vacancy and consider any applications received. Some Councils may decide to co-opt a candidate to allow the Council to operate at full strength until the next elections, however as explained in January, Members may also choose not to co-opt providing they give an acceptable reason.

Both applicants were invited to explain their reasons for applying for the vacancy. Members thanked the applicants for their interest in the position and stated that both would be suitable to join the Council as one lived in Catforth and the other lived in NW Preston which is an area not currently represented on the Council.

MIN 22/142 Following a unanimous vote, Members **resolved** not to appoint to the vacancy to ensure all applicants have an equal chance of success at the May elections.

The Clerk reminded everyone that existing Councillors and residents will have the opportunity to put themselves forward for election and although the City Council oversees the election process, further details on how to apply will be added to the Parish Council Noticeboards and website.

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WOODPLUMPTON WARDING

As stated on the agenda, the Parish Council is split into 2 wards for election purposes, but once elected, Members serve the Parish Council as a whole and issues are addressed collectively.

Notwithstanding the above, it was suggested, that in view of the number of new properties in NW Preston, the City Council should be approached to create a new NW Preston ward with additional Councillors serving on the Parish Council. Alternatively, following the May elections, the Council may decide to nominate individual Councillors as a point of contact for areas within the Parish.

MIN 22/143 Members **resolved** that the matter be placed on the May agenda so that the Council can consider whether to appoint individual Members as a point of contact for specific areas.

In addition, the newly elected Council will be asked to consider whether to initiate a petition to request that the City Council undertakes a Governance Review to increase the number of Councillors and create a new ward / councillor position for the NW Preston area.

TRAFFIC CALMING SCHEMES

A) ISSUES RELATING TO LAND AT THE ORCHARD

Double Yellow lines,

In response to residents' queries regarding how and why LCC had painted the longer length lines, the Clerk summarised the Parish Council's decisions and actions in an email dated the 17th February. The Chairman read the email in full and Members also considered LCC's reply dated the 26th Jan 2023 which states that *had a formal objection to the TRO been received, a recommendation to Cabinet to proceed with the proposal would have been justified to protect the verge.*

MIN 22/144 As the longer lines are not protecting the verge, Members **resolved** to request an in person meeting with LCC to discuss how the parking restrictions can be resolved in addition to measures to protect the verge.

In accordance with MIN 22/115, of the Jan 23 meeting, the Clerk has contacted LCC to request further details regarding the enforcement of the lines and whether dispensations can be given to residents. An automated reply states a response will be issued in 20 working days.

Playing field parking scheme

Members noted an email from a resident withdrawing their objections to the scheme. Members also noted that the City Council have suggested a minor alteration to the draft consultation in that they wish to include reference to drainage improvements and the prevention of unauthorised temporary encampments. The Clerk has altered the consultation to reflect this.

MIN 22/145 Members **resolved** to approve and issue the consultation with immediate effect.

B) ISSUES RELATING TO WOODPLUMPTON

Hump gradient

LCC have offered to meet a representative of the Parish Council to discuss the gradient of the speed humps, however under MIN 22/119 of the January meeting, Members stated that the measurements should be requested and the gradients checked by an independent company.

A company has been approached who will inspect the scheme and give advice at a cost of £475 + VAT. Members debated whether LCC would alter the gradients based on the findings of an independent company. Concerns were expressed that the Parish Council only has LCC's word that the gradients are correct and given that higher humps have been added to Lightfoot Lane, which is also a bus route, an independent report will strengthen the Parish Council's queries.

MIN 22/146 Members **resolved** to arrange an initial meeting with the company.

Planter / Child safety signs

Members **noted** that the child safety signs are being used outside the school.

Under MIN 22/120 of the January meeting, Members resolved to discuss the design of planters to further enhance the area. As the designs were not available, the matter was deferred to the March meeting.

Cllr P Entwistle queried why Gateway features had not been included in the Woodplumpton scheme given that they were proposed in the initial meetings.

MIN 22/147 It was **resolved** that the addition of Gateway features be added to the March agenda.

Whittle Hill

Members **noted** an email dated 20th January where LCC stated that they are waiting for BT to confirm when the telegraph pole will be removed so that works can commence on the turning head. The email also states that tree clearance will be carried out by the end of February before the bird nesting season.

MIN 22/148 Members **resolved** that the Clerk request an update as it is nearly the end of February.

C) ISSUES RELATING TO CATFORTH

Catforth Scheme.

Further to MIN 22/125 of the January meeting, the Clerk has contacted the Solicitors to request that they oversee the signing of the S278 Legal Agreement, however, Members **noted** that LCC have not provided the updated costs as 2 members of staff are off sick.

MIN 22/149 Members **resolved** to return the Client Care letter which states the legal fees are not expected to exceed £1250 + VAT

Catforth Laybys

Further to MIN 22/125 of the January meeting, Members noted that a revised quote has been received for the resurfacing of the 2 Catforth laybys. The work will be delivered by LCC highway ops at an estimated cost of £36,775. This is an increase of £8,873 on the previous estimate.

MIN 22/150 Members **resolved** to approve the revised quote.

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

The Chairman verified that the accounts and bank statements had been reconciled. Members **noted** that it will be necessary to transfer funds from the bank account to the CCLA account before the financial year end.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT AND RECEIPTS

MIN 22/151 Members **resolved** to note and approve the following accounts already paid in accordance with standing order 15 (b) xii

Traffic silhouette signs	£1,186.74	BACS	REF 89
Stocks – interim payment	£3,162.62	BACS	REF 90
November Newsletter	£176.25	BACS	REF 91
Parish Lengthsman Wks 37 – 43 (Dec – 6 th Jan)	£900.00	BACS	REF 92

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT AND RECEIPTS

MIN 22/152 Members **resolved** to approve the following accounts for payment.

Clerk's Feb Salary	£1259.87	BACs
HMRC PAYE	£105.74	BACs
Employer Nat Ins	£88.71	BACs
Parish Lengthsman (Jan – Feb)	£900.00	BACs

SUMMER FETE

Members **noted** an update on the summer fete and the Clerk confirmed the £2,000 donation approved in the 2023/24 budget will be added to the April accounts for payment.

LENGTHSMAN PAYMENT

Members noted that the Parish Lengthsman's contract is due for renewal in April 2023 and the Lengthsman has requested that the rate of pay is increased from £15 an hour to £16 an hour. The Clerk confirmed that the hourly rate was increased in January 2022 and if the increase is approved, the contract will increase by £720 to £11,520.

MIN 22/153 Members **resolved** to invite Lengthsman to the March meeting to discuss the request and receive an update on his work.

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

At the January meeting, Members considered a proposal to include a business advert in the Parish Newsletter for a £25 donation. Members stated that other businesses may come forward which may restrict the space available for Parish Council news, however, if a business wished to sponsor the cost of the Newsletter this could probably be accommodated by the inclusion of a banner on the front page.

MIN 22/154 Members **resolved** not to allow business adverts, but stated they would consider a sponsorship request if one was received.

CIL EXPENDITURE

When CIL was introduced, residents were asked to provide ideas for CIL expenditure and an overwhelming majority stated it should be spent on traffic calming. As the Woodplumpton scheme has been completed and as the Catforth scheme should begin shortly, new ideas are required which can be taken forward by the new Council following the May elections.

MIN 22/155 Members **resolved** to add CIL items to the next Newsletter along with information regarding the Parish Council elections.

DOG WASTE DISPENSERS

A resident has suggested that dog bag dispensers could be fixed to lamp posts to encourage dog owners to pick up the waste. Additional bins were also requested but these need to be emptied by the City Council whose current policy is to encourage dog owners to take the waste home.

MIN 22/156 Members **resolved** to look at the cost of dog bag dispensers and consider the matter further at the March meeting.

LITTER BIN AT WHITTLE HILL

A request has also been received from a resident requesting a Wheelie Bin at the Whittle Hill junction similar to the one provided at Catforth.

MIN 22/157 Once Whittle Hill is closed, there will be more pedestrians in the area and Members **resolved** to approach the City Council to provide and empty the bin.

PWDR

Members **noted** that PCC and LCC have advised that the new Preston Western Distributor Road will be named 'Edith Rigby Way', in honour of Edith Rigby, a prominent suffragette from Preston.

LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION

Members were informed that the City Council has released a consultation on the Local Plan which involves refreshing current Planning Policies. The Clerk presented a brief summary of the proposals, detailing points which may impact on the Parish. These included a request for

- Greater clarity regarding what the City Council means by 'Woodplumpton' in terms of development and open countryside
- A definition of terms such as cluster, settlement, hamlet and infill – all of which appear to support new development in the open countryside
- Amending Policy 1 to read that growth should be in proportion to any known local need
- Clarify in relation to whether a Green Belt or an Area of Separation should be included to protect the open countryside and prevent further expansion / merging of the parish area

- Oppose the suggestion that additional traveller pitches should be provided through the regularisation of unauthorised sites
- Oppose proposed housing developments north of Bartle Lane (HS1.13, HS1.14) as this area was not included in the strategic location and development in Preston already exceeds the supply required.
- Oppose a mixed housing and employment use covering 63.3ha of land (HS1.31) unless the land is broken down in to smaller parcels with the proposed employment use clearly identified

MIN 22/158 Members **resolved** to submit the above comments by the 24th Feb deadline.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS BEFORE COUNCIL

MIN 22/159 Members considered the delegated planning comments for January and **resolved** to **object** to the new development at Newsham Hall Lane as the site is within the open countryside.

As it may lead to questions from residents, the Clerk informed Members of the following application which has only just been submitted - 06/2023/0162 Single storey extension to commercial building comprising 3no. light industrial units, following demolition of agricultural buildings at Willbrig Cottage, Roots Lane, Preston. The Clerk will submit comments based on a previous application.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Members noted that the City Council have issued the Reg 16 consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan and the Clerk has arranged for hard copies to be available at both primary schools, Catforth Village Hall, Bartle Bowling Club, Maxy Farm Pantry and Preston Grasshoppers.

MIN 22/160 The covering letter states that comments should be forwarded to the City Council and Members **resolved** that this should also apply to any complex queries or criticisms of the Neighbourhood Plan process.

NEW CORRESPONDENCE / ISSUES

Members were informed that HGVs are blocking driveways and revving their engines causing noise and inconvenience to residents at Plumpton Field. Unfortunately, the City Council class it as a temporary nuisance whilst the works take place and little can be done apart from residents asking the drivers to behave more considerately. A resident was also advised to consult a solicitor regarding alleged damage to her property caused by the construction works.

A reminder email has been sent to LCC requesting that they provide an update on the road widening and hedge cutting requested on Bartle Lane.

A letter was received stating that workmen have churned up a grass verge and dumped rubble in the greenery off Tom Benson Way 6 months ago leaving the ground uneven. Due to the timescale no further action has been taken. The resident also states that there is poor visibility due to an overgrown shrubbery when trying to cross Tag Lane to Greenfield Nursing Home. This has been reported via the LCC website.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Members are requested to note the next meeting is currently planned for **Monday 20th March 2023** in St Anne's Primary School, Woodplumpton.