

MINUTES OF THE WARTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 4th July 2023 in the Village Hall Warton.

PRESENT: Councillors K Briggs, D Clough, A Hilling, C Lee, W Muckle, F Senior and Mrs L Simmonds.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr J W Ball – Clerk to Warton Parish Council.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor Mrs Cody, County Councillor Mrs Williamson and District Councillor Mrs S Tyldesley.

RESIGNATION: Councillor Clough tendered his resignation as a Parish Councillor because of his moving from the area. Members expressed sadness on receiving the resignation, thanked him for his work as a parish councillor and wished him future success.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were no declarations of interest in relation to items covered by the agenda.

23.129. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the meeting held on the 6th June 2023 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.

23.130. REPORT FROM THE CLERK CONCERNING MATTERS IN PROGRESS NOT COVERED BY OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA: The clerk reported that: i. A request for financial assistance with the cost of running the Main Street Public Toilet had been forwarded to Lancaster City Council. District Councillor Mrs Tyldesley had also requested a decision on this funding from the City Council. To date no reply had been received. ii. The builders rubble had been removed from the Main Street/Bowling Club lane. iii. Trustee information covering the Alms House Charity had been circulated to members. iv. No further information had been received concerning the Scotland Road development. v. The Old School Brewery Cycle Rack had been erected. vi. Completion and Acceptance of Office and Election Expenses returns required completion by those members not present at the last meeting of the parish council.

Other items had been reported to members as received.

The clerk was thanked for his report.

THE CHAIRMAN ADJOURNED THE MEETING FOR A PERIOD OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Matters were raised by members of the public as follows:

1. A complaint had been received from a Hutton Gardens resident concerning noise from the garage opposite. Members agreed that no action should be taken as the noise level was no greater than could be expected from motor vehicle repair premises.
2. A request had been received from a Hutton Gardens resident for parish council help with the maintenance of a parcel of land at the entrance to the estate considered to be a communal area. However, as a result of further enquiries it had been established that the parcel of land formed part of an individual property.

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Members considered the request but agreed that parish council resources could not be used to carry out such work on a private property.

A confidential complaint considered by members at the June meeting of the parish council had been referred for advice from the Lancaster City Council Planning Control and Environmental Health Departments. Resultant investigations by Planning Control officers had identified some planning issues but that an appropriate Temporary Event Notice had been issued authorising the event that was the subject of the complaint. Noise levels for future events would be investigated by the Environmental Health Dept if evidence was provided. Such evidence to be submitted using the app www.the-noiseapp.com. Members agreed that an approach be made to the event organisers to seek a compromise arrangement acceptable to the owners of the establishment and neighbouring residents.

THE CHAIRMAN RECONVENED THE MEETING

23.131. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MRS P WILLIAMSON: County Councillor Mrs Williamson was unable to attend the meeting and a report was not available.

County Councillor Mrs Williamson was thanked for her continued support.

23.132. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR MRS S TYLDESLEY: District Councillor Mrs Tyldesley reported that she had attended a meeting of Croftlands residents to discuss the organisation of a plant, seeds and bulbs planting session to form a community garden on land at the corner of the estate. Members discussed parish council involvement but agreed grass cutting of the area should be a priority.

District Councillor Mrs Tyldesley was thanked for her report and continued support.

23.133 STANDING ORDER 25: The clerk reported that no action under Standing Order 25 had been necessary since the last meeting of the parish council.

23.134. PLANNING MATTERS: a) No planning applications had been received for review since the last meeting of the parish council.

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

22/0115/TCA – Reviewed 6th September 2022 Meeting – Awaiting Decision
22/00064/REF – Appeal against the refusal of Planning Application 19/00113/FUL
Reviewed March 2019 meeting – Awaiting Decision
23/00165/FUL – Reviewed 4th April 2023 Meeting – Awaiting Decision
23/00487/FUL – Reviewed 2nd May 2023 Meeting – Application Permitted
23/0054/TPO – Reviewed 6th June 2023 Meeting – Application Permitted
23/0061/TPO – Reviewed 6th June 2023 Meeting – Application Permitted
23/00590/FUL – Reviewed 6th June 2023 Meeting – Awaiting Decision

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23.135. FINANCE: a) Members noted the financial summary for June 2023 as follows:

Opening Balances – All Accounts

Current Account	42723.44
Village Improvement Account	12481.19
Investment Account	8058.47

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Playground Account	4536.23
E & R Wilson Fund Account	<u>96.80</u> 67896.13

Opening Balance – Current Account 42723.44

Receipts NIL

Payments

06.06.23 J W Ball - Salary	385.17
06.06.23 Tom Oliver – Toilet Work May	137.00
06.06.23 Willacy (Cont) Ltd – Playground Sand	227.76
06.06.23 Open Spaces Society – Membership Fee	45.00
06.06.23 P Doey – Parish Lengthsman	809.20
07.06.23 Toilet Electricity	36.98
12.06.23 Parish Lengthsman Under Payment	<u>11.50</u> 1652.61
	41070.83

Closing Balance Current Account 41070.83

Closing Balances – All Accounts

Current Account	41070.83
Village Improvement Account	12481.19
Investment Account	8058.47
Playground Account	4536.23
E&R Wilson Fund Account	<u>96.80</u> 66243.52

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

P.Doey – Under Payment Cheque 2234 - £11.50 – 2345

Thomas Oliver – Toilet Work May - £135.50 – 2346

Mr G Marsh – Internal Audit Fee - £100.00 - 2347

c) Review of Internet Business Banking Systems

Nothing further to report.

d) Review of the 2022/2023 Draft Financial Statements (AGAR)

The clerk issued copies of the 2022/2023 draft financial statements for consideration and acceptance by members and advised that until the external audit by PKF Littlejohn LLP had been completed the statements should be considered as draft only. Members noted and agreed the Internal Audit Report prepared by Mr Marsh on completion of the internal audit and financial statements prepared by the clerk. Members reviewed the 2022/2023 Annual Governance Statement and confirmed their satisfaction with the systems of internal control including the arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statements.

Members agreed that the period for the exercise of public rights would commence on Monday 3rd July 2023 and end on Friday 11th August 2023. The period dates to be displayed on the Warton Parish Council website and notice boards.

23.136. LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL MAIN STREET TRAFFIC PROPOSALS: No further developments since the last meeting of the parish council.

23.137. EVOLIS SPEED RECORDING EQUIPMENT: The clerk reported that he had been in contact with Des Retallick – Lancashire County Council Street Lighting concerning the erection of suitable poles for the Evolis Units. A suitable site had been identified for the Main Street unit and confirmation was awaited from Lancashire County Council street lighting engineers.

23.138. SPEEDING TRAFFIC: The clerk reported that several complaints had been received from Main Street residents concerning speeding traffic through the village. Members discussed the problem and agreed that the action required was beyond the scope of the parish council and should be referred to Lancashire Constabulary and the Road Safety Unit. Councillor Mrs Simmonds requested Lancashire County Council should be asked to consider the erection of suitable signage to warn drivers about parts of Main Street without footways and resultant pedestrians on the road.

23.139. WARTON STOCK CAR CLUB: The clerk reported no further progress since the last meeting of the parish council.

23.140. WARTON MIRES PROJECT: The clerk reported the next meeting of the Warton Mires Sub-Group was scheduled for 7th August 2023 with nothing further to report at present. Members agreed that Councillors Hilling, Lee and Senior represent the parish council at future meetings of the sub-group.

23.141. BORWICK CLOSE AND WELL LANE GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT: The clerk reported that grass cutting by Lancaster City Council had commenced. Members discussed a possible ownership application by the parish council against both parcels of land, based on the claim of 2 years maintenance by residence and the agreement to take over that responsibility by Warton Parish Council. Members instructed the clerk to seek guidance from the Land Registry.

23.142. CHILDRENS PLAYGROUND ACCIDENT: The clerk requested guidance from members on future action to be taken by the parish council against the risk of a further such accident as reported at the 6th June 2023 meeting of the parish council. Members stressed their concern at the injury sustained by the child and agreed that measures should be taken to safeguard against such a future occurrence. Members instructed the clerk to seek advice on possible action from Lancaster City Council.

23.143. QUARRY CLEAN UP: Councillor Mrs Simmonds reported that the Warton Scout Group had requested agreement from members for the group to carry out clearance of litter, broken glass, excrement etc from the area bordering the parish council owned quarry. Appropriate insurance cover for those taking part would be provided by the Scout Association. Members agreed to the clean up being mounted and thanked the Scout Group for their work.

23. 144. WEIR WOODCHIP PURCHASE: The clerk reported that the wood chip surfaces on the children's playground needed topping up. Members agreed that wood chip be purchased from A.W. Jenkinson Forest Products, bagged as in previous years.

- 23.145. ITEMS OF INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS:** i. Councillor Senior reported that dog fouling in the Potts Wood Picnic Site continued to be a problem. Councillor Mrs Simmonds agreed to arrange a supply of waste bags and request that Warton Scout Group make a suitable holder for installation on site.
- ii. Councillor Lee reported that the low bridge sign outside the Methodist Church needed renewal.
- iii. Councillor Lee reported that weeds on roads and pavements throughout the village needed attention.
- iv. Councillor Lee reported the beach hedge opposite Yealand Church needed cutting back.
- v. Councillor Lee reported that he had continued to liaise with County Councillor Mrs Williamson concerning M6 Junction 35 problems.
- vi. Councillor Lee reported that the outreach post office facility in the Village Hall on Tuesdays was successful and provision of a suitable sign positioned in Main Street would be beneficial.
- vii. Councillor Briggs thanked the Parish Lengthsman for his work in clearing the allotment pathway.
- viii. Councillor Briggs reported that Danny Crump had organised climbing classes on the Small Quarry rock face without seeking parish council permission. Councillor Briggs agreed to provide contact details for action by the clerk.

23.146. 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 9.35 pm. The next meeting of Warton Parish Council will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 5th September 2023 in the Village Hall. Items for inclusion on the agenda should be notified to the clerk by Monday 28th August 2023.

Chairman..... Date.....

Minutes subject to agreement at the 5th September 2023 meeting of the Warton Parish Council.