

Minutes for the PC meeting of 17th November 2011 (Nether Wyresdale)

Present: Cllrs Atkinson, Babbs, Cottle, Gorst and Hesketh, the clerk, Wyre Council and Lancashire County Councillor Val Wilson and a member of the public

1. Apologies for absence:

Cllr Anderton

2. Declarations of Interest:

Cllr Babbs (in his capacity as church warden) regarding item 6 - parking

3. Minutes from last meeting:

Signed as a correct record

4. Matters arising:

Parish Council website

The Clerk confirmed that Mike Otter will attend the next meeting to give the PC a cheque for £300 as the grant has been approved.

Dolphinholme street light

Cllr Gorst confirmed there was no way forward on this issue.

Dolphinholme parking

Cllr Gorst has yet to establish whether the community want the double white lines near the bridge. This is in hand.

Register of interest forms

Cllr Gorst confirmed that he had emailed the form to the clerk twice but she stated she had not received it. She suggested posting a copy.

Wyresdale park complaint letters

The clerk read out the following response from Wyre Council (Environmental Protection):

“With regard to the noise from Wyresdale Park, Environmental Protection investigate complaints of noise from any industrial, commercial or domestic premises. There are no set guidelines for noise levels, as the noise that could be considered a nuisance in a residential location could be very different from the noise that could be considered a nuisance in a remote rural location. However, whilst not having any set noise limits, everybody has a duty not to cause a statutory nuisance, and this applies to all domestic properties, industrial units and commercial premises. Noise and vibration can be considered a statutory nuisance. In its simplest terms a statutory nuisance is unreasonable behaviour that would materially interfere with the enjoyment of a persons property. This could include disturbing a persons sleep, drowning out the sound from a television, preventing a person from concentrating on work, or in some instances preventing a person from sitting in their garden.

As well as the noise level and therefore how it affects someone, the frequency of the noise is also a relevant factor in demonstrating a noise nuisance. A one-off event that disturbs neighbours would be extremely annoying, but if it was an isolated occurrence it would not be considered a statutory nuisance. It is fair to say that there is no exact rule as to how frequent something has to be before it could be considered a nuisance. Every case would have to be taken on its own merits, based on how loud the noise is and how it affects someone.

Upon receiving a complaint concerning noise, the local authority has to gather sufficient evidence to demonstrate, beyond all reasonable doubt, the existence of a statutory nuisance. This will involve complainants keeping a log of incidents that have affected them on a prescribed form, which also acts as a witness statement to confirm the details a true and accurate. The evidence from the person affected by the noise is essential as only they can explain how the noise affects them, and therefore why it would be considered a statutory nuisance. A visit(s) by an authorised officer from Environmental Protection will also have to be made to witness the noise to confirm that it would be considered a statutory nuisance based on the evidence provided by the complainant. Noise monitoring equipment can also be installed at a complainant's address to record the noise over a duration of a couple of days.

If the case officer is of the opinion that there is a statutory nuisance an abatement notice would be served on the person responsible for the nuisance requiring them to take such measures as may be necessary to stop causing a nuisance. This would be different for every case. Following service of a notice, if the nuisance continued the person responsible for the nuisance would have committed an offence and could be prosecuted and/or have any noise making equipment seized.”

The PC suggested that the clerk should write to James Whewell regarding the letters of complaint and copy in Wyre Council.

5. Open forum:

None

6. Playing field:

Progress report

Cllr Cottle stated that the gatepost has been sorted and he has asked Groundwork for their final bill. He has asked the clerk to email him the retention amounts shown on the bills already received.

Youth shelter

No progress

Playing field bin

The big bin has not yet arrived. Val Wilson will look into it.

Parking

Cllr Babbs showed the PC two plans for potential parking, one on the playing field and one in the church field. The PC considered both.

The Church field would hold approx 64 cars and would have an honesty box. This would be looked after by the church. The PC would need to obtain planning permission for this. It has the advantage of already being next to Gubberford Lane therefore no additional access costs.

The playing field option already has planning permission but the length of the access road to it would potentially incur large costs.

The PC requested the clerk to inform Garry Payne about the progress and contact David Thow with a view to having a meeting with him (Cllr Babbs) to discuss planning matters and help decide which is the best option.

7. Correspondence/circulated items:

WC – Resources portfolio holder 13th Oct reports x 3 link emailed

LCC – Sept newsletter emailed

WC – Planning Committee agenda link 2nd Nov emailed

WC – Full council 20th Oct minutes link emailed

DCM projects – Play area info emailed to Cllr Cottle

WC – Big Freeze session 9th Nov emailed

LCC – Winter Service briefing Oct 2011 links emailed

WC – Cabinet minutes 26th Oct link emailed

LCC – “Get ready for winter” campaign info links emailed

WC – Leisure & Culture portfolio holder report 27th Oct (review of leisure centres) link emailed

WC – Employment & appeals Committee 7th Nov agenda link emailed

Clerks & Councils Direct magazine

WC – Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Licensing & Committee minutes links 24th & 27th Oct respectively. emailed

WC – Audit committee 8th Nov agenda link emailed

WC – Leisure & Culture portfolio holder 27th Oct report (review of leisure facilities) link emailed

WC – Standards Committee agenda 10th Nov link emailed

Furniture @ Work catalogue

SAFETHAW – winter de-icing kit emailed

WC – Survey “How do you know what your residents want?” emailed

LCC – Winter service info and links emailed

WC – Employment and appeals committee 7th Nov minutes link emailed

Wyre Area Rd Safety Committee – Meeting 30th Nov emailed Cllr Cottle and Babbs

WC – Get ready for another big freeze meeting 9th Nov emailed

War memorials trust – Bulletin

Air Ambulance – Christmas concert 2nd Dec

Community Futures – Newsletter emailed Cllr Cottle

Forest of Bowland – Responsible tourism award (runner up) emailed
The village notice board company – leaflet for varieties of noticeboards

LCC – Managing unauthorised encampments on CC owned land & highway, policy and decisions link emailed

Police – Closure of Garstang front desk notification emailed

LCC – Parish champion newsletter (Oct) emailed

North West Air Ambulance – Prize draw

WC – Audit committee minutes 8th Nov link emailed

WC – Forward Plan Dec-March 2012 emailed

8. Borough Council matters:

Val Wilson reported the following:

- ❖ There is an imminent consultation regarding the leisure centre. She confirmed that there has been no formal liaison with the head of Garstang Academy to provide an alternative service.
- ❖ A decision will be made regarding the waste recycling centre at Claughton within the next week.

9. Planning:

None

10. Decision notices:

None

11. Highways:

Cllrs Cottle and Babbs are available to attend the next Wyre Area Rd Safety meeting on the 30th Nov. They both plan to attend. The debris that was encroaching onto the highway of Station Lane has been dealt with after Cllr Babbs reported it last time.

Cllr Hesketh reported that grass is growing up through the pavement and road near the railway bridge, there is also a similar problem on Tythebarn Lane. The clerk will inform Highways.

Cllr Atkinson stated that the drains on Tythebarn Lane also need clearing. The clerk will inform Highways.

12. Village Hall:

Joanne Golton emailed the clerk the following update:

“The Food & Gift Fair on 30 Oct went very well and we raised £250 for the hall. We have another one on 11 Dec so I hope all parish councillors can come along. The hall floor was cleaned and varnished during the Oct half term, a great improvement. With regards to finances, the village hall committee are shortly to meet with the school to discuss outstanding bills. Sadly Paula Boscott has broken her arm and wrist in a nasty fall and dancing classes are not running presently. For the hall this means that our income is affected by up to £75 per week as Paula is our main user. We are due to repaint the outside and buy a new sign but this may have to be put on hold until the money starts to come in again! Hope to see everyone at the Jazz Night fundraiser on Friday night (7.30pm village hall)”

Cllr Cottle stated further to above that:

- ❖ The village hall will waive £1500 that school owe them and that the school will only have 2 sessions in the hall instead of 3.
- ❖ The dancing classes have started again.

Val Wilson stated that there may be funding available for the provision of a village hall sign. She has asked Cllr Cottle to pass the message on to Joanne to contact her.

13. Lengthsman:

The parish council formally agreed to retain the lengthsman services and pay the increased fees. The clerk confirmed the other parishes had agreed except Winmarleigh.

14. Finance:

Account update - £7866.63

After remaining expenses, the PC should have £5616.63 left (excluding playing field) at the end of the year.

Wyre Council clerk salary grant - £1026

The clerks salary has been frozen due to no pay award by NALC. Wyre council's contribution has increased from £1005 last year. The PC therefore pay less towards the clerk salary.

Projections 2012

The clerk stated that the projections had increased due to the high election costs of over £1000. Without this, the precept would only be £11300 (last year precept was £11390). To make the precept lower, the clerk suggested that the surplus funds at the yearend could be used to pay the election costs. Cllr Cottle stated that he would prefer to keep this surplus until all payments have been dealt with for the playing field. It was agreed and seconded that the clerk should request the precept shown at £12421.00.

15. Health & Safety:

None

16. Points of interest:

Procedure regarding signing of AGM minutes

LALC confirmed that annual minutes should be signed at the next ordinary meeting therefore the chairman requested the clerk to bring these to the next meeting for signing.

20MPH sign, Gubberford Lane

Cllr Babbs stated that this had now been dealt with.

Dog bins

The clerk received the following email from John Bettle (Wyre Council)

"I believe a new replacement bin should be in the vicinity of the "missing bin" but appreciate that a minor landscaped area now stands where the old bin was sited. I now further propose that the bin near to Cllr Hesketh (on his side of the road) is removed and re-allocated further up station way towards the Bridge and replaced by a bin supplied by Baxter Homes."

Cllr Hesketh stated that a dual purpose bin is required and that he does not want the bin referred to moving. He has asked the clerk to request John Bettle to contact him.

Rd Closures

Further to Cllr Babbs email, the clerk confirmed the date of the next Rd closure as 4th March 2012 (Gubberford and Station Lane).

Queens Diamond Jubilee

The clerk received a letter from Wyresdale Park giving permission for a beacon to be placed at the western end of Nicky Nook. He returned the paperwork she had sent him. He has invited the PC to meet with him, therefore Cllr Atkinson has agreed to see him.

17. Date of next meeting: **12th January 2012**

As there was no further business, the meeting concluded at 9.05PM

