

MINUTES OF THE WARTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 5th January 2021 by Zoom.

PRESENT: Councillors K Briggs (Chairman), D Clough, Mrs J Cody, Mrs D Langman, A Muckle, C Peacock and Mrs L Simmonds, County Councillor Mrs P Williamson and District Councillor A Duggan.

IN ATTENDANCE: 1 Member of the public.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor A Hilling

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Councillors Mrs D Langman, C Peacock and Mrs L Simmonds declared an interest in item 20.168, Consideration of a request for a donation to Archbishop Huttons Primary School PTA Big IT Drive.

20.160. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the meetings held on 1st December 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.

20.161. REPORT FROM THE CLERK CONCERNING MATTERS IN PROGRESS NOT COVERED BY OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA: Because of IT issues the report from the clerk was not available and would be circulated to members at a later date.

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

3 Brothers Permissive Path – Discussion deferred to the 2nd February meeting of the parish council.

Climate Change – Councillor Peacock reported that NALC had prepared a survey for completion by parish councils concerning climate change options that could be considered by local organisations. Members agreed to give some thought to the survey questions with comments to be forwarded to Councillor Peacock for his completion of the survey on behalf of Warton Parish Council. Members agreed to defer further discussions on the item to their 2nd February meeting.

THE CHAIRMAN RECONVENED THE MEETING

20.162. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MRS P WILLIAMSON: County Councillor Mrs Williamson reported that the Covid-19 pandemic was causing problems for aspects of Lancashire County Council work including primary and high school education provision. Budget setting for the 2021/2022 financial year was imminent and specific ideas for enhancement of parish facilities, including improvement to the Warton/Millhead footway would be submitted for consideration. She had received a briefing from Jane Birch of RSPB concerning progress with the Warton Mires project and the difficulties concerning future maintenance of some items of pumping equipment owned by United Utilities. Other items of interest had been forwarded to members during the period since the last meeting of the parish council.

County Councillor Mrs Williamson was thanked for her continued support.

20.163. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR A DUGGAN: District Councillor Duggan reported that Lancaster City Council would be introducing a new grassland management system this year that would allow for a more ecologically structured treatment of individual areas of open land throughout the parish. He would be undertaking a walk around the areas of open land in Millhead and Warton to draw up a grass management plan for the area and members and residents were invited to join him. Full details would be available on the Lancaster City Council website. Budget setting for the 2021/2022 financial year was imminent and ideas for funding consideration should be submitted. All equipment except for one goalpost had now been removed from the Roods site, but he would be happy to lobby for support of any initiative by residents and the parish council to provide replacement play equipment.

District Councillor Duggan was thanked for his continued support.

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

20.165. PLANNING MATTERS: a) Details of the following planning applications had been forwarded to members for their consideration and response as required with comments to be forwarded to Lancaster City Council Planning Department prior to deadline dates.

20/0258/TCA – Holly (T1) – Fell, Stump (T2) – Fell, Conifer (T3) – Fell, Holly (T4) – Fell, Holly (T5) – Fell for Mr Alex Harrison, 129A Main Street, Warton.

Members discussed the application and agreed that an objection to the felling should be raised with the suggestion that pollarding would be a better solution .

20/01349/FUL – Erection of a detached dwelling (C3) and creation of a new vehicular access for Mr and Mrs P Goldsworthy, Land North of 13 Main Street, Warton.

As a result of comments received from members an objection to the application was submitted to Lancaster City Council Planning Control. Members wish to object to the proposal despite the granting of outline planning permission (16/0221/OUT) as they feel that this development will push the creation of buildings further into the current open space leading to Warton Crag and so setting a precedent for future housing development beyond that already existing and the crag. The current proposal does not mention the alterations to the site entrance/exit from Main Street previously stipulated by Lancashire County Council as a requirement for the acceptance of a development on that site and so does not address the possible danger to vehicles using Main Street. Residents of properties adjacent to the development have expressed their grave concerns at the increased risk from water run off in periods of heavy rain because of the footprint of the building reducing still further the open ground area capable of absorbing surface water running from the fields beyond the site. During such periods of prolonged heavy rain run off from the proposed development frequently floods Main Street and across onto the open ground (Little Weir) opposite. The design of the building is of an ultra modern style with large windows and sandstone construction making it totally out of character with the surrounding area. They felt that if the building was to be constructed it should be of local limestone and slate with window sizes reduced as far as possible in an effort to cut reflected glare and overlooking of nearby properties.

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

19/00020/FUL – Reviewed 5th March 2019 meeting – Awaiting decision

1225

19/00012/REF – Reviewed 26th March 2019 meeting – Appeal dismissed
 20/00358/OUT – Reviewed by members 2nd June 2020 – Awaiting decision
 20/00676/VCN – Reviewed by members 14th July 2020 – Awaiting decision
 20/00873/FUL – Reviewed by members 24th August 2020 – Awaiting decision
 20/00957/FUL – Reviewed by members 16th September 2020 – Application permitted
 20/0937/VLA – Reviewed by members 17th September 2020 – Awaiting decision
 20/00402/OUT – Reviewed 13th October 2020 meeting – Application refused
 20/00909/FUL – Reviewed 3rd November 2020 meeting – Application permitted
 20/01038/FUL – Reviewed 3rd November 2020 meeting – Application withdrawn
 20/00955/FUL – Reviewed 3rd November 2020 meeting – Application permitted
 LRC/AW/W13196 – Reviewed 1st December 2020 meeting – Awaiting decision

20.166.FINANCE: Members noted the financial summary for December 2020

Opening Balances – All Accounts	Current Account	14817.61	
	Village Improvement Account	12313.37	
	Investment Account	8058.47	
	Playground Account	4522.63	
	E & R Wilson Fund	<u>2247.50</u>	<u>41959.58</u>
Current Account Opening Balance			14817.61
Receipts			<u>NIL</u>
Payments			
19.11.20	Astarte Web Design – Warton Website Hosting	125.00	
19.11.20	P Doey –Christmas Lights Reimbursement	294.96	
26.11.20	PKF Littlejohn – Audit Fee	240.00	
26.11.20	Ratcliffe & Bibby – Legal Charges	6.00	
26.11.20	Tom Oliver – Toilet Work November	135.00	
26.11.20	J W Ball – Expenses	439.59	
30.11.20	Thomas Graham – Toilet PPE	36.35	
05.12.20	Npower – Toilet Electricity	26.74	
06.12.20	J W Ball – Salary	<u>377.67</u>	<u>1681.31</u>
Current Account Closing Balance			13136.30
Closing Balance – All Accounts	Current Account	13136.30	
	Village Improv Acc	12313.37	
	Investment Account	8058.47	
	Playground Account	4522.63	
	E & R Wilson Fund	<u>2247.50</u>	<u>40278.27</u>

1226

b) Members authorised payments and agreed that cheques be signed by Councillors Hilling and Mrs Simmonds:

Thomas Graham & Sons Ltd – Toilet PPE - £36.35 - 2109

Tom Oliver – Toilet Work December - £115.00 – 2110

Carter Jonas LLp – Potts Wood Picnic Site Rental - £1.00 - 2111

20.167. 2021/2022 PRECEPT DEMAND: Members considered the breakdown of proposed expenditure making up the Precept Demand and agreed that £20,298 was a reasonable and prudent figure considering the proposed expenditure for the 2021/2022 financial year with a demand for that amount to be forwarded to Lancaster City Council.

20.168. DONATION TO ARCHBISHOP HUTTONS PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA BIG IT DRIVE: Members were informed that £30,000 was required to replace school life expired IT equipment with new fit for purpose interactive white boards, laptops and I pads. The current equipment available was neither reliable nor capable enough to deliver the level of IT tuition required to meet curriculum standards in the school. £18,000 had been raised through organised events and donations but because of COVID-19 restrictions it had not been possible to continue with fund raising events, leaving a shortfall of £12,000 if the full programme of equipment replacement was to be achieved. Some members expressed concern that despite generous support from the parish council in the past a further request for funding was being made. Members were assured that no additional funding was available from Lancaster County Council and the school no funding was available from the school budget. County Councillor Mrs Williamson agreed to enquire if any grant funding was available in addition to that from the standard education budget allocation and report back. Members agreed that the item be deferred to the March 2021 meeting of the parish council when a more accurate figure of any surplus available in parish council funds would be available.

20.169. REFURBISHMENT OF THE ROODS PLAY AREA: Members discussed the request from some residents for the provision of a pump track on the former play area at the Roods. Members agreed that such a provision would be expensive and would need a fund raising residents group to be formed. District Councillor Duggan drew attention to the health and safety issues connected with such facilities together with adequate insurance cover but he would be prepared to liaise with the District Council on resident's behalf if they so wished. Members agreed that as the parish council was already responsible for a play area in the village and the potential health, safety and insurance issues involved in such a project, for the time being at least any such developments be left to residents and an organising committee.

20.170. ITEMS OF INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS: i Councillor Peacock reported that he would attend the Community Connections Covid-19 briefing on 6th February 2021.
ii Councillor Peacock suggested that the lighting system used on the Weir over the Christmas period be erected at Sparrow Park for a short period.
iii Councillor Mrs Simmonds thanked Peter Doey for his efforts with the Christmas lights on the Weir. She felt the display was superior to other surrounding village efforts.
iv Councillor Clough reported he had received correspondence from Lancashire Constabulary concerning the procedures to be followed to volunteer for vaccination site duties.
v Councillor Briggs warned members and village residents about the numerous scams circulating concerning Covid-19 vaccinations.

20.171. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: There being no further business the chairman thanked members for their attendance and participation and closed the meeting at

1227

8.45pm. The next meeting of the parish council was arranged at 7.30pm on Tuesday 2nd February 2021 by Zoom.

Items for inclusion in the Agenda for the 2nd February 2021 Meeting to be notified to the clerk by Monday 25th January 2021.

Chairman _____ Date _____

Minutes subject to agreement at the 2nd February 2021 meeting of the Warton Parish Council.