

MINUTES OF THE WARTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 3rd March 2020 in the Village Hall, Warton.

PRESENT: Councillors K Briggs (Chairman), D Clough, A Hilling, Mrs D Langman, W Muckle and C Peacock and District Councillor A Duggan.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors Mrs J Cody and and Mrs L Simmonds and County Councillor Mrs P Williamson.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Councillors Peacock and Mrs Langman declared an interest in item 20.082 - Request for a donation to Archbishop Hutton's Primary School Parent Teachers Association and Councillor Peacock declared an interest in item 20.083 Request for a donation to Alice Hunt.

20.061. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the meetings held on 4th February 2020 having been previously circulated be accepted as a true and accurate record of proceedings at the meeting and be signed as such by the chairman.

20.062. REPORT FROM THE CLERK CONCERNING MATTERS IN PROGRESS NOT COVERED BY OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA: The clerk reported that all matters in progress would either be covered as part of items on the agenda or had already been notified to members.

THE CHAIRMAN ADJOURNED THE MEETING FOR A PERIOD OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Damaged Pavement – The clerk reported that he had received a complaint from Mr Meacham concerning a damaged section of the footway in Borwick Lane near to the Methodist Church. Members instructed the clerk to contact Lancashire County Council Highways Department to request a repair.

Overhanging Trees – The clerk reported that he had received a complaint from Mrs Newton concerning overhanging trees in Well Lane that were obstructing the footway and 20mph speed restriction warning sign. Members instructed the clerk to contact Lancashire County Council Highways Department to request the trees be pruned back.

THE CHAIRMAN RECONVENED THE MEETING

20.063. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MRS P WILLIAMSON:

County Councillor Mrs Williamson was unable to attend the meeting because of a prior engagement but was available to give any assistance with issues as required.

20.064. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR A DUGGAN: District Councillor Duggan reported that he had been informed by Lancaster City Council Officers that the play equipment in the Roods Play Area was considered to be unsafe and was to be removed. Should the Roods residents wish to have the equipment replaced, it would be necessary to set up a Friends Group to draw on external funding to purchase the new equipment as council finance was not available because of current budget limitations. The officers view was that as there was already a parish council maintained play facility in the village the loss of the facility at the Roods, although regrettable, would not be as serious as if alternative facilities were not available. Members discussed the proposal and agreed that as the equipment was in a dangerous condition they would reluctantly support its removal but stressed that residents must be informed of the decision and of the officer's suggestion

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concerning the formation of a friends group to raise funds for the replacement of the removed equipment. District Councillor Duggan agreed to report back to the officers involved with the equipment removal and seek assurance that the Roods residents would be kept informed of progress. Members requested that the clerk investigate if funding was available under the Reclamation of Small Parks Scheme.

District Councillor Duggan was thanked for his report.

20.065. STANDING ORDER 25: Members noted that no action had been taken under the provision of Standing Order 25.

20.066 . PLANNING MATTERS: a) The following planning applications were considered by members:-

19/00020/FUL – Application Amendment – Part retrospective application for the change of use of a former quarry for the siting of 215 holiday lodges with associated internal access roads, sales display area, play area, car parks and landscaping for Mr Stott, Pure Leisure Group, South Lakeland Leisure Village, Borwick Lane, Warton. No objections were raised.

b) Members noted that current status of planning applications reviewed by members at previous meetings as follows:

17/00736/OUT – Reviewed 4th July 2017 meeting – Awaiting decision
18/01603/FUL – Reviewed 8th January 2019 meeting – Awaiting decision
18/01589/REM – Reviewed 5th February 2019 meeting – Awaiting decision
19/00003/FEF – Reviewed 5th February 2019 meeting – Awaiting decision
19/00020/FUL – Reviewed 5th March 2019 meeting – Awaiting decision
19/0012/REF – reviewed 26th March 2019 meeting – Awaiting decision
19/00563/VCN – Reviewed 4th June 2019 meeting – Awaiting decision
19/0098/TPO – Reviewed 3rd September 2019 meeting – Awaiting decision
19/00020/FUL – Reviewed 1st October 2019 meeting – Awaiting decision
19/00034/REF – Reviewed 5th November 2019 meeting – Awaiting decision
19/01512/FUL – Reviewed 4th February 2020 meeting – Awaiting decision
20/00021/FUL – Reviewed 4th February 2020 meeting – Application permitted

20.067. FINANCE: a) Members noted the financial summary for February 2020

Opening Balance

General Account	6030.20	
Village Improvement Account	12313.37	
Investment Account	8058.47	
Playground Account	4519.11	
E & R Wilson Fund Account	<u>1627.90</u>	<u>32549.05</u>

Receipts

24.02.20 Yorkshire Bank – Interest Payment – Playground Account	3.52
	<u>32552.57</u>

Payments

04.02.20 Lancaster City Council – Grass cutting	1560.00
04.02.20 Warton Village Hall – Room Rental	98.00
04.02.20 CPRE – Membership Fee	36.00
06.02.20 Tom Oliver – Toilet Work – January	75.00

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06.02.20 J W Ball – Salary	370.26	
07.02.20 Npower – Toilet Electricity	<u>89.72</u>	<u>2228.98</u>
		30323.59

Closing Balance

General Account	3801.22	
Village Improvement Account	12313.37	
Investment Account	8058.47	
Playground Account	4522.63	
E & R Wilson Fund Account	<u>1627.90</u>	<u>30323.59</u>

b) Members authorised payments and signed cheques for the following accounts:

Tom Oliver – Toilet Work – February - £88.50 – 2066
Peter Doey – Parish Lengthsman - £500.25 – 2067
G Milner – Toilet Repairs - £180.00 – 2068
W Muckle – Expenses - £31.60 – 2069
Thomas Graham & Sons Ltd – Toilet Consumables - £43.03 – 2070
Carer Support South Lakes – Donation - £60.00 – 2071
E& R Wilson Charitable Fund – Grant - £700.00 - 000092

20.068. PUBLIC TOILETS: Councillor Clough reported that the cisterniser infrared urinal control valve had been supplied and fitted by the contractor at a cost of £180.00. Members discussed and agreed that a directional sign be purchased and fixed to identify the toilet's position. Councillor Clough agreed to request permission from the Church Hall Management Committee to erect the sign on the Church Hall wall.

20.069. SPARROW PARK: Nothing further to report.

20.070. ELIZABETH AND RICHARD WILSON CHARITABLE FUND: Members considered the single application for a grant that had been received and agreed to award £700.00 to the applicant, with the balance of funding remaining in the fund to be carried over to the 2020/2021 financial year.

20.071. THE WEIR CHILDRENS PLAYGROUND: Members expressed their concerns about the poor state of the safety surfacing surrounding the climbing net. Members agreed that urgent action be taken to replace the surfacing material and instructed the clerk to seek quotations for the supply and laying of rubber based safety surfacing.

20.072. PARISH LENGTHSMAN: The clerk reported that the parish lengthsman continued to deliver a high standard of work throughout the village.

20.073. SPEED DETECTION DEVICES: Councillor Clough reported that it had been necessary to charge the Borwick Lane device batteries off site as insufficient natural light was currently available to maintain a charge. Members discussed possible solutions and agreed that the clerk should contact Lancashire County Council Highways and Street Lighting Department to enquire if it was possible draw power from the street lighting system.

20.074. EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN: Councillor Clough reported that the plan was available for use if required and regular testing of the emergency generator and lighting system being carried out. Members discussed the possible consequence for vulnerable village residents from the COVID-19 infection but agreed there did not appear to be any

action required by emergency plan volunteers at the present time with responsibility being left with the emergency services.

20.075. REGISTRATION OF WARTON PARISH COUNCIL LAND WITH THE LAND

REGISTRY: The clerk reported that he had received a request from Ratcliffe and Bibby, our solicitors, to supply a copy of the Enclosures Act 1810 for use in responding to queries raised by the Land Registry concerning the Weir and Senset Well portions of land. Members agreed that a copy of the Act be supplied.

20.076. PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE: The clerk reported that changes to the website were in hand.

20.077. WARTON AND MILLHEAD COMMUNITY ROADWATCH SCHEME: Councillor Clough reported that he was hopeful a second volunteer would come forward in the near future. He agreed to keep members informed.

20.078. MILL LANE FOOTPATH: Nothing further to report.

20.079. COMMUNITY CHAMPION VOLUNTEER PROJECT: The clerk reported that arrangements to join the project were in hand.

20.080. DISCHARGE OF CONDITIONS RELATED TO PLANNING APPLICATION

15/00847/OUT: The clerk reported that in response to his query concerning satisfaction of the Disabled Access Legislation requirements by the village bus stops not included in the work scheduled as part of the discharge of conditions, he was advised that no status information was available. Members recorded their disappointment with the way the discharge of conditions was handled by the Lancashire County Council officers but decided to take no further action.

20.081. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT – 2020: Members considered the quotation for grounds maintenance submitted by Lancaster City Council. The work to be carried out from April 2020 to October 2020, mowing every 10 working days without grass collection for Millhead Play Area, Rupert Street top, Carlisle Terrace, Low Weir, Weir Play Area and the Small Quarry, at an annual charge of £1466.63 plus VAT. Members considered the quotation and agreed it be accepted. The clerk was instructed to confirm that the free safety inspections of the Weir play equipment would be continued as part of the contract.

20.082. ENGLAND COASTAL PATHWAY – WARTON SALTMARSHES: Councillor Peacock reported that the route for the pathway through the parish decided by Natural England was proving to be controversial and needed further discussion and consideration before a final decision was made.

20.083. DONATION TO ARCHBISHOP HUTTON'S PRIMARY SCHOOL P.T.A: Councillors Mrs Langman and Peacock declared an interest in this item. Councillor Mrs Langman reported that the replacement and upgrading of the school IT systems costing £30,000 was an urgent requirement if children at the school were to fully benefit from their education. To date £15,000 had been raised through a series of donations (including a donation of £3,000 from the parish council), grants and events. As a result of the funding already raised it had been possible to purchase a new server and install new laptops in the computer room together with a backup system. Classroom teaching resources made up of 2 interactive boards costing £2,500, projectors costing £700, laptops costing £5,000 and iPads costing £8,000 were still required and approaches for donations had been made to Tesco, The Wilson Trust and EDF Power Generation with responses awaited. A request for a further

donation from the parish council was made. Councillors Mrs Langman and Peacock left the meeting whilst members considered the request. After giving the request careful and sympathetic consideration the 4 members eligible to cast their votes agreed unanimously that as a donation of £3,000 had already been given it was not considered appropriate to make a further donation at the present time.

20.084. DONATION TO ALICE HUNT: Councillor Peacock declared an interest in this item. Members discussed the request for a donation towards the cost of Alice attending the Explorer Scout Expedition Bangladesh and India 2021 but agreed they were unable to help as a parish council was not allowed to provide funding for such individual use. The clerk was instructed to inform Alice and express members regret at not being able to help her.

20.085. WARTON & MILLHEAD FLOODING ISSUES: Members agreed to keep flooding issues throughout the parish under review. No update on Lancashire County Council investigations concerning the Sand Lane/Main Street junction flooding problem was available at present.

20.086. DONATION TO WARTON BOWLING CLUB: Members considered the request for a donation towards the estimated toilet upgrade cost of £3,000 and agreed that funding of £250 be made available for the purchase of an individual item required as part of the upgrade.

20.087. SMALL QUARRY REPAIRS: Councillor Peacock reported that he had discussed the business rates liability issue with NALC representatives. He had been advised that the imposition of business rates was dependant on an assessment of the value of the car park area as a potential income source after taking into account any costs incurred. Members discussed the issue and agreed that in view of the continued doubt concerning business rates liability no further action be taken on the repairs to the quarry area except to carry out a general tidying of overgrown areas. Members also agreed to the provision of notices warning vehicle owners that the parish council accepted no liability for such vehicles left in the quarry.

20.088. REGISTRATION OF THE LITTLE WEIR UNDER THE COMMONS ACT 2006: Members considered the additional advice given by the Open Spaces Society officers concerning protection from compulsory purchase action and developments on land registered under the Commons Act 2006 and agreed that as no additional protection would result from such a registration no further action to register the land should be taken. The clerk was instructed to notify the Open Spaces Society accordingly.

20.089. ITEMS OF INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS: Councillor Clough reported that he had not seen any progress with the development of the Warton Myers site and expressed his concern that delays to the development would have implications for the Gardner Road flooding issues. Councillor Briggs reported that delays within the planning process and personnel changes were responsible for the lack of visual progress on the site.

20.090. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: There being no further business the chairman thanked members and District Councillor Duggan for their attendance and participation in the business of the meeting and closed the meeting at 9.30pm, arranging the next meeting for Tuesday 7th April 2020 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Warton.

Items for inclusion in the Agenda for the 7th April 2020 Meeting to be notified to the clerk by Monday 30th March 2020.

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Chairman _____ Date _____

Minutes subject to agreement at the 7th April 2020 meeting of the Warton Parish Council.